

Configure the core switch based on monitoring



Overview

Once you've added the new host and service definitions to the switch.cfg file, you're ready to start monitoring the router/switch.

Key Takeaways

Use monitoring insights from SNMP, NPM tools, or management platforms to optimize core switch performance and reliability.

Begin by gathering performance metrics from your core switch using monitoring tools or protocols:

- **SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol):** Pulls data on CPU, memory, port status, traffic, and errors from the switch .
- **Network Performance Monitoring (NPM) tools:** Convert raw SNMP data into actionable insights, highlighting bottlenecks or underutilized ports .
- **Vendor-specific tools:** For Cisco switches, use OpManager templates or Cisco DCNM to monitor device health, SPAN sessions, and environmental metrics .

Step 2: Analyze Metrics

Focus on key indicators:

- **Port utilization:** Identify heavily loaded or idle ports.
- **Error rates:** Check for CRC errors, collisions, or packet drops.

- CPU and memory usage: High usage may indicate misconfigurations or excessive traffic.
- Traffic patterns: Determine if certain VLANs or applications are causing congestion.

Step 3: Apply Configuration Adjustments

Based on monitoring insights, configure the switch to optimize performance:

- Port configuration: Adjust speed, duplex, or enable/disable unused ports.
- VLAN and QoS policies: Prioritize critical traffic and segment networks to reduce congestion.
- SPAN/ERSPAN sessions: Mirror traffic for deeper analysis or security monitoring .
- Load balancing: Configure EtherChannel or LAGs to distribute traffic evenly.
- Scheduling tasks: Use built-in schedulers to automate backups, QoS changes, or firmware updates .

Step 4: Implement Automated Management

- Configuration templates: Apply standardized templates to multiple switches for consistency .
- Session Manager or scripts: Batch apply verified configurations to reduce human error .
- Alerts and thresholds: Set SNMP traps or NPM alerts to proactively detect issues.

Step 5: Continuous Monitoring and Review

- Regularly review logs, SPAN captures, and performance dashboards.
- Adjust configurations dynamically based on traffic trends and error reports.
- Ensure NTP synchronization for accurate timestamp correlation across devices . By combining real-time monitoring, analysis, and automated configuration, you can maintain optimal performance, prevent outages, and ensure your core switch operates efficiently under varying network loads.

Article Content

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For high availability you will need to enable spanning tree protocol on all switches (core, distribution & access). You

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Core Switch

Core switches are defined as high-capacity switches located at the top of a cloud data center network, connecting aggregation

Introduction to Core Switch Configuration

A switch that functions as part of a router and operates at the third layer of the OSI network standard model, the network layer. The

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With the help of our Core Switches device template, you can easily discover and monitor critical performance metrics without any

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As a progressive step, a complete overhaul has been implemented to unify and simplify the configuration and

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