

Configuration Fundamentals Overview

This introduction chapter provides an overview of the *Cisco Internetwork Operating System (IOS) Configuration Fundamentals Configuration Guide*, including descriptions of the parts and chapters of this document, and suggestions on which parts of the documentation to read based on common tasks.

Organization of this Guide

This section gives a overview of how this document is organized, including parts and chapters.

The *Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Configuration Guide* is divided into three main parts:

- Cisco IOS User Interfaces
- File Management
- System Management

Cisco IOS User Interfaces

The user interface chapters describe the different methods of entering commands into the router and altering the user environment.

- **Chapter 1: Using the Command-Line Interface**
Discusses the different command modes, context-sensitive help, and editing features of the command-line interface.
- **Chapter 2: Using Configuration Tools**
Discusses using AutoInstall to configure a new router or change the existing configuration, and mentions other configuration tools that are available.
- **Chapter 3: Configuring Operating Characteristics for Terminals**
To use the command-line interface, your terminal must be connected to the router through the console port or one of the TTY lines. By default, the terminal is configured to a basic configuration, which should work for most terminal sessions. However, you may want to alter the terminal settings. This chapter gives details on how to do so.
- **Chapter 4: Managing Connections, Menus, and System Banners**
This chapter gives details on managing connections you make to other hosts, displaying messages to users connecting to your router, and how to set-up user menus.

- **Chapter 5: Using the Cisco Web Browser**
Another method of configuring and monitoring the router is to use the Cisco IOS Web Browser interface. This chapter provides detailed information on using this type of interface for issuing commands.

File Management

The file management chapters describe the different types of files you can manipulate on the router, such as configuration files, images, and microcode.

- **Chapter 6: Using the Cisco IOS File System**
Focuses on managing files using the Cisco IOS File System (IFS) feature, which provides a single user interface to all the file systems including Flash memory files systems, network file systems (such as TFTP, rcp, and FTP), and any other endpoint for reading data from or writing data to (such as NVRAM or modems).
- **Chapter 7: Modifying, Downloading, and Maintaining Configuration Files**
Discusses how to modify configuration files, download configuration files for servers, store configuration files on servers, and configure the router to load a configuration file at system startup. In order to customize your router's operation to your needs, you will need to alter the configuration file. This chapter describes how to do this task, while the other chapters in the Cisco IOS documentation set describe the specific commands that are added to the configuration.
- **Chapter 8: Loading and Maintaining System Images and Microcode**
Discusses how to download images from servers, store images on servers, specify which image is loaded at system startup, and specify which microcode images to use. If you are not storing or upgrading your system image and you do not want to change image booting procedures, you do not need to read this chapter.
- **Chapter 9: Maintaining Router Memory**
Deals with the different types of memory your router may have and how to use this memory to manage files. This chapter also contains information on how to upgrade images on some platforms. Read this chapter if you are upgrading your system image or deleting files in Flash memory.
- **Chapter 10: Rebooting a Router**
Focuses on tasks related to the rebooting procedure. Read this chapter if you want to change which image or configuration file is loaded at system startup. This chapter also discusses ROM Monitor mode, which allows you to boot the router manually.
- **Chapter 11: Configuring Additional File Transfer Functions**
Describes how to configure your router to be a server, or use the remote shell (rsh) and remote copy (rcp) functions. As a TFTP server, your router can provide other routers with images and configuration files over the network. The rsh and rcp functions allow users to remotely execute commands or copy files to or from another host. This chapter also addresses optional configuration of Maintenance Operation Protocol (MOP) and Boot Operation Protocol (BOOTP) requests.

System Management

The system management chapters discuss tasks that allow you to maintain your router after it is configured with the network, routing, and WAN protocols. These chapters discuss ways you can fine-tune the router and maintain it over time.

- **Chapter 12: Monitoring the Router and Network**
Describes the SNMP, RMON, Cisco Discovery Protocol, and Response Time Reporter features. You can use these protocols to gather information about the router and network usage.
- **Chapter 13: Troubleshooting the Router**
Provides an introduction to troubleshooting techniques (including use of **show** commands), error message logging, and debugging commands. If you are troubleshooting a particular protocol, read this chapter to learn how to log system error messages and use debugging commands. Then, refer to the chapter in the documentation set that documents your protocol. The *Internetwork Troubleshooting Guide* also provides troubleshooting information.
- **Chapter 14: Performing Basic System Management**
Discusses basic optional tasks. For example, you can change the name of the router, create command aliases, enable minor services, and set time and calendar services.
- **Chapter 15: Configuring the System Controller and Managed Shelves**
Describes the system controller, a Cisco IOS-based device that aids in the monitoring and management of a number of access servers and routers. Access servers and routers managed by the system controller are called shelves.

Task-Oriented Documentation Approaches

The above parts and chapters of the *Configuration Fundamentals Configuration Guide* suggest a framework for learning configuration and maintenance tasks. This section provides some suggestions on alternate paths you can take through the documentation to learn about particular topics or tasks, focusing on common configuration topics which span multiple chapters of this book.

Overview of Router Configuration Tasks

To configure your router or access server, you must perform several tasks. Initially, you must determine the following:

- Which network protocols you are supporting (for example, AppleTalk, IP, Novell IPX, and so on)
- The addressing plan for each network protocol
- Which routing protocol you will use for each network protocol
- Which WAN protocols you will run on each interface (for example, Frame Relay, HDLC, SMDS, X.25, and so on)

Then, refer to the *Cisco Product Catalog* and the release notes for a list of Cisco-supported protocols, interfaces, and platforms. Set up the hardware as described in the documentation shipped with your product. Configure any user interface, file management, or interface management tasks as described in this book. Configure protocol-specific features on your router or access server as described in the appropriate chapters of the other Cisco IOS software configuration guides.

Learning the Cisco IOS Command-line Interface

If you are not familiar with the Cisco IOS command-line interface, read the following sections to gain a basic understanding of the user interface and basic configuration tasks:

In the “Using the Command-line Interface” chapter:

- Understanding Cisco IOS Command Modes
- Using the No and Default Forms of Commands
- Getting Context-Sensitive Help
- Checking Command Syntax
- Using the Command History Features
- Using Command-Line Editing Features and Shortcuts

In the “Modifying, Downloading, and Maintaining Configuration Files” chapter:

- Display Configuration File Information
- Understand Configuration Files
- Enter Configuration Mode and Select a Configuration Source
- Configure the Cisco IOS Software from the Terminal
- Reexecute the Configuration Commands in Startup Configuration
- Clear the Configuration Information

In the “Performing Basic System Management” chapter:

- Set the Router Name

Storing or Obtaining Configuration Files or Images from a Server

You might want to save a configuration or image on a server or upgrade your image to a different release. If you will be storing or obtaining configuration files or images from a server, read the following sections:

In the “Modifying, Downloading, and Maintaining Configuration Files” chapter:

- Copy Configuration Files from the Router to a Network Server
- Copy Configuration Files from a Network Server to the Router
- Maintain Configuration Files Larger than NVRAM
- Copy Configuration Files between Different Locations

In the “Maintain Router Memory” chapter:

- Partition Flash Memory
- Use Flash Load Helper to Upgrade Software on Run-from-Flash Systems

Changing the Image or Configuration File Loaded by the Router

If you want to change the image or configuration file used when the system reloads, read the following sections:

In the “Modifying, Downloading, and Maintaining Configuration Files” chapter:

- Specify the Startup Configuration File

In the “Loading and Maintaining System Images and Microcode” chapter:

- Specify the Startup System Image in the Configuration File

In the “Rebooting a Router” chapter:

- Display Booting Information
- Rebooting Procedures
- Modify the Configuration Register Boot Field
- Set Environment Variables

Supporting Documentation for this Guide

The *Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Configuration Guide* is only one small part of available Cisco documentation.

- For complete descriptions of the configuration commands introduced in this guide, see the *Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference*, which is the second book of this documentation module.
- Refer to the documentation shipped with your platform for hardware and platform-specific information.
- For the latest information about the software, including new features added since the documentation was printed and additional caveats about using the software, refer to the cross-platform and platform specific release notes.

The following chapter describes how this document fits into the larger context of Cisco IOS documentation as a whole, what other Cisco documentation is available to be used with this book, and how you can access all the latest information on Cisco networking products and solutions.

