



# Cisco IOS Software Basic Skills

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This chapter describes what you need to know about the Cisco IOS software (the software that runs the Cisco MC3810 multiservice access concentrator) before you begin to configure the multiservice access concentrator and includes the following sections:

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- [Understanding Command Modes, page 1-2](#)
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- [Saving Configuration Changes, page 1-2](#)
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Understanding these concepts will make the configuration process faster and easier. If you have never used the Cisco IOS software or need a refresher, take a few minutes to read this chapter before you proceed to the next chapter.

If you are already familiar with the Cisco IOS software, proceed to the next chapter.

## Getting Help

You can use the question mark (?) and arrow keys to help you enter commands.

For a list of available commands, enter a question mark:

```
Router> ?
```

To complete a command, enter a few known characters followed by a question mark (with no space):

```
Router> s?
```

For a list of command variables, enter the command followed by a space and a question mark:

```
Router> show ?
```

To redisplay a command you previously entered, press the up arrow key. You can continue to press the up arrow key for more commands.

## Understanding Command Modes

There are many different command modes that you will need to use to configure the Cisco MC3810. Each command mode restricts you to a subset of commands. If you are having difficulty entering a command, check the prompt and then enter the question mark (?) for a list of available commands. You might be in the wrong command mode or using the wrong syntax.

In the following example, notice how the prompt changes after each command to indicate a new command mode:

```
Router> enable
Password: <password>
Router# configure terminal
Router(config)# interface ethernet 0
Router(config-if)# line 0
Router(config-line)# controller t1 0
Router(config-ctrl)# exit
Router(config)# exit
Router#
%SYS-5-CONFIG_I: Configured from console by console
```

The last message is normal and does not indicate an error. Press **Return** to get the Router# prompt.



### Note

You can press **Ctrl-Z** in any mode to return to enable mode (Router#), instead of entering **exit**.

## Undoing a Command or Feature

If you want to undo a command you entered or disable a feature, you can enter the keyword **no** before most commands; for example, **no ip routing**.

## Saving Configuration Changes

You need to enter the **copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config** command to save your configuration changes to NVRAM so that they will not be lost if there is a system reload or power outage. For example:

```
Router# copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config
Building configuration...
```

It might take a minute or two to save the configuration to NVRAM. After the configuration has been saved, the following appears:

```
[OK]
Router#
```

## Where to Go Next

Now that you have learned some Cisco IOS software basics, you can begin to configure the Cisco MC3810. Remember that:

- You can use the question mark (?) and arrow keys to help you enter commands.
- Each command mode restricts you to a set of commands. If you are having difficulty entering a command, check the prompt and then enter the question mark (?) for a list of available commands. You might be in the wrong command mode or using the wrong syntax.
- You need to save your configuration changes to NVRAM so that they will not be lost if there is a system reload or power outage.

Proceed to the next chapter to begin configuring the Cisco MC3810.

