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CHAPTER 1

Configuring Traffic Storm Control

This chapter describes how to configure traffic storm control on the Cisco Nexus 5000 Series switch.

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Information About Traffic Storm Control

A traffic storm occurs when packets flood the LAN, creating excessive traffic and degrading network performance. You can use the traffic storm control feature to prevent disruptions on Layer 2 ports by a broadcast, multicast, or unknown unicast traffic storm on physical interfaces.

Traffic storm control (also called traffic suppression) allows you to monitor the levels of the incoming broadcast, multicast, and unicast traffic over a 10-microsecond interval. During this interval, the traffic level, which is a percentage of the total available bandwidth of the port, is compared with the traffic storm control level that you configured. When the ingress traffic reaches the traffic storm control level that is configured on the port, traffic storm control drops the traffic until the interval ends.

[Figure 1-1](#) shows the broadcast traffic patterns on a Layer 2 interface during a specified time interval. In this example, traffic storm control occurs between times T1 and T2 and between T4 and T5. During those intervals, the amount of broadcast traffic exceeded the configured threshold.

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Figure 1-1 Broadcast Suppression

The traffic storm control threshold numbers and the time interval allow the traffic storm control algorithm to work with different levels of packet granularity. For example, a higher threshold allows more packets to pass through.

Traffic storm control on the Cisco Nexus 5000 Series switch is implemented in the hardware. The traffic storm control circuitry monitors packets that pass from a Layer 2 interface to the switching bus. Using the Individual/Group bit in the packet destination address, the circuitry determines if the packet is unicast or broadcast, tracks the current count of packets within the 10-microsecond interval, and filters out subsequent packets when a threshold is reached.

Traffic storm control uses a bandwidth-based method to measure traffic. You set the percentage of total available bandwidth that the controlled traffic can use. Because packets do not arrive at uniform intervals, the 10-microsecond interval can affect the operation of traffic storm control.

The following are examples of how traffic storm control operation is affected:

- If you enable broadcast traffic storm control, and broadcast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all broadcast traffic until the end of the interval.
- If you enable multicast traffic storm control, and the multicast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all multicast traffic until the end of the interval.
- If you enable broadcast and multicast traffic storm control, and broadcast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all broadcast traffic until the end of the interval.
- If you enable broadcast and multicast traffic storm control, and multicast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all multicast traffic until the end of the interval.

By default, Cisco NX-OS takes no corrective action when the traffic exceeds the configured level.

Guidelines and Limitations

When configuring the traffic storm control level, follow these guidelines and limitations:

- You can configure traffic storm control on a port-channel interface.
- Specify the level as a percentage of the total interface bandwidth:
 - The level can be from 0 to 100.
 - The optional fraction of a level can be from 0 to 99.

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- 100 percent means no traffic storm control.
- 0.0 percent suppresses all traffic.

Because of hardware limitations and the method by which packets of different sizes are counted, the level percentage is an approximation. Depending on the sizes of the frames that make up the incoming traffic, the actual enforced level might differ from the configured level by several percentage points.

Configuring Traffic Storm Control

You can set the percentage of total available bandwidth that the controlled traffic can use.



Note

Traffic storm control uses a 10-microsecond interval that can affect the operation of traffic storm control.

To enable traffic storm control on an interface, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	switch# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 1	switch(config)# interface { ethernet <i>slot/port</i> port-channel <i>number</i> }	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 2	switch(config-if)# storm-control { broadcast multicast unicast } level <i>percentage</i> [<i>.fraction</i>]	Configures traffic storm control for traffic on the interface. The default state is disabled.

This example shows how to configure unicast traffic storm control for Ethernet interface 1/4:

```
switch# configure terminal
switch(config)# interface ethernet 1/4
switch(config-if)# storm-control unicast level 40
```

Verifying Traffic Storm Control Configuration

To display traffic storm control configuration information, perform one of these tasks:

Command	Purpose
switch# show interface [ethernet <i>slot/port</i> port-channel <i>number</i>] counters storm-control	Displays the traffic storm control configuration for the interfaces.
switch# show running-config interface	Displays the traffic storm control configuration.

Displaying Traffic Storm Control Counters

You can display the counters the Cisco Nexus 5000 Series switch maintains for traffic storm control activity.

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**Note**

Traffic storm control uses a 10-microsecond interval that can affect the operation of traffic storm control.

To display traffic storm control counters on an interface, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	switch# show interface [ethernet slot/port port-channel number] counters storm-control	Displays the traffic storm control counters.

Traffic Storm Control Example Configuration

The following example shows how to configure traffic storm control:

```
switch# configure terminal
switch(config)# interface ethernet 1/4
switch(config-if)# storm-control broadcast level 40
switch(config-if)# storm-control multicast level 40
switch(config-if)# storm-control unicast level 40
```

Default Settings

[Table 1-1](#) lists the default settings for traffic storm control parameters.

Table 1-1 Default Traffic Storm Control Parameters

Parameters	Default
Traffic storm control	Disabled
Threshold percentage	100