



About This Guide

The *Cisco IOS Desktop Switching Software Configuration Guide* describes how to configure Catalyst 2900 series XL and Catalyst 3500 series XL switches by using the command-line interface (CLI) and web-based applications. This manual refers to these switches as the 2900 and 3500 XL switches.

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Audience and Scope

This guide is for the network manager responsible for configuring 2900 or 3500 XL switches. Before using the material in this guide, you should be familiar with the concepts and terminology of Ethernet and local area networking.

The scope of this guide is to provide the information you need to change the configuration of a switch, create and manage *clusters* of switches, and troubleshoot problems that might arise.

Organization

This guide is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter 1, “Overview,” is a functional overview of the switch software. It describes the features of IOS software Release 12.0(5)XU and lists the switches that support the release. There are two examples of how you could deploy switches running the IOS software.

Chapter 2, “Using the Management Interfaces,” describes how to use the different management interfaces.

Chapter 3, “Creating and Managing Clusters,” describes how to use the Cluster Management Suite (CMS) and the command-line interface (CLI) to plan and create clusters of switches. The management activities described in this chapter operate on clusters of switches.

Chapter 4, “Managing Switches,” describes how to use the web-based interfaces and the CLI to monitor and configure switches. The how-to information for using the web pages in this chapter is in the online help.

Chapter 5, “Creating and Maintaining VLANs,” describes how to configure VLANs in different network settings. You can configure VLANs on a single switch, between switches by using multi-VLAN ports or trunk ports, and by dynamically assigning VLAN membership.

Chapter 6, “Creating Performance Graphs and Link Reports,” describes how to use the CMS to generate performance graphs and link reports.

Chapter 7, “Troubleshooting,” describes how to identify and resolve some of the problems that might arise when you are configuring a switch running this software release.

Conventions

This publication uses the following conventions to convey instructions and information:

Command descriptions use these conventions:

- Commands and keywords are in **boldface** text.
- Arguments for which you supply values are in *italic*.
- Square brackets ([]) indicate optional elements.
- Braces ({ }) group required choices, and vertical bars (|) separate the alternative elements.
- Braces and vertical bars within square brackets ([{ | }]) indicate a required choice within an optional element.

Interactive examples use these conventions:

- Terminal sessions and system displays are in `screen` font.
- Information you enter is in **boldface screen** font.
- Nonprinting characters, such as passwords or tabs, are in angle brackets (<>).

Related Publications

The following documents provide more information about the switches:

- *Quick Start Guide: Catalyst 2900 Series XL Switches*—describes how to cable, set up, and assign an IP address on the 2900 series.
- *Quick Start Guide: Catalyst 3500 Series XL Switches*—describes how to cable, set up, and assign an IP address on the 3500 series.
- *Catalyst 2900 Series XL Installation Guide*—describes the switch hardware features, its physical and performance characteristics, and how to install and troubleshoot the switch.
- *Catalyst 3500 Series XL Installation Guide*—describes the switch hardware features, its physical and performance characteristics, and how to install and troubleshoot the switch.
- *Cisco IOS Desktop Switching Command Reference* (online only)—describes the IOS commands and keywords you can enter from the CLI.

- *Release Notes for Catalyst 2900 Series XL and Catalyst 3500 Series XL, Cisco IOS Release 12.0(5)XU*—describes the software changes between the previous release and the current release, the limitations and restrictions, and open and resolved caveats.

Notes, Tips, and Cautions

Notes and cautions use the following conventions and symbols:

**Note**

Means *reader take note*. Notes contain helpful suggestions or references to materials not contained in this manual.

**Tips**

Means the following *will help you solve a problem*. The tips information might not be troubleshooting or even an action, but could be useful information.

**Caution**

Means *reader be careful*. In this situation, you might do something that could result in equipment damage or loss of data.
