



Configuring System Message Logging

This chapter describes how to configure system message logging on your Catalyst 2950 or Catalyst 2955 switch.



Note

For complete syntax and usage information for the commands used in this chapter, see the *Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference, Release 12.1*.

This chapter consists of these sections:

- [Understanding System Message Logging, page 26-1](#)
- [Configuring System Message Logging, page 26-2](#)
- [Displaying the Logging Configuration, page 26-12](#)

Understanding System Message Logging

By default, a switch sends the output from system messages and **debug** privileged EXEC commands to a logging process. The logging process controls the distribution of logging messages to various destinations, such as the logging buffer, terminal lines, or a UNIX syslog server, depending on your configuration. The process also sends messages to the console.



Note

The syslog format is compatible with 4.3 BSD UNIX.

When the logging process is disabled, messages are sent only to the console. The messages are sent as they are generated, so message and debug output are interspersed with prompts or output from other commands. Messages appear on the console after the process that generated them has finished.

You can set the severity level of the messages to control the type of messages displayed on the console and each of the destinations. You can timestamp log messages or set the syslog source address to enhance real-time debugging and management. For information on possible messages, see the system message guide for this release.

You can access logged system messages by using the switch command-line interface (CLI) or by saving them to a properly configured syslog server. The switch software saves syslog messages in an internal buffer. You can remotely monitor system messages by accessing the switch through Telnet, through the console port, or by viewing the logs on a syslog server.

Configuring System Message Logging

These sections describe how to configure system message logging:

- [System Log Message Format, page 26-2](#)
- [Default System Message Logging Configuration, page 26-3](#)
- [Disabling and Enabling Message Logging, page 26-4](#)
- [Setting the Message Display Destination Device, page 26-4](#)
- [Synchronizing Log Messages, page 26-6](#)
- [Enabling and Disabling Timestamps on Log Messages, page 26-7](#)
- [Enabling and Disabling Sequence Numbers in Log Messages, page 26-8](#)
- [Defining the Message Severity Level, page 26-8](#)
- [Limiting Syslog Messages Sent to the History Table and to SNMP, page 26-9](#)
- [Configuring UNIX Syslog Servers, page 26-10](#)

System Log Message Format

System log messages can contain up to 80 characters and a percent sign (%), which follows the optional sequence number or timestamp information, if configured. Messages appear in this format:

seq no:timestamp: %facility-severity-MNEMONIC:description

The part of the message preceding the percent sign depends on the setting of the **service sequence-numbers**, **service timestamps log datetime**, **service timestamps log datetime [localtime] [msec]** [**show-timezone**], or **service timestamps log uptime** global configuration command.

[Table 26-1](#) describes the elements of syslog messages.

Table 26-1 System Log Message Elements

Element	Description
<i>seq no:</i>	Stamps log messages with a sequence number only if the service sequence-numbers global configuration command is configured. For more information, see the “ Enabling and Disabling Sequence Numbers in Log Messages ” section on page 26-8.
<i>timestamp</i> formats: <i>mm/dd hh:mm:ss</i> or <i>hh:mm:ss</i> (short uptime) or <i>d h</i> (long uptime)	Date and time of the message or event. This information appears only if the service timestamps log [datetime log] global configuration command is configured. For more information, see the “ Enabling and Disabling Timestamps on Log Messages ” section on page 26-7.
<i>facility</i>	The facility to which the message refers (for example, SNMP, SYS, and so forth). For a list of supported facilities, see Table 26-4 on page 26-12 .
<i>severity</i>	Single-digit code from 0 to 7 that is the severity of the message. For a description of the severity levels, see Table 26-3 on page 26-9 .

Table 26-1 System Log Message Elements (continued)

Element	Description
<i>MNEMONIC</i>	Text string that uniquely describes the message.
<i>description</i>	Text string containing detailed information about the event being reported.

This example shows a partial switch system message:

```
00:00:46: %LINK-3-UPDOWN: Interface Port-channel1, changed state to up
00:00:47: %LINK-3-UPDOWN: Interface GigabitEthernet0/1, changed state to up
00:00:47: %LINK-3-UPDOWN: Interface GigabitEthernet0/2, changed state to up
00:00:48: %LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN: Line protocol on Interface Vlan1, changed state to down
00:00:48: %LINEPROTO-5-UPDOWN: Line protocol on Interface GigabitEthernet0/1, changed
state to down 2
*Mar  1 18:46:11: %SYS-5-CONFIG_I: Configured from console by vty2 (10.34.195.36)
18:47:02: %SYS-5-CONFIG_I: Configured from console by vty2 (10.34.195.36)
*Mar  1 18:48:50.483 UTC: %SYS-5-CONFIG_I: Configured from console by vty2 (10.34.195.36)
```

Default System Message Logging Configuration

Table 26-2 shows the default system message logging configuration.

Table 26-2 Default System Message Logging Configuration

Feature	Default Setting
System message logging to the console	Enabled.
Console severity	Debugging (and numerically lower levels; see Table 26-3 on page 26-9).
Logging buffer size	4096 bytes.
Logging history size	1 message.
Timestamps	Disabled.
Synchronous logging	Disabled.
Logging server	Disabled.
Syslog server IP address	None configured.
Server facility	Local7 (see Table 26-4 on page 26-12).
Server severity	Informational (and numerically lower levels; see Table 26-3 on page 26-9).

Disabling and Enabling Message Logging

Message logging is enabled by default. It must be enabled to send messages to any destination other than the console. When enabled, log messages are sent to a logging process, which logs messages to designated locations asynchronously to the processes that generated the messages.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to disable message logging:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	no logging console	Disable message logging.
Step 3	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 4	show running-config or show logging	Verify your entries.
Step 5	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

Disabling the logging process can slow down the switch because a process must wait until the messages are written to the console before continuing. When the logging process is disabled, messages appear on the console as soon as they are produced, often appearing in the middle of command output.

The **logging synchronous** global configuration command also affects the display of messages to the console. When this command is enabled, messages appear only after you press Return. For more information, see the “[Synchronizing Log Messages](#)” section on page 26-6.

To re-enable message logging after it has been disabled, use the **logging on** global configuration command.

Setting the Message Display Destination Device

If message logging is enabled, you can send messages to specific locations in addition to the console. Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, use one or more of the following commands to specify the locations that receive messages:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	logging buffered <i>[size]</i>	Log messages to an internal buffer. The default buffer size is 4096. The range is 4096 to 4294967295 bytes. Note Do not make the buffer size too large because the switch could run out of memory for other tasks. Use the show memory privileged EXEC command to view the free processor memory on the switch; however, this value is the maximum available, and the buffer size should <i>not</i> be set to this amount.

	Command	Purpose
Step 3	logging <i>host</i>	Log messages to a UNIX syslog server host. For <i>host</i> , specify the name or IP address of the host to be used as the syslog server. To build a list of syslog servers that receive logging messages, enter this command more than once. For complete syslog server configuration steps, see the “ Configuring UNIX Syslog Servers ” section on page 26-10.
Step 4	logging file flash: <i>filename</i> [<i>max-file-size</i>] [<i>min-file-size</i>] [<i>severity-level-number</i> <i>type</i>]	Store log messages in a file in flash memory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For <i>filename</i>, enter the log message filename. (Optional) For <i>max-file-size</i>, specify the maximum logging file size. The range is 4096 to 2147483647. The default is 4069 bytes. (Optional) For <i>min-file-size</i>, specify the minimum logging file size. The range is 1024 to 2147483647. The default is 2048 bytes. (Optional) For <i>severity-level-number</i> <i>type</i>, specify either the logging severity level or the logging type. The severity range is 0 to 7. For a list of logging type keywords, see Table 26-3 on page 26-9. By default, the log file receives debugging messages and numerically lower levels.
Step 5	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	terminal monitor	Log messages to a nonconsole terminal during the current session. Terminal parameter-setting commands are set locally and do not remain in effect after the session has ended. You must perform this step for each session to see the debugging messages.
Step 7	show running-config	Verify your entries.
Step 8	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

The **logging buffered** global configuration command copies logging messages to an internal buffer. The buffer is circular, so newer messages overwrite older messages after the buffer is full. To display the messages that are logged in the buffer, use the **show logging** privileged EXEC command. The first message displayed is the oldest message in the buffer. To clear the contents of the buffer, use the **clear logging** privileged EXEC command.

To disable logging to the console, use the **no logging console** global configuration command. To disable logging to a file, use the **no logging file** [*severity-level-number* | *type*] global configuration command.

Synchronizing Log Messages

You can configure the system to synchronize unsolicited messages and **debug** privileged EXEC command output with solicited device output and prompts for a specific console port line or virtual terminal line. You can identify the types of messages to be output asynchronously based on the level of severity. You can also determine the maximum number of buffers for storing asynchronous messages for the terminal after which messages are dropped.

When synchronous logging of unsolicited messages and **debug** command output is enabled, unsolicited device output appears on the console or is printed after solicited device output appears or is printed. Unsolicited messages and **debug** command output appears on the console after the prompt for user input is returned. Therefore, unsolicited messages and **debug** command output are not interspersed with solicited device output and prompts. After the unsolicited messages appear, the console again displays the user prompt.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to configure synchronous logging:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	line [console vty] <i>line-number</i> [<i>ending-line-number</i>]	Specify the line to be configured for synchronous logging of messages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the console keyword for configurations that occur through the switch console port. • Use the line vty line-number command to specify which vty lines are to have synchronous logging enabled. You use a vty connection for configurations that occur through a Telnet session. The range of line numbers is from 0 to 15. You can change the setting of all 16 vty lines at once by entering: line vty 0 15 Or you can change the setting of the single vty line being used for your current connection. For example, to change the setting for vty line 2, enter: line vty 2 When you enter this command, the mode changes to line configuration.
Step 3	logging synchronous [level <i>severity-level</i> all] [limit <i>number-of-buffers</i>]	Enable synchronous logging of messages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) For level severity-level, specify the message severity level. Messages with a severity level equal to or higher than this value are printed asynchronously. Low numbers mean greater severity and high numbers mean lesser severity. The default is 2. • (Optional) Specifying level all means that all messages are printed asynchronously regardless of the severity level. • (Optional) For limit number-of-buffers, specify the number of buffers to be queued for the terminal after which new messages are dropped. The default is 20.
Step 4	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.

	Command	Purpose
Step 5	<code>show running-config</code>	Verify your entries.
Step 6	<code>copy running-config startup-config</code>	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

To disable synchronization of unsolicited messages and debug output, use the **no logging synchronous** [*level severity-level* | **all**] [*limit number-of-buffers*] line configuration command.

Enabling and Disabling Timestamps on Log Messages

By default, log messages are not timestamped.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to enable timestamping of log messages:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	<code>configure terminal</code>	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	<code>service timestamps log uptime</code> or <code>service timestamps log datetime [msec] [localtime] [show-timezone]</code>	Enable log timestamps. The first command enables timestamps on log messages, showing the time since the system was rebooted. The second command enables timestamps on log messages. Depending on the options selected, the timestamp can include the date, time in milliseconds relative to the local time zone, and the time zone name.
Step 3	<code>end</code>	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 4	<code>show running-config</code>	Verify your entries.
Step 5	<code>copy running-config startup-config</code>	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

To disable timestamps for both debug and log messages, use the **no service timestamps** global configuration command.

This example shows part of a logging display with the **service timestamps log datetime** global configuration command enabled:

```
*Mar 1 18:46:11: %SYS-5-CONFIG_I: Configured from console by vty2 (10.34.195.36)
```

This example shows part of a logging display with the **service timestamps log uptime** global configuration command enabled:

```
00:00:46: %LINK-3-UPDOWN: Interface Port-channel1, changed state to up
```

Enabling and Disabling Sequence Numbers in Log Messages

Because there is a chance that more than one log message can have the same timestamp, you can display messages with sequence numbers so that you can unambiguously see a single message. By default, sequence numbers in log messages are not displayed.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to enable sequence numbers in log messages:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	service sequence-numbers	Enable sequence numbers.
Step 3	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 4	show running-config	Verify your entries.
Step 5	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

To disable sequence numbers, use the **no service sequence-numbers** global configuration command.

This example shows part of a logging display with sequence numbers enabled:

```
000019: %SYS-5-CONFIG_I: Configured from console by vty2 (10.34.195.36)
```

Defining the Message Severity Level

You can limit messages displayed to the selected device by specifying the severity level of the message, which are described in [Table 26-3](#).

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to define the message severity level:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	logging console level	Limit messages logged to the console. By default, the console receives debugging messages and numerically lower levels (see Table 26-3 on page 26-9).
Step 3	logging monitor level	Limit messages logged to the terminal lines. By default, the terminal receives debugging messages and numerically lower levels (see Table 26-3 on page 26-9).
Step 4	logging trap level	Limit messages logged to the syslog servers. By default, syslog servers receive informational messages and numerically lower levels (see Table 26-3 on page 26-9). For complete syslog server configuration steps, see the “ Configuring UNIX Syslog Servers ” section on page 26-10.
Step 5	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	show running-config or show logging	Verify your entries.
Step 7	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

**Note**

Specifying a *level* causes messages at that level and numerically lower levels to appear at the destination.

To disable logging to the console, use the **no logging console** global configuration command. To disable logging to a terminal other than the console, use the **no logging monitor** global configuration command. To disable logging to syslog servers, use the **no logging trap** global configuration command.

[Table 26-3](#) describes the *level* keywords. It also lists the corresponding UNIX syslog definitions from the most severe level to the least severe level.

Table 26-3 Message Logging Level Keywords

Level Keyword	Level	Description	Syslog Definition
emergencies	0	System unstable	LOG_EMERG
alerts	1	Immediate action needed	LOG_ALERT
critical	2	Critical conditions	LOG_CRIT
errors	3	Error conditions	LOG_ERR
warnings	4	Warning conditions	LOG_WARNING
notifications	5	Normal but significant condition	LOG_NOTICE
informational	6	Informational messages only	LOG_INFO
debugging	7	Debugging messages	LOG_DEBUG

The software generates four other categories of messages:

- Error messages about software or hardware malfunctions that appear at levels **warnings** through **emergencies**. These types of messages mean that the functionality of the switch is affected. For information on how to recover from these malfunctions, see the system message guide for this release.
- Output from the **debug** commands, displayed at the **debugging** level. Debug commands are typically used only by the Technical Assistance Center.
- Interface up or down transitions and system restart messages, displayed at the **notifications** level. This message is only for information; switch functionality is not affected.
- Reload requests and low-process stack messages, displayed at the **informational** level. This message is only for information; switch functionality is not affected.

Limiting Syslog Messages Sent to the History Table and to SNMP

If you enabled syslog message traps to be sent to an SNMP network management station by using the **snmp-server enable trap** global configuration command, you can change the level of messages sent and stored in the switch history table. You also can change the number of messages that are stored in the history table.

Messages are stored in the history table because SNMP traps are not guaranteed to reach their destination. By default, one message of the level **warning** and numerically lower levels (see [Table 26-3 on page 26-9](#)) are stored in the history table even if syslog traps are not enabled.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to change the level and history table size defaults:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	logging history <i>level</i> ¹	Change the default level of syslog messages stored in the history file and sent to the SNMP server. See Table 26-3 on page 26-9 for a list of <i>level</i> keywords. By default, warnings , errors , critical , alerts , and emergencies messages are sent.
Step 3	logging history size <i>number</i>	Specify the number of syslog messages that can be stored in the history table. The default is to store one message. The range is 1 to 500 messages.
Step 4	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 5	show running-config	Verify your entries.
Step 6	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

1. [Table 26-3](#) lists the level keywords and severity level. For SNMP usage, the severity level values increase by 1. For example, emergencies equal 1, not 0, and critical equals 3, not 2.

When the history table is full (it contains the maximum number of message entries specified with the **logging history size** global configuration command), the oldest message entry is deleted from the table to allow the new message entry to be stored.

To return the logging of syslog messages to the default level, use the **no logging history** global configuration command. To return the number of messages in the history table to the default value, use the **no logging history size** global configuration command.

Configuring UNIX Syslog Servers

The next sections describe how to configure the UNIX server syslog daemon and how to define the UNIX system logging facility.

Logging Messages to a UNIX Syslog Daemon

Before you can send system log messages to a UNIX syslog server, you must configure the syslog daemon on a UNIX server. Log in as root, and perform these steps:



Note

Some recent versions of UNIX syslog daemons no longer accept by default syslog packets from the network. If this is the case with your system, use the UNIX **man syslogd** command to determine what options must be added to or removed from the syslog command line to enable logging of remote syslog messages.

Step 1 Add a line such as the following to the file `/etc/syslog.conf`:

```
local7.debug /usr/adm/logs/cisco.log
```

The **local7** keyword specifies the logging facility to be used; see [Table 26-4 on page 26-12](#) for information on the facilities. The **debug** keyword specifies the syslog level; see [Table 26-3 on page 26-9](#) for information on the severity levels. The syslog daemon sends messages at this level or at a more severe level to the file specified in the next field. The file must already exist, and the syslog daemon must have permission to write to it.

Step 2 Create the log file by entering these commands at the UNIX shell prompt:

```
$ touch /var/log/cisco.log
$ chmod 666 /var/log/cisco.log
```

Step 3 Make sure the syslog daemon reads the new changes:

```
$ kill -HUP `cat /etc/syslog.pid`
```

For more information, see the **man syslog.conf** and **man syslogd** commands on your UNIX system.

Configuring the UNIX System Logging Facility

When sending system log messages to an external device, you can cause the switch to identify its messages as originating from any of the UNIX syslog facilities.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to configure UNIX system facility message logging:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	logging host	Log messages to a UNIX syslog server host by entering its IP address. To build a list of syslog servers that receive logging messages, enter this command more than once.
Step 3	logging trap level	Limit messages logged to the syslog servers. By default, syslog servers receive informational messages and lower. See Table 26-3 on page 26-9 for <i>level</i> keywords.

	Command	Purpose
Step 4	logging facility <i>facility-type</i>	Configure the syslog facility. See Table 26-4 on page 26-12 for <i>facility-type</i> keywords. The default is local7 .
Step 5	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	show running-config	Verify your entries.
Step 7	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

To remove a syslog server, use the **no logging host** global configuration command, and specify the syslog server IP address. To disable logging to syslog servers, enter the **no logging trap** global configuration command.

[Table 26-4](#) lists the UNIX system facilities supported by the software. For more information about these facilities, consult the operator's manual for your UNIX operating system.

Table 26-4 Logging Facility-Type Keywords

Facility Type Keyword	Description
auth	Authorization system
cron	Cron facility
daemon	System daemon
kern	Kernel
local0-7	Locally defined messages
lpr	Line printer system
mail	Mail system
news	USENET news
sys9	System use
sys10	System use
sys11	System use
sys12	System use
sys13	System use
sys14	System use
syslog	System log
user	User process
uucp	UNIX-to-UNIX copy system

Displaying the Logging Configuration

To display the logging configuration and the contents of the log buffer, use the **show logging** privileged EXEC command. For information about the fields in this display, see the *Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference, Release 12.1*.