



Preface

Audience

This guide is for the networking professional managing the Catalyst 3550 switch, hereafter referred to as the switch or the multilayer switch. Before using this guide, you should have experience working with the Cisco IOS and be familiar with the concepts and terminology of Ethernet and local area networking.

Purpose

This guide provides the information you need to configure Layer 2 and Layer 3 software features on your switch. The Catalyst 3550 switch is supported by either the standard multilayer software image (SMI), which provides Layer 2+ features and basic Layer 3 routing, or the enhanced multilayer software image (EMI), which provides Layer 2+ features, full Layer 3 routing, and advanced services. All Catalyst 3550 Gigabit Ethernet switches are shipped with the EMI pre-installed. Catalyst 3550 Fast Ethernet switches are shipped with either the SMI or the EMI pre-installed. After initial deployment, you can order the Enhanced Multilayer Software Image Upgrade kit to upgrade Catalyst 3550 Fast Ethernet switches from the SMI to the EMI.

This guide provides procedures for using the commands that have been created or changed for use with the Catalyst 3550 switch. It does not provide detailed information about these commands. For detailed information about these commands, refer to the *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch Command Reference* for this release. For information about the standard IOS Release 12.1 commands, refer to the IOS documentation set available from the Cisco.com home page at **Service and Support > Technical Documents**. On the Cisco Product Documentation home page, select **Release 12.1** from the Cisco IOS Software drop-down list.

This guide also includes an overview of the Cluster Management Suite (CMS) web-based, switch management interface, which helps you create and manage clusters of switches. This guide does not provide field-level descriptions of the CMS windows nor does it provide the procedures for configuring switches and switch clusters from CMS. For all CMS window descriptions and procedures, refer to the CMS online help, which is integrated with the software image.

This guide does not describe system messages you might encounter or how to install your switch. For more information, refer to the *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch System Message Guide* for this release and to the *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch Hardware Installation Guide*.

Conventions

This publication uses these 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 ([]) mean optional elements.
- Braces ({ }) group required choices, and vertical bars (|) separate the alternative elements.
- Braces and vertical bars within square brackets ([{ | }]) mean 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 (< >).

Notes, cautions, and timesavers use these conventions and symbols:



Note

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



Caution

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



Timesaver

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.

Related Publications

These documents provide complete information about the switch and are available from this Cisco.com site:

<http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/product/lan/c3550/index.htm>

You can order printed copies of documents with a DOC-xxxxxx= number from the Cisco.com sites and from the telephone numbers listed in the “[Ordering Documentation](#)” section on page xxxv.

- *Release Notes for the Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch* (not orderable but available on Cisco.com)



Note

Switch requirements and procedures for initial configurations and software upgrades tend to change and therefore appear only in the release notes. Before installing, configuring, or upgrading the switch, refer to the release notes on Cisco.com for the latest information.

- *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch Software Configuration Guide* (order number DOC-7811194=)
- *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch Command Reference* (order number DOC-7811195=)
- *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch System Message Guide* (order number DOC-7811196=)
- Cluster Management Suite (CMS) online help (available only from the switch CMS software)
- *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch Hardware Installation Guide* (order number DOC-7811358=)
- *1000BASE-T Gigabit Interface Converter Installation Note* (not orderable but is available on Cisco.com)
- *Catalyst GigaStack Gigabit Interface Converter Hardware Installation Guide* (order number DOC-786460=)

Obtaining Documentation

Cisco provides several ways to obtain documentation, technical assistance, and other technical resources. These sections explain how to obtain technical information from Cisco Systems.

Cisco.com

You can access the most current Cisco documentation on the World Wide Web at this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/univercd/home/home.htm>

You can access the Cisco website at this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com>

International Cisco web sites can be accessed from this URL:

http://www.cisco.com/public/countries_languages.shtml

Documentation CD-ROM

Cisco documentation and additional literature are available in a Cisco Documentation CD-ROM package, which may have shipped with your product. The Documentation CD-ROM is updated monthly and may be more current than printed documentation. The CD-ROM package is available as a single unit or through an annual subscription.

Registered Cisco.com users can order the Documentation CD-ROM (product number DOC-CONDOCCD=) through the online Subscription Store:

<http://www.cisco.com/go/subscription>

Ordering Documentation

You can find instructions for ordering documentation at this URL:

http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/es_inpkc/pdi.htm

You can order Cisco documentation in these ways:

- Registered Cisco.com users (Cisco direct customers) can order Cisco product documentation from the Networking Products MarketPlace:

<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/partner/ordering/index.shtml>

- Registered Cisco.com users can order the Documentation CD-ROM (Customer Order Number DOC-CONDOCCD=) through the online Subscription Store:

<http://www.cisco.com/go/subscription>

- Nonregistered Cisco.com users can order documentation through a local account representative by calling Cisco Systems Corporate Headquarters (California, U.S.A.) at 408 526-7208 or, elsewhere in North America, by calling 800 553-NETS (6387).

Documentation Feedback

You can submit comments electronically on Cisco.com. On the Cisco Documentation home page, click **Feedback** at the top of the page.

You can email your comments to bug-doc@cisco.com.

You can submit your comments by mail by using the response card behind the front cover of your document or by writing to the following address:

Cisco Systems
Attn: Customer Document Ordering
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-9883

We appreciate your comments.

Obtaining Technical Assistance

Cisco provides Cisco.com, which includes the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Website, as a starting point for all technical assistance. Customers and partners can obtain online documentation, troubleshooting tips, and sample configurations from the Cisco TAC website. Cisco.com registered users have complete access to the technical support resources on the Cisco TAC website, including TAC tools and utilities.

Cisco.com

Cisco.com offers a suite of interactive, networked services that let you access Cisco information, networking solutions, services, programs, and resources at any time, from anywhere in the world.

Cisco.com provides a broad range of features and services to help you with these tasks:

- Streamline business processes and improve productivity
- Resolve technical issues with online support
- Download and test software packages
- Order Cisco learning materials and merchandise
- Register for online skill assessment, training, and certification programs

To obtain customized information and service, you can self-register on Cisco.com at this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com>

Technical Assistance Center

The Cisco TAC is available to all customers who need technical assistance with a Cisco product, technology, or solution. Two levels of support are available: the Cisco TAC website and the Cisco TAC Escalation Center. The avenue of support that you choose depends on the priority of the problem and the conditions stated in service contracts, when applicable.

We categorize Cisco TAC inquiries according to urgency:

- Priority level 4 (P4)—You need information or assistance concerning Cisco product capabilities, product installation, or basic product configuration.
- Priority level 3 (P3)—Your network performance is degraded. Network functionality is noticeably impaired, but most business operations continue.
- Priority level 2 (P2)—Your production network is severely degraded, affecting significant aspects of business operations. No workaround is available.
- Priority level 1 (P1)—Your production network is down, and a critical impact to business operations will occur if service is not restored quickly. No workaround is available.

Cisco TAC Website

You can use the Cisco TAC website to resolve P3 and P4 issues yourself, saving both cost and time. The site provides around-the-clock access to online tools, knowledge bases, and software. To access the Cisco TAC website, go to this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/tac>

All customers, partners, and resellers who have a valid Cisco service contract have complete access to the technical support resources on the Cisco TAC website. Some services on the Cisco TAC website require a Cisco.com login ID and password. If you have a valid service contract but do not have a login ID or password, go to this URL to register:

<http://tools.cisco.com/RPF/register/register.do>

If you are a Cisco.com registered user, and you cannot resolve your technical issues by using the Cisco TAC website, you can open a case online at this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/support/index.html>

If you have Internet access, we recommend that you open P3 and P4 cases through the Cisco TAC website so that you can describe the situation in your own words and attach any necessary files.

Cisco TAC Escalation Center

The Cisco TAC Escalation Center addresses priority level 1 or priority level 2 issues. These classifications are assigned when severe network degradation significantly impacts business operations. When you contact the TAC Escalation Center with a P1 or P2 problem, a Cisco TAC engineer automatically opens a case.

To obtain a directory of toll-free Cisco TAC telephone numbers for your country, go to this URL:

<http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/687/Directory/DirTAC.shtml>

Before calling, please check with your network operations center to determine the level of Cisco support services to which your company is entitled: for example, SMARTnet, SMARTnet Onsite, or Network Supported Accounts (NSA). When you call the center, please have available your service agreement number and your product serial number.

Obtaining Additional Publications and Information

Information about Cisco products, technologies, and network solutions is available from various online and printed sources.

- The *Cisco Product Catalog* describes the networking products offered by Cisco Systems as well as ordering and customer support services. Access the *Cisco Product Catalog* at this URL:
<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/index.html>
- Cisco Press publishes a wide range of networking publications. Cisco suggests these titles for new and experienced users: *Internetworking Terms and Acronyms Dictionary*, *Internetworking Technology Handbook*, *Internetworking Troubleshooting Guide*, and the *Internetworking Design Guide*. For current Cisco Press titles and other information, go to Cisco Press online at this URL:
<http://www.ciscopress.com>
- *Packet* magazine is the Cisco monthly periodical that provides industry professionals with the latest information about the field of networking. You can access *Packet* magazine at this URL:
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/about/ac123/ac114/about_cisco_packet_magazine.html
- *iQ Magazine* is the Cisco monthly periodical that provides business leaders and decision makers with the latest information about the networking industry. You can access *iQ Magazine* at this URL:
<http://www.cisco.com/go/iqmagazine>
- *Internet Protocol Journal* is a quarterly journal published by Cisco Systems for engineering professionals involved in the design, development, and operation of public and private internets and intranets.
- Training—Cisco offers world-class networking training, with current offerings in network training.