



## Preface

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### 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 Cisco IOS Release 12.1 commands, refer to the Cisco 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 “[Obtaining Documentation](#)” section on page xxxvii.

- *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 websites can be accessed from this URL:

[http://www.cisco.com/public/countries\\_languages.shtml](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 regularly and may be more current than printed documentation. The CD-ROM package is available as a single unit or through an annual or quarterly subscription.

Registered Cisco.com users can order a single Documentation CD-ROM (product number DOC-CONDOCCD=) through the Cisco Ordering tool:

[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/partner/ordering/ordering\\_place\\_order\\_ordering\\_tool\\_launch.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/partner/ordering/ordering_place_order_ordering_tool_launch.html)

All users can order annual or quarterly subscriptions 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\\_inpk/pdi.htm](http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/es_inpk/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>

- Nonregistered Cisco.com users can order documentation through a local account representative by calling Cisco Systems Corporate Headquarters (California, USA) 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 send your comments in e-mail to [bug-doc@cisco.com](mailto:bug-doc@cisco.com).

You can submit comments by using the response card (if present) 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

For all customers, partners, resellers, and distributors who hold valid Cisco service contracts, the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) provides 24-hour, award-winning technical support services, online and over the phone. Cisco.com features the Cisco TAC website as an online starting point for technical assistance.

### Cisco TAC Website

The Cisco TAC website (<http://www.cisco.com/tac>) provides online documents and tools for troubleshooting and resolving technical issues with Cisco products and technologies. The Cisco TAC website is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Accessing all the tools on the Cisco TAC website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password. If you have a valid service contract but do not have a login ID or password, register at this URL:

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

### Opening a TAC Case

The online TAC Case Open Tool (<http://www.cisco.com/tac/caseopen>) is the fastest way to open P3 and P4 cases. (Your network is minimally impaired or you require product information). After you describe your situation, the TAC Case Open Tool automatically recommends resources for an immediate solution. If your issue is not resolved using these recommendations, your case will be assigned to a Cisco TAC engineer.

For P1 or P2 cases (your production network is down or severely degraded) or if you do not have Internet access, contact Cisco TAC by telephone. Cisco TAC engineers are assigned immediately to P1 and P2 cases to help keep your business operations running smoothly.

To open a case by telephone, use one of the following numbers:

Asia-Pacific: +61 2 8446 7411 (Australia: 1 800 805 227)

EMEA: +32 2 704 55 55

USA: 1 800 553-2447

For a complete listing of Cisco TAC contacts, go to this URL:

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

## TAC Case Priority Definitions

To ensure that all cases are reported in a standard format, Cisco has established case priority definitions.

Priority 1 (P1)—Your network is “down” or there is a critical impact to your business operations. You and Cisco will commit all necessary resources around the clock to resolve the situation.

Priority 2 (P2)—Operation of an existing network is severely degraded, or significant aspects of your business operation are negatively affected by inadequate performance of Cisco products. You and Cisco will commit full-time resources during normal business hours to resolve the situation.

Priority 3 (P3)—Operational performance of your network is impaired, but most business operations remain functional. You and Cisco will commit resources during normal business hours to restore service to satisfactory levels.

Priority 4 (P4)—You require information or assistance with Cisco product capabilities, installation, or configuration. There is little or no effect on your business operations.

## 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/products\\_catalog\\_links\\_launch.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_catalog_links_launch.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 quarterly publication that provides the latest networking trends, technology breakthroughs, and Cisco products and solutions to help industry professionals get the most from their networking investment. Included are networking deployment and troubleshooting tips, configuration examples, customer case studies, tutorials and training, certification information, and links to numerous in-depth online resources. You can access Packet magazine at this URL:

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

- iQ Magazine is the Cisco bimonthly publication that delivers the latest information about Internet business strategies for executives. 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 designing, developing, and operating public and private internets and intranets. You can access the Internet Protocol Journal at this URL:  
[http://www.cisco.com/en/US/about/ac123/ac147/about\\_cisco\\_the\\_internet\\_protocol\\_journal.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/about/ac123/ac147/about_cisco_the_internet_protocol_journal.html)
- Training—Cisco offers world-class networking training. Current offerings in network training are listed at this URL:  
<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/learning/index.html>