



Configuring HSRP

This chapter describes how to use Hot Standby Router Protocol (HSRP) to provide routing redundancy for routing IP traffic without being dependent on the availability of any single router. To use this feature, you must have the enhanced multilayer switch image installed on your switch.



Note

You can also use a version of HSRP in Layer 2 mode to configure a redundant command switch to take over cluster management if the cluster command switch fails. For more information about clustering, see [Chapter 5, “Clustering Switches.”](#)



Note

For complete syntax and usage information for the commands used in this chapter, refer to the *Catalyst 3550 Multilayer Switch Command Reference* and the *Cisco IOS IP and IP Routing Command Reference for Release 12.1*.

This chapter consists of these sections:

- [Understanding HSRP, page 21-1](#)
- [Configuring HSRP, page 21-3](#)
- [Displaying HSRP Configurations, page 21-10](#)

Understanding HSRP

HSRP is Cisco’s standard method of providing high network availability by providing first-hop redundancy for IP hosts on an IEEE 802 LAN configured with a default gateway IP address. HSRP routes IP traffic without relying on the availability of any single router. It enables a set of router interfaces to work together to present the appearance of a single virtual router or default gateway to the hosts on a LAN. When HSRP is configured on a network or segment, it provides a virtual Media Access Control (MAC) address and an IP address that is shared among a group of configured routers. HSRP allows two or more HSRP-configured routers to use the MAC address and IP network address of a virtual router. The virtual router does not exist; it represents the common target for routers that are configured to provide backup to each other. One of the routers is selected to be the active router and another to be the standby router, which assumes control of the group MAC address and IP address should the designated active router fail.

**Note**

Routers in an HSRP group can be any router interface that supports HSRP, including Catalyst 3550 routed ports and switch virtual interfaces (SVIs).

HSRP provides high network availability by providing redundancy for IP traffic from hosts on networks. In a group of router interfaces, the active router is the router of choice for routing packets; the standby router is the router that takes over the routing duties when an active router fails or when preset conditions are met.

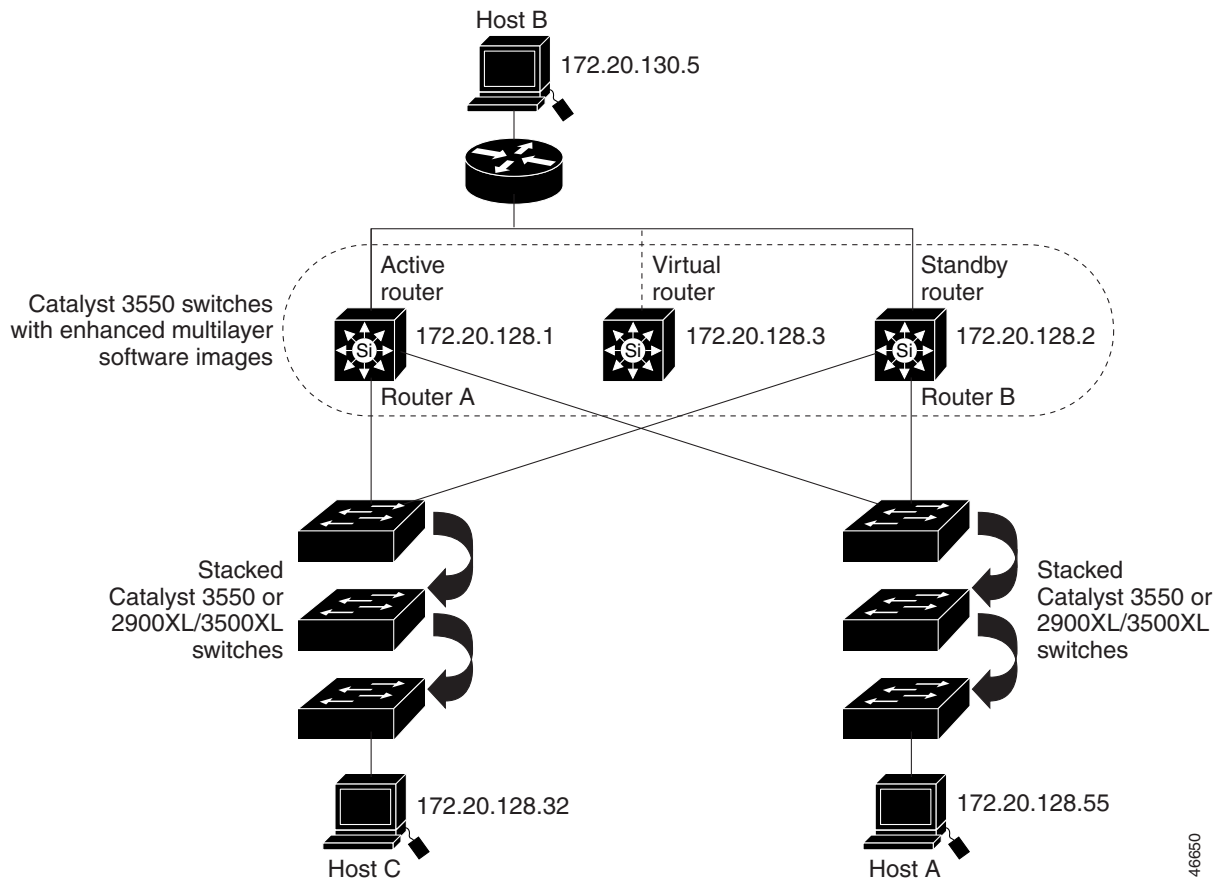
HSRP is useful for hosts that do not support a router discovery protocol and cannot switch to a new router when their selected router reloads or loses power. When HSRP is configured on a network segment, it provides a virtual MAC address and an IP address that is shared among router interfaces in a group of router interfaces running HSRP. The router selected by the protocol to be the active router receives and routes packets destined for the group's MAC address. For n routers running HSRP, there are $n + 1$ IP and MAC addresses assigned.

HSRP detects when the designated active router fails, and a selected standby router assumes control of the Hot Standby group's MAC and IP addresses. A new standby router is also selected at that time. Devices running HSRP send and receive multicast UDP-based hello packets to detect router failure and to designate active and standby routers. When HSRP is configured on an interface, Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) redirect messages are disabled by default for the interface.

You can configure multiple Hot Standby groups among Catalyst 3550 switches that are operating in Layer 3 to make more use of the redundant routers. To do so, specify a group number for each Hot Standby command group you configure for an interface. For example, you might configure an interface on switch 1 as an active router and one on switch 2 as a standby router and also configure another interface on switch 2 as an active router with another interface on switch 1 as its standby router.

Figure 21-1 shows a segment of a network configured for HSRP. Each router is configured with the MAC address and IP network address of the virtual router. Instead of configuring hosts on the network with the IP address of Router A, you configure them with the IP address of the virtual router as their default router. When Host C sends packets to Host B, it sends them to the MAC address of the virtual router. If for any reason, Router A stops transferring packets, Router B responds to the virtual IP address and virtual MAC address and becomes the active router, assuming the active router duties. Host C continues to use the IP address of the virtual router to address packets destined for Host B, which Router B now receives and sends to Host B. Until Router A resumes operation, HSRP allows Router B to provide uninterrupted service to users on Host C's segment that need to communicate with users on Host B's segment and also continues to perform its normal function of handling packets between the Host A segment and Host B.

Figure 21-1 Typical HSRP Configuration



Configuring HSRP

These sections include HSRP configuration information and procedures:

- [Default HSRP Configuration, page 21-4](#)
- [Enabling HSRP, page 21-4](#)
- [Configuring HSRP Group Attributes, page 21-6](#)



Note

If HSRP is enabled, the switch can recognize 16 additional MAC addresses, each associated with a set of VLANs or routing interfaces.

In the following procedures, the specified interface must be one of these Layer 3 interfaces:

- Routed port: a physical port configured as a Layer 3 port by entering the **no switchport** command.
- SVI: a VLAN interface created by using the **interface vlan** *vlan_id* command and by default a Layer 3 interface.
- Etherchannel port channel in Layer 3 mode: a port-channel logical interface created by using the **interface port-channel** *port-channel-number* global configuration command and binding the Ethernet interface into the channel group. For more information, see the “[Configuring Layer 3 EtherChannels](#)” section on page 19-11.

All Layer 3 interfaces must have IP addresses assigned to them. See the “[Configuring Layer 3 Interfaces](#)” section on page 7-21.

Default HSRP Configuration

Table 21-1 shows the default HSRP configuration.

Table 21-1 Default HSRP Configuration

Feature	Default Setting
HSRP groups	None configured
Standby group number	0
Standby MAC address	Well-known MAC address
Standby priority	100
Standby delay	0 (no delay)
Standby track interface priority	10
Standby hello time	3 seconds
Standby holdtime	10 seconds

Enabling HSRP

The **standby ip** command activates HSRP on the configured interface. If an IP address is specified, that address is used as the designated address for the Hot Standby group. If no IP address is specified, the address is learned through the standby function. You must configure at least one routing port on the cable with the designated address. Configuring an IP address always overrides another designated address currently in use.

When the **standby ip** command is enabled on an interface and proxy ARP is enabled, if the interface’s Hot Standby state is active, proxy ARP requests are answered using the Hot Standby group MAC address. If the interface is in a different state, proxy ARP responses are suppressed.



Note

We recommend that you do not configure a virtual MAC address on the switch interfaces, but instead use the default well-known virtual MAC address. If it is necessary to configure a virtual MAC address, for HSRP to operate correctly, the first five bytes must be the same for all MAC addresses used for HSRP. The last byte represents the group number.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow these steps to create or enable HSRP on a Layer 3 interface:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	interface <i>interface-id</i>	Enter interface configuration mode, and enter the Layer 3 interface on which you want to enable HSRP.
Step 3	standby [<i>group-number</i>] ip [<i>ip-address</i>] [secondary]]	Create (or enable) the HSRP group using its number and virtual IP address. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) The <i>group-number</i> is the group number on the interface for which HSRP is being enabled. The range is 0 to 255; the default is 0. If there is only one HSRP group, you do not need to enter a group number. • (Optional on all but one interface) The <i>ip-address</i> is the virtual IP address of the hot standby router interface. You must enter the virtual IP address for at least one of the interfaces; it can be learned on the other interfaces. • (Optional) The keyword secondary means the IP address is a secondary hot standby router interface. If neither router is designated as a secondary or standby router and no priorities are set, the primary IP addresses are compared and the higher IP address is the active router, with the next highest as the standby router.
Step 4	standby [<i>group-number</i>] mac-address <i>mac-address</i>	(Optional) Specify virtual MAC address for the virtual router. We recommend that you do not configure this parameter, but instead use the default well-known MAC address. If it is necessary to configure a virtual MAC address, the first five bytes in all MAC addresses for the HSRP should be the same. The last byte represents the group number.
Step 5	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your configuration to the startup configuration.

Use the **no standby** [*group-number*] **ip** [*ip-address*] command to disable HSRP.

Use the **no standby** [*group-number*] **mac-address** *macaddress* command to return to the default virtual MAC address.

This example activates HSRP for group 1 on Gigabit Ethernet interface 0/1. The IP address used by the hot standby group is learned by using HSRP.



Note

This procedure is the minimum number of steps required to enable HSRP.

```
Switch# configure terminal
Switch(config)# interface gigabitethernet0/1
Switch(config-if)# standby 1 ip
Switch(config-if)# end
```

Configuring HSRP Group Attributes

Although HSRP can run with no other configuration required, you can configure attributes for the HSRP group, including authentication, priority, preemption and preemption delay, timers, or MAC address.

Configuring HSRP Priority

The **standby priority**, **standby preempt**, and **standby track** interface configuration commands are all used to set characteristics for determining active and standby routers and behavior regarding when a new active router takes over. When configuring priority, follow these guidelines:

- Assigning priority helps select the active and standby routers. If preemption is enabled, the router with the highest priority becomes the designated active router. If priorities are equal, the primary IP addresses are compared, and the higher IP address has priority.
- The highest number (1 to 255) represents the highest priority (most likely to become the active router).
- When setting the priority, preempt, or both, you must specify at least one keyword (**priority**, **preempt**, or both).
- The priority of the device can change dynamically if an interface is configured with the **standby track** command and another interface on the router goes down.
- The **standby track** command ties the router hot standby priority to the availability of its interfaces and is useful for tracking interfaces that are not configured for HSRP. When a tracked interface fails, the hot standby priority on the device on which tracking has been configured decreases by 10. If an interface is not tracked, its state changes do not affect the hot standby priority of the configured device. For each interface configured for hot standby, you can configure a separate list of interfaces to be tracked.
- The **standby track interface-priority** specifies how much to decrement the hot standby priority when a tracked interface goes down. When the interface comes back up, the priority is incremented by the same amount.
- When multiple tracked interfaces are down and *interface-priority* values have been configured, the configured priority decrements are cumulative. If tracked interfaces that were not configured with priority values fail, the default decrement is 10, and it is noncumulative.
- When routing is first enabled for the interface, it does not have a complete routing table. If it is configured to preempt, it becomes the active router, even though it is unable to provide adequate routing services. To solve this problem, configure a delay time to allow the router to update its routing table.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, use one or more of these steps to configure HSRP priority characteristics on an interface:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	interface <i>interface-id</i>	Enter interface configuration mode, and enter the HSRP interface on which you want to set priority.
Step 3	standby [<i>group-number</i>] priority <i>priority</i> [preempt [delay <i>delay</i>]]	<p>Set a priority value used in choosing the active router. The range is 1 to 255; the default priority is 100. The highest number represents the highest priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) The <i>group-number</i> is the group number to which the command applies. • (Optional) Configure the router to preempt, which means that when the local router has a higher priority than the active router, it should attempt to assume control as the active router. • (Optional) Set a delay to cause the local router to postpone taking over the active role for the shown number of seconds. The range is 0 to 36000 (1 hour); the default is 0 (no delay before taking over). <p>Use the no form of the command to restore the default values.</p>
Step 4	standby [<i>group-number</i>] [priority <i>priority</i>] preempt [delay <i>delay</i>]	<p>Configure the router to preempt, which means that when the local router has a higher priority than the active router, it should attempt to assume control as the active router.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) The <i>group-number</i> is the group number to which the command applies. • (Optional) Set or change the priority for the group. (The range is 1 to 255; the default is 100.) • (Optional) Set a delay to cause the local router to postpone taking over the active role for the number of seconds shown. The range is 0 to 36000 (1 hour); the default is 0 (no delay before taking over). <p>Use the no form of the command to restore the default values.</p>
Step 5	standby [<i>group-number</i>] track <i>type number</i> [<i>interface-priority</i>]	<p>Configure an interface to track other interfaces so that if one of the other interfaces goes down, the device's Hot Standby priority is lowered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) The <i>group-number</i> is the group number to which the command applies. • The <i>type</i> is the interface type (combined with interface number) that is tracked. • The <i>number</i> is the interface number (combined with interface type) that is tracked. • (Optional) The <i>interface-priority</i> is the amount by which the hot standby priority for the router is decremented or incremented when the interface goes down or comes back up. The default value is 10.
Step 6	end	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 7	show running-config	Verify the configuration of the standby groups.
Step 8	copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

Use the **no standby** [*group-number*] **priority** *priority* [**preempt** [**delay** *delay*]] and **no standby** [*group-number*] [**priority** *priority*] **preempt** [**delay** *delay*] interface configuration commands to restore default priority, preempt, and delay values.

Use the **no standby** [*group-number*] **track** *type number* [*interface-priority*] interface configuration command to remove the tracking.

This example activates Gigabit Ethernet interface 0/1, sets an IP address and a priority of 120 (higher than the default value), and waits for 300 seconds (5 minutes) before attempting to become the active router:

```
Switch# configure terminal
Switch(config)# interface gigabitethernet0/1
Switch(config-if)# standby ip 172.19.108.254
Switch(config-if)# standby priority 120 preempt delay 300
Switch(config-if)# end
Switch#
```

Configuring HSRP Authentication and Timers

You can optionally configure an HSRP authentication string or change the hello time interval and holdtime.

When configuring these attributes, follow these guidelines:

- The authentication string is sent unencrypted in all HSRP messages. You must configure the same authentication string on all routers and access servers on a cable to ensure interoperability. Authentication mismatch prevents a device from learning the designated Hot Standby IP address and timer values from other routers configured with HSRP.
- Routers or access servers on which standby timer values are not configured can learn timer values from the active or standby router. The timers configured on an active router always override any other timer settings.
- All routers in a Hot Standby group should use the same timer values. Normally, *holdtime* is greater than or equal to 3 times *hellotime*.

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, use one or more of these steps to configure HSRP priority characteristics on an interface:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal	Enter global configuration mode.
Step 2	interface <i>interface-id</i>	Enter interface configuration mode, and enter the HSRP interface on which you want to set authentication.
Step 3	standby [<i>group-number</i>] authentication string	(Optional) Select an authentication string to be carried in all HSRP messages. The authentication string can be up to eight characters in length; the default string is cisco . (Optional) The <i>group-number</i> is the group number to which the command applies.

	Command	Purpose
Step 4	<code>standby [group-number] timers hellotime holdtime</code>	(Optional) Configure the time between hello packets and the time before other routers declare the active router to be down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Optional) The <i>group-number</i> is the group number to which the command applies. The <i>hellotime</i> is the hello interval in seconds. The range is from 1 to 255; the default is 3 seconds. The <i>holdtime</i> is the time in seconds before the active or standby router is declared to be down. The range is from 1 to 255; the default is 10 seconds.
Step 5	<code>end</code>	Return to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	<code>show running-config</code>	(Optional) Verify the configuration of the standby groups.
Step 7	<code>copy running-config startup-config</code>	(Optional) Save your entries in the configuration file.

Use the `no standby [group-number] authentication string` command to delete an authentication string.

Use the `standby [group-number] timers hellotime holdtime` command to restore timers to their default values.

This example configures *word* as the authentication string required to allow Hot Standby routers in group 1 to interoperate:

```
Switch# configure terminal
Switch(config)# interface gigabitethernet0/1
Switch(config-if)# standby 1 authentication word
Switch(config-if)# end
Switch#
```

This example sets the timers on standby group 1 with the time between hello packets at 5 seconds and the time after which a router is considered down to be 15 seconds:

```
Switch# configure terminal
Switch(config)# interface gigabitethernet0/1
Switch(config-if)# standby 1 ip
Switch(config-if)# standby 1 timers 5 15
Switch(config-if)# end
Switch#
```

Configuring HSRP Groups and Clustering

When a device is participating in an HSRP standby routing and clustering is enabled, you can use the same standby group for command switch redundancy and HSRP redundancy. Use the global configuration command `cluster standby-group HSRP-group-name` to enable the same HSRP standby group to be used for command switch and routing redundancy.

This example shows how to bind standby group *my_hsrp* to the cluster and enable the same HSRP group to be used for command switch redundancy and router redundancy. The command can only be executed on the command switch. If the standby group name or number does not exist, or if the switch is a member switch, an error message is generated.

```
Switch# configure terminal
Switch(config)# cluster standby-group my_hsrp
Switch(config)# end
```

Displaying HSRP Configurations

From EXEC mode, use this command to display HSRP settings:

```
show standby [interface-id [group]] [brief] [detail]
```

You can display HSPR information for the whole switch, for a specific interface, for an HSRP group, or for an HSRP group on an interface. You can also specify whether to display a concise overview of HSRP information or detailed HSRP information. The default display is **detail**. If there are a large number of HSRP groups, using the **show standby** command without qualifiers can result in an unwieldy display.

This example shows how to display HSRP information for two standby groups (group 1 and group 100):

```
Switch# show standby
VLAN1 - Group 1
  Local state is Standby, priority 105, may preempt
  Hellotime 3 holdtime 10
  Next hello sent in 00:00:02.182
  Hot standby IP address is 10.0.0.1 configured
  Active router is 172.20.138.35 expires in 00:00:09
  Standby router is local
  Standby virtual mac address is 0000.0c07.ac01
  Name is bbb
VLAN1 - Group 100
  Local state is Active, priority 105, may preempt
  Hellotime 3 holdtime 10
  Next hello sent in 00:00:02.262
  Hot standby IP address is 172.20.138.51 configured
  Active router is local
  Standby router is unknown expired
  Standby virtual mac address is 0000.0c07.ac64
  Name is test
```