



Port Unicast and Multicast Flood Blocking

This chapter describes how to configure multicast and unicast flood blocking on the Catalyst 4500 series switch. This chapter contains these topics:

- [Overview of Flood Blocking, page 35-1](#)
- [Configuring Port Blocking, page 35-1](#)



Note

For complete syntax and usage information for the switch commands used in this chapter, refer to the *Catalyst 4500 Series Switch Cisco IOS Command Reference* and related publications at <http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/product/software/ios122/122cgcr/index.htm>.

Overview of Flood Blocking

Occasionally, unknown unicast or multicast traffic is flooded to a switch port because a MAC address has timed out or has not been learned by the switch. (This condition is especially undesirable for a private VLAN isolated port.) To guarantee that no unicast and multicast traffic is flooded to the port, use the **switchport block unicast** and **switchport block multicast** commands to enable flood blocking on the switch.



Note

The flood blocking feature is supported on all switched ports (including PVLAN ports) and is applied to all VLANs on which the port is forwarding.

Configuring Port Blocking

By default, a switch floods packets with unknown destination MAC addresses to all ports. If unknown unicast and multicast traffic is forwarded to a switch port, there might be security issues. To prevent forwarding such traffic, you can configure a port to block unknown unicast or multicast packets.



Note

Blocking of unicast or multicast traffic is not automatically enabled on a switch port; you must explicitly configure it.

Blocking Flooded Traffic on an Interface



Note

The interface can be a physical interface (for example, GigabitEthernet 1/1) or an EtherChannel group (such as port-channel 5). When you block multicast or unicast traffic for a port channel, it is blocked on all ports in the port channel group.

To disable the flooding of multicast and unicast packets to an interface, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Switch# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	Switch(config)# interface <i>interface-id</i>	Enters interface configuration mode and enter the type and number of the switchport interface (for example, GigabitEthernet 1/1).
Step 3	Switch(config-if)# switchport block multicast	Blocks unknown multicast forwarding to the port.
Step 4	Switch(config-if)# switchport block unicast	Blocks unknown unicast forwarding to the port.
Step 5	Switch(config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	Switch# show interface <i>interface-id</i> switchport	Verifies your entry.
Step 7	Switch# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

This example shows how to block unicast and multicast flooding on a GigabitEthernet interface1/1 and how to verify the configuration:

```
Switch# configure terminal
Switch(config)# interface gigabitethernet1/1
Switch(config-if)# switchport block multicast
Switch(config-if)# switchport block unicast
Switch(config-if)# end
Switch# show interface gigabitethernet1/1 switchport
Name: Gi1/3
Switchport: Enabled

<output truncated>

Port Protected: On
Unknown Unicast Traffic: Not Allowed
Unknown Multicast Traffic: Not Allowed

Broadcast Suppression Level: 100
Multicast Suppression Level: 100
Unicast Suppression Level: 100
```

Resuming Normal Forwarding on a Port

To resume normal forwarding on a port, perform this task:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Switch# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	Switch(config)# interface <i>interface-id</i>	Enters interface configuration mode and enter the type and number of the switchport interface (GigabitEthernet1/1).
Step 3	Switch(config-if)# no switchport block multicast	Enables unknown multicast flooding to the port.
Step 4	Switch(config-if)# no switchport block unicast	Enables unknown unicast flooding to the port.
Step 5	Switch(config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	Switch# show interface <i>interface-id</i> switchport	Verifies your entry.
Step 7	Switch# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

