



CHAPTER 8

Configuring and Monitoring the Switch Fabric Functionality

This chapter describes how to configure the switching mode and monitor the switch fabric functionality that is included on the Supervisor Engine 720-10GE and the Supervisor Engine 720:

- [Understanding the Switch Fabric Functionality, page 8-1](#)
- [Configuring the Switch Fabric Functionality, page 8-3](#)
- [Monitoring the Switch Fabric Functionality, page 8-3](#)



Note

For complete syntax and usage information for the commands used in this chapter, see the Cisco IOS Master Command List, Release 12.2SX, at this URL:

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/ios/mcl/122sxmcl/12_2sx_mcl_book.html



Tip

For additional information about Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switches (including configuration examples and troubleshooting information), see the documents listed on this page:

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/hw/switches/ps708/tsd_products_support_series_home.html

Understanding the Switch Fabric Functionality

These sections describe how the switch fabric functionality works:

- [Switch Fabric Functionality Overview, page 8-1](#)
- [Forwarding Decisions for Layer 3-Switched Traffic, page 8-2](#)
- [Switching Modes, page 8-2](#)

Switch Fabric Functionality Overview

The switch fabric functionality is built into the supervisor engine and creates a dedicated connection between fabric-enabled modules and provides uninterrupted transmission of frames between these modules. In addition to the direct connection between fabric-enabled modules provided by the switch fabric functionality, fabric-enabled modules also have a direct connection to the 32-Gbps forwarding bus.

Forwarding Decisions for Layer 3-Switched Traffic

Either a PFC3 or a Distributed Feature Card 3 (DFC3) makes the forwarding decision for Layer 3-switched traffic as follows:

- A PFC3 makes all forwarding decisions for each packet that enters the switch through a module without a DFC3.
- A DFC3 makes all forwarding decisions for each packet that enters the switch on a DFC3-enabled module in these situations:
 - If the egress port is on the same module as the ingress port, the DFC3 forwards the packet locally (the packet never leaves the module).
 - If the egress port is on a different fabric-enabled module, the DFC3 sends the packet to the egress module, which sends it out the egress port.
 - If the egress port is on a different nonfabric-enabled module, the DFC3 sends the packet to the supervisor engine. The supervisor engine fabric interface transfers the packet to the 32-Gbps switching bus where it is received by the egress module and is sent out the egress port.

Switching Modes

With a Supervisor Engine 720-10GE or a Supervisor Engine 720, traffic is forwarded to and from modules in one of the following modes:

- Compact mode—The switch uses this mode for all traffic when only fabric-enabled modules are installed. In this mode, a compact version of the DBus header is forwarded over the switch fabric channel, which provides the best possible performance.
- Truncated mode—The switch uses this mode for traffic between fabric-enabled modules when there are both fabric-enabled and nonfabric-enabled modules installed. In this mode, the switch sends a truncated version of the traffic (the first 64 bytes of the frame) over the switch fabric channel.
- Bus mode (also called flow-through mode)—The switch uses this mode for traffic between nonfabric-enabled modules and for traffic between a nonfabric-enabled module and a fabric-enabled module. In this mode, all traffic passes between the local bus and the supervisor engine bus.

Table 8-1 shows the switching modes used with fabric-enabled and nonfabric-enabled modules installed.

Table 8-1 Switch Fabric Functionality Switching Modes

Modules	Switching Modes
Between fabric-enabled modules (when no nonfabric-enabled modules are installed)	Compact ¹
Between fabric-enabled modules (when nonfabric-enabled modules are also installed)	Truncated ²
Between fabric-enabled and nonfabric-enabled modules	Bus
Between non-fabric-enabled modules	Bus

1. In **show** commands, displayed as `deef` mode for fabric-enabled modules with DFC3 installed; displayed as `fabric` mode for other fabric-enabled modules.

2. Displayed as `fabric` mode in **show** commands.

Configuring the Switch Fabric Functionality

To configure the switching mode, perform this task:

Command	Purpose
Router(config)# [no] fabric switching-mode allow { bus-mode { truncated [{ threshold [<i>number</i> }]}}	Configures the switching mode.

When configuring the switching mode, note the following information:

- To allow use of nonfabric-enabled modules or to allow fabric-enabled modules to use bus mode, enter the **fabric switching-mode allow bus-mode** command.
- To prevent use of nonfabric-enabled modules or to prevent fabric-enabled modules from using bus mode, enter the **no fabric switching-mode allow bus-mode** command.



Caution

When you enter the **no fabric switching-mode allow bus-mode** command, power is removed from any nonfabric-enabled modules installed in the switch.

- To allow fabric-enabled modules to use truncated mode, enter the **fabric switching-mode allow truncated** command.
- To prevent fabric-enabled modules from using truncated mode, enter the **no fabric switching-mode allow truncated** command.
- To configure how many fabric-enabled modules must be installed before they use truncated mode instead of bus mode, enter the **fabric switching-mode allow truncated threshold *number*** command.
- To return to the default truncated-mode threshold, enter the **no fabric switching-mode allow truncated threshold** command.

Monitoring the Switch Fabric Functionality

The switch fabric functionality supports a number of **show** commands for monitoring purposes. A fully automated startup sequence brings the module online and runs the connectivity diagnostics on the ports.

These sections describe how to monitor the switch fabric functionality:

- [Displaying the Switch Fabric Redundancy Status, page 8-4](#)
- [Displaying Fabric Channel Switching Modes, page 8-4](#)
- [Displaying the Fabric Status, page 8-4](#)
- [Displaying the Fabric Utilization, page 8-5](#)
- [Displaying Fabric Errors, page 8-5](#)

Displaying the Switch Fabric Redundancy Status

To display the switch fabric redundancy status, perform this task:

Command	Purpose
Router# show fabric active	Displays switch fabric redundancy status.

```
Router# show fabric active
Active fabric card in slot 5
No backup fabric card in the system
Router#
```

Displaying Fabric Channel Switching Modes

To display the fabric channel switching mode of one or all modules, perform this task:

Command	Purpose
Router# show fabric switching-mode [module {slot_number all}]	Displays fabric channel switching mode of one or all modules.

This example shows how to display the fabric channel switching mode of all modules:

```
Router# show fabric switching-mode all
%Truncated mode is allowed
%System is allowed to operate in legacy mode

Module Slot      Switching Mode   Bus Mode
     5              DCEF            Compact
     9              Crossbar        Compact
Router#
```

Displaying the Fabric Status

To display the fabric status of one or all switching modules, perform this task:

Command	Purpose
Router# show fabric status [slot_number all]	Displays fabric status.

This example shows how to display the fabric status of all modules:

```
Router# show fabric status
slot      channel      speed      module      fabric
          channel      speed      status      status
     1         0         8G         OK          OK
     5         0         8G         OK          Up- Timeout
     6         0        20G         OK          Up- BufError
     8         0         8G         OK          OK
     8         1         8G         OK          OK
     9         0         8G        Down- DDRsync  OK
Router#
```

Displaying the Fabric Utilization

To display the fabric utilization of one or all modules, perform this task:

Command	Purpose
Router# show fabric utilization [<i>slot_number</i> all]	Displays fabric utilization.

This example shows how to display the fabric utilization of all modules:

```
Router# show fabric utilization all
Lo% Percentage of Low-priority traffic.
Hi% Percentage of High-priority traffic.

  slot   channel   speed  Ingress Lo%   Egress Lo%   Ingress Hi%   Egress Hi%
   5     0         20G    0         0         0         0         0
   9     0         8G     0         0         0         0         0
Router#
```

Displaying Fabric Errors

To display fabric errors of one or all modules, perform this task:

Command	Purpose
Router# show fabric errors [<i>slot_number</i> all]	Displays fabric errors.

This example shows how to display fabric errors on all modules:

```
Router# show fabric errors

Module errors:
  slot   channel   crc     hbeat   sync   DDR sync
   1     0         0       0       0     0       0
   8     0         0       0       0     0       0
   8     1         0       0       0     0       0
   9     0         0       0       0     0       0

Fabric errors:
  slot   channel   sync   buffer   timeout
   1     0         0     0       0
   8     0         0     0       0
   8     1         0     0       0
   9     0         0     0       0
Router#
```



Tip

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