

Catalyst Redundant Power System 2300

Ramesh: Hello, everyone. I'm Ramesh Bijor, Product Marketing Manager for Network Systems at Cisco. Thanks for tuning in to this edition of the LAN switching update. This session is one in a series of LAN switching podcasts where we talk about business and deployment considerations in focused 5- to 10-minute topics. Today's session is on the new Cisco Redundant Power System 2300, also known as RPS 2300. With me today is Vipul Redey, Product Manager at Cisco for the RPS 2300. Welcome, Vipul.

Vipul: Thanks, Ramesh. Glad to be here.

Ramesh: Tell us, why do we need RPS 2300?

Vipul: The main benefit of the RPS 2300 is network uptime.

The RPS 2300 helps ensure uninterrupted operation and protection in case of a device power supply failures or an AC circuit failure, for example. Specially for Power over Ethernet deployments, where PoE devices such as IP phones and wireless access points need to be powered at all times.

The primary power faults to protect against include (1) internal power supply failures in network devices or (2) failure of an AC circuit, for example, a circuit breaker tripping. Both of these can be taken care of by RPS 2300.

Finally, the interruption of utility power requires an uninterruptible power supply or UPS.

Ramesh: So, Vipul, what is RPS 2300?

Vipul: RPS 2300 consists of a chassis with slots for two power supplies and a blower and RPS cables for connecting to devices such as switches and integrated services routers. Up to two modular power supplies can be inserted in the RPS 2300. These power supplies are available in 750W and 1150W design. And the RPS 2300 supports up to six devices, a single RPS can actively back up to two switches simultaneously.

Ramesh: Tell me about new high-availability features of RPS 2300.

Vipul: I am going to talk about four features that enhance availability and increase network uptime. The first is flexibility: the RPS 2300 supports traditional non-PoE Ethernet switches, PoE switches, as well as integrated services routers. The second is fast failover: prevents a switch reboot after an internal switch power supply failure. The third is the seamless failover: when backed up by a Cisco RPS 2300, the failed power supply of a Catalyst 3750-E or 3560-E Series Switch can be hot-swapped without affecting switch operation. And, when the supply is replaced, the switch automatically reverts back to its own power supply seamlessly.

And, finally, when it comes to backing up: the RPS 2300 is capable of backing up a switch which may be on a completely different AC circuit than the RPS itself.

Ramesh: How easy is it to use and manage the RPS 2300?

Vipul: Firstly, the modular power supplies in the RPS 2300 can also be utilized in the Catalyst 3750-E and 3560-E switches. This sharing of power supplies minimizes sparing costs.

Secondly, the remote management capability allows you to place the RPS 2300 system, or individual RPS ports, in active or standby mode from a remote location. And, finally, the RPS 2300 offers configurable RPS port priorities and failover policy, to select which connected switch gets priority.

Ramesh: Vipul, what management tools are available?

Vipul: Enhanced management capabilities are available through a connected Cisco Catalyst 3750-E and 3560-E Series Switch. Users can manage their Cisco RPS 2300, using CLI, the CiscoWorks LMS, or Cisco Network Assistant network management applications or CNA.

Ramesh: Does RPS2300 only support the new 3750-E and 3560-E switches?

Vipul: That is actually a very good question. So, besides the Catalyst 3750-E and 3560-E switches, the RPS 2300 also support the Catalyst 3750, 3560, 2960, 2950; the PoE models on the CE 500s; and last but not the least, several models of the integrated services routers. This is really important from a branch solution perspective.

Ramesh: So, Vipul, the way I see it, there several types of customers can benefit from RPS 2300. For example, businesses that depend on high network availability, like financial institutions, medical institutions, e-businesses where network downtime means revenue and productivity loss. They are looking at PoE to power mission-critical IP devices such as IP phones and wireless access points.

As always, this is great information. It sounds like there are some real advantages to using the RPS 2300. Vipul, how can I get more information?

Vipul: Yes, we have materials that address both technical issues and business benefits, such as data sheet, Q&A. Go to <http://www.cisco.com/go/rps2300>.

Ramesh: Thanks, Vipul, Well that wraps it up for today. Thanks for listening, everyone. Stay tuned for another session on the latest in switching news.



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