

## Catalyst TwinGig Converter Module

**Ramesh:** Hello, everyone. I'm Ramesh Bijor, Product Marketing Manager for Network Systems at Cisco Systems. Thanks for tuning in to this edition of the LAN switching update. This session is one in a series of LAN switching podcast where we talk about business and deployment considerations in focused 5- to 10-minute topics.

Today's session is on the new Cisco TwinGig converter module for the Catalyst 3750-E and 3560-E series switches.

With me today is Scott Lennartz, Product Manager at Cisco for the Catalyst 3k switches. Welcome, Scott.

**Scott:** Thanks, Ramesh. Glad to be here.

**Ramesh:** Scott, in previous sessions, we talked about the Catalyst 3750-E and its ability to upgrade its uplinks from 1 Gig to 10 Gig. Today we will dive into what makes it possible: the TwinGig Converter.

**Scott:** Sure, Ramesh.

**Ramesh:** What is a TwinGig converter, and how does it work?

**Scott:** The TwinGig converter converts a 10 Gigabit Ethernet X2 interface into two Gigabit Ethernet SFP ports. This way, customers can initially use the switch with Gigabit Ethernet uplinks and later implement 10 Gigabit Ethernet uplinks as business demands change, without having to upgrade the access layer.

The TwinGig Converter module plugs into either of the two 10 Gigabit ports available on the Catalyst 3750-E and 3560-E series switches.

The best thing is it comes *free* with the 3750-E and 3560-E switches.

**Ramesh:** What is the main benefit of the TwinGig Converter module?

**Scott:** The main benefit is investment protection in Cisco Catalyst 3750-E and 3560-E Series Switches as it enables easy migration from Gigabit Ethernet to 10 Gigabit Ethernet uplinks, as business needs require, without having to upgrade the switches.

**Ramesh:** So customers who are not ready for 10 Gig today can still use the TwinGig Converter with Gigabit Ethernet SFPs?

**Scott:** That's right. This way each switch supports up to four single Gigabit links. So, as their business needs grow, they can migrate to 10 Gigabit Ethernet in future.

**Ramesh:** So how difficult is it to implement the upgrade from 1 Gig to 10 Gig?

**Scott:** Ramesh, it's very easy. You simply remove the Gigabit SFPs and plug in the 10 Gig Ethernet X2 module. It's what we call our 10-second 10 Gig upgrade!

This 1 Gig to 10 Gig flexibility further offers investment protection as 3750-E and 3560-E can be deployed and redeployed to areas that need 10 Gig or don't.

**Ramesh:** What are the business drivers for 10 Gig connectivity?

**Scott:** As Gigabit to the desktop connectivity is deployed, businesses need to think about migration from 1 Gigabit to 10 Gigabit for wiring closet and distribution uplinks. The rapid increase in network traffic due to bandwidth-intensive applications is having a dramatic effect on networks.

**Ramesh:** What types of applications need higher bandwidth?

**Scott:** Well, Ramesh, applications like medical imaging, CAD/CAM, large database mining, scientific modeling, and storage backup.

Video on the LAN is another application that is driving adoption of Gigabit Ethernet. Examples are in the remote learning in education and remote diagnostics in healthcare field.

Also, applications such as film animation and special effects are pushing the edge of network performance and bandwidth for networks using Gigabit Ethernet uplinks.

**Ramesh:** So what effect does Gig to the desktop have on the rest of the network?

**Scott:** As Gigabit Ethernet becomes the standard desktop connectivity speed within the enterprise, the need for 10 Gigabit Ethernet for both aggregation and backbone connections becomes critical to handle the increased speed and performance required. 10 Gigabit Ethernet provides some advantages as a high-speed link technology. And businesses need to think about upgrading the uplinks from 1 Gigabit to 10 Gigabit.

**Ramesh:** So, Scott, the way I see it, the TwinGig Converter is a versatile solution that meets lots of different customers' needs.

- First, it provides investment protection. They can buy 3750-E today for Gig uplinks and migrate to 10 Gig later.
- Secondly, businesses that have a lot of bandwidth-intensive applications such as scientific modeling, medical imaging, and data mining.
- And businesses that are involved with multimedia editing and production such as film animation and special effects.

**Scott:** Yes. That's right, Ramesh.

**Ramesh:** As always, this is great information. It sounds like there are some real advantages to using the 3750-E or 3560-E with the TwinGig Converter. Scott, how can I get more information?

**Scott:** We have materials that address both technical issues and business benefits. Go to <http://www.cisco.com/go/twingig>.

**Ramesh:** Thanks, Scott. 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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