

Cisco Catalyst 2960 and 3560 Compact Switches Overview

Hello, I'm Felix Davis, product manager of the Cisco Catalyst 3560 and Catalyst 2960 compact switches, and I'd like to take a few moments to give you a brief overview of these products.

These compact switches allow you to deliver advanced services to areas outside the wiring closet. Locations with space or wiring constraints such as conference rooms and classrooms or areas where you just need a few more ports of connectivity such as small branch offices and retail stores.

They are designed with the advanced intelligence of the Cisco Catalyst 3560 and Catalyst 2960 Series Switches, allowing you to deploy the latest in Cisco Unified Communications, wireless access, and enhanced network security. You can replace your small hubs and unmanaged switches with these intelligent compact switches and significantly improve application performance and network security.

There are three compact switch models:

The first is a Catalyst 2960 Fast Ethernet switch with eight Fast Ethernet ports and one dual-purpose Gigabit Ethernet uplink. The dual-purpose port has two physical connections, but only one can be active at one time. You can either use the 10/100/1000 copper port or the fiber SFP port. The fiber SFP port supports a wide range of 100 meg and gigabit multimode and single-mode transceivers.

This switch supports the Catalyst 2960 LAN Base software image, which has an enhanced Layer 2 plus feature set.

The second model is a Catalyst 2960 Gigabit Ethernet switch with seven 10/100/1000 ports in one dual-purpose uplink for a total of eight Gigabit Ethernet ports. It also supports the Catalyst 2960 LAN Base software image.

The third switch is a Catalyst 3560 Power over Ethernet switch with eight Fast Ethernet Power over Ethernet ports and one dual-purpose Gig uplink. This switch can deliver a full 15.4 watts of Power over Ethernet on all eight ports simultaneously. It is IEEE 802.3af compliant, is a terrific solution for small-density wireless and IP telephony deployments. This switch comes with the Catalyst 3560 IP Base software, which can be upgraded to the IP Services and Advanced IP Services software images.

All three compact switches come with a limited lifetime hardware warranty, and there is no charge for software updates. New software versions as well as the software images with crypto features can be downloaded from the Software Download Center.

The compact switches have a unique form factor that allows flexibility in how and where they are deployed. They have an all-metal shell and an internal power supply, so they are quite durable. These switches have no fan, which provides silent operation, which is very important when the switch is located near end users such as classrooms and in conference rooms.

You can easily mount the switch on the wall or under the desk using slots on the bottom of the switch. Or you can use a magnet that comes with the switch and covers the bottom surface of the switch. With the magnet, you can attach it against file cabinets or any metal surface, say, underneath the desk or against the cabinet.

There is also an optional cable guard that you can use with these switches. With the cable guard attached, it secures the Ethernet cables to make sure that they are not unplugged accidentally. Also with the cable guard, you can mount it underneath a desk or against a wall and it can be used in combination with the magnet.

These switches have a security lock slot to prevent theft. Any finally, for customers who want to rack mount the switch in 19-inch rack mounts, we also have an optional rack mount kit available for the compact switches.

We have some recommendations that when you place the switch on a flat surface, do not place any objects on top of the switch, and do not stack the switches on top of each other. Please read the hardware installation guide for the compact switches for more details.

Now that we've covered the hardware, let's look at some of the key feature benefits of the compact switches.

Security is a common reason why you might want to replace your hubs and unmanaged switches in your network with these compact switches. These switches have a number of advanced security features such as Network Admission Control, enhanced identity-based networking using 802.1x, access control lists, and DHCP Snooping. These features help protect your network from unauthorized users, prevent denial-of-service attacks, and ensure sensitive information stays private.

The Catalyst 3560 also supports Dynamic ARP Inspection and IP Source Guard to prevent Layer 2 and Layer 3 man-in-the-middle attacks.

These compact switches support advanced quality of service in terms of classification, policing, marking, and shaping, which enables the convergence of voice, video, and data onto a single network and makes sure that the voice and other high-priority traffic run flawlessly.

Deployment and configuration of the compact switches is simplified by a variety of network management tools, including:

- A Catalyst device manager that resides with the software on the switch
- Cisco Network Assistant, which is a PC-based graphical user interface tool and supports Smartports macros to implement Cisco's recommended configuration
- And CiscoWorks and CiscoView for large enterprise deployments

In conclusion, the Catalyst 3560 and Catalyst 2960 compact switches allow you to securely deploy the latest network applications in areas that require small-density switching outside the wiring closet. For more information, please take a look at the data sheets for the Catalyst 3560 and Catalyst 2960 Series Switches.

Thanks for watching!

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