# Synchronous Ethernet ESMC and SSM

***Table 1: Feature History Table***

| Feature Name | Release Information | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Synchronous Ethernet ESMC and SSM on N540X-16Z4G8Q2C-A/D | Release 7.7.1 | Synchronous Ethernet ESMC and SSM are now supported on the following Cisco NCS 540 router variant:<br>• N540X-16Z4G8Q2C-A/D<br><br>For 1G ports, clock recovery is supported only on ports 4 to 19. |
| Synchronous Ethernet ESMC and SSM on N540-6Z14S-SYS-D | Release 7.5.2 | SyncE provides synchronization signals transmitted over the Ethernet physical layer to downstream devices, while the Synchronization Status Message (SSM) indicates the quality level of the transmitting clock to the neighboring nodes, informing the nodes about the level of the network's reliability. Ethernet Synchronization Message Channel (ESMC) is the logical channel that uses an Ethernet PDU (protocol data unit) to exchange SSM information over the SyncE link.<br><br>Synchronous Ethernet ESMC and SSM are now supported on the following Cisco NCS 540 router variants:<br>• N540-6Z14S-SYS-D |

| Feature Name | Release Information | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Synchronous Ethernet ESMC and SSM, and ITU-T G.8262.1 | Release 7.6.1 | Ethernet Synchronization Message Channel (ESMC) allows you to transmit Synchronization Status Message (SSM) information by using the ESMC protocol data units (PDUs).<br><br>In this release, Synchronous Ethernet ESMC and SSM are supported on the following Cisco NCS 540 router variants:<br>• N540-ACC-SYS<br>• N540X-ACC-SYS<br>• N540-24Z8Q2C-SYS<br>• N540-FH-CSR-SYS<br>• N540-FH-AGG-SYS<br><br>ITU-T G.8262.1 defines the Timing characteristics of a synchronous equipment slave clock.<br><br>In this release, ITU-T G.8262.1 is supported on the following Cisco NCS 540 router variants:<br>• N540-28Z4C-SYS-A/D<br>• N540X-16Z4G8Q2C-A/D<br>• N540-12Z20G-SYS-A/D<br>• 540X-12Z16G-SYS-A/D<br>• N540-ACC-SYS<br>• N540X-ACC-SYS<br>• N540-24Z8Q2C-SYS<br>• N540-FH-CSR-SYS<br>• N540-FH-AGG-SYS |

| Feature Name | Release Information | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Frequency Synchronization on the N540X-4Z14G2Q-SYS-A/D routers. | Release 7.4.1 | Based on the ITU-T G.8262 recommendations, precision frequency is enabled on timing devices to deliver frequency synchronization for bandwidth, frequency accuracy, holdover, and noise generation. This support allows for correct network operations when synchronous equipment is timed from either another synchronous equipment clock or a higher-quality clock. |

**Note** On 1G ports of Cisco N540X-16Z4G8Q2C-A/D, clock recovery is supported only on ports 4 to 19.

**Note** On Cisco N540X-4Z14G2Q-SYS-A/D routers, the Synchronous Ethernet (SyncE) feature is not supported on ports 14 and 15.

Synchronous Ethernet is an extension of Ethernet designed to provide the reliability found in traditional SONET/SDH and T1/E1 networks to Ethernet packet networks by incorporating clock synchronization features. It supports the Synchronization Status Message (SSM) and Ethernet Synchronization Message Channel (ESMC) for synchronous Ethernet clock synchronization.

Synchronous Ethernet incorporates the Synchronization Status Message (SSM) used in Synchronous Optical Networking (SONET) and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) networks. While SONET and SDH transmit the SSM in a fixed location within the frame, Ethernet Synchronization Message Channel (ESMC) transmits the SSM using a protocol: the IEEE 802.3 Organization-Specific Slow Protocol (OSSP) standard.

The ESMC carries a Quality Level (QL) value identifying the clock quality of a given synchronous Ethernet timing source. Clock quality values help a synchronous Ethernet node derive timing from the most reliable source and prevent timing loops.

When configured to use synchronous Ethernet, the router synchronizes to the best available clock source. If no better clock sources are available, the router remains synchronized to the current clock source.

The router supports QL-enabled mode.


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# Frequency Synchronization Timing Concepts

The Cisco IOS XR frequency synchronization infrastructure is used to select between different frequency sources to set the router backplane frequency and time-of-day. There are two important concepts that must be understood with respect to the frequency synchronization implementation.

## Sources

A source is a piece of hardware that inputs frequency signals into the system or transmits them out of the system. There are four types of sources:

- Line interfaces: This includes SyncE interfaces.
- Clock interfaces: These are external connectors for connecting other timing signals, such as, GPS, BITS.
- PTP clock: If IEEE 1588 version 2 is configured on the router, a PTP clock may be available to frequency synchronization as a source of the time-of-day and frequency.
- Internal oscillator: This is a free-running internal oscillator chip.

Each timing source has a Quality Level (QL) associated with it which gives the accuracy of the clock. This QL information is transmitted across the network via SSMs over the Ethernet Synchronization Messaging Channel (ESMC) or SSMs contained in the SONET/SDH frames so that devices know the best available source to synchronize to. In order to define a preferred network synchronization flow, and to help prevent timing loops, you can assign priority values to particular timing sources on each router. The combination of QL information and user-assigned priority levels allows each router to choose a timing source to use to clock its SyncE and SONET/SDH interfaces, as described in the ITU standard G.781.

**Priority Levels**

You can specify the priority of the frequency source on a controller or an interface. Values can range from 1 (highest priority) to 254 (lowest priority). The default value is 100. The priority is used in the clock-selection algorithm to choose between two sources that have the same quality level (QL). Lower priority values are preferred. For example, you can set the priority value for a GNSS clock source by using this command:

```
Router(config-gnss-freqsync)# priority 5
```

The router first considers the QL advertised by different timing sources. If two sources have the same QL, the router selects the source with a lower priority value for network synchronization.

## Selection Points

A selection point is any point where a choice is made between several frequency signals, and possibly one or more of them are selected. Selection points form a graph representing the flow of timing signals between the different cards in a router running Cisco IOS XR software. For example, one or multiple selection points select between the different Synchronous Ethernet inputs available on a single line card, and the result of these selection points is forwarded to a selection point on the RSP to select between the selected source from each card.

The input signals to the selection points can be:

- Received directly from a source.
- The output from another selection point on the same card.

- The output from a selection point on a different card.

The output of a selection point can be used in a number of ways:

- Used to drive the signals sent out of a set of sources.
- As input into another selection point on the card.
- As input into a selection point on another card.

Use the show frequency synchronization selection command to see a detailed view of the different selection points within the system.

## Restrictions

- SyncE isn't supported on Gigabit Ethernet 0/0/0/20 to 0/0/0/27 ports of N540X-16Z4G8Q2C-A and N540X-16Z4G8Q2C-D variants.

**Note** The following restrictions are applicable only for N540-24Z8Q2C-SYS, N540X-ACC-SYS, N540-ACC-SYS, and N540-28Z4C-SYS variants.

- SyncE isn't supported on Gigabit Ethernet 0/0/0/24 to 0/0/0/31 ports.

# Configuring Frequency Synchronization

## Enabling Frequency Synchronization on the Router

This task describes the router-level configuration required to enable frequency synchronization.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:Router# configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:Router(config)# frequency synchronization
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:Router(config-freqsync)# clock-interface timing-mode system
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:Router(config-freqsync)# quality itu-t option 1 generation 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:Router(config-freqsync)# log selection changes
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:Router(config-freqsync)# commit
```

## Configuring Frequency Synchronization on an Interface

By default, there is no frequency synchronization on line interfaces. Use this task to configure an interface to participate in frequency synchronization.

**Before You Begin**

You must enable frequency synchronization globally on the router.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1#config terminal
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config)#interface TenGigabitEthernet 0/0/0/0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-if)#frequency synchronization
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-if-freqsync)#selection input
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-if-freqsync)#wait-to-restore 10
```

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-if-freqsync)#priority 5
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-if-freqsync)#quality transmit exact itu-t option 1 PRC
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-if-freqsync)#quality receive exact itu-t option 1 PRC
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-if-freqsync)#commit
or
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router(config-freqsync)# commit
```

## Configuring Frequency Synchronization on a Clock Interface

To enable a clock interface to be used as frequency input or output, you must configure the port parameters and frequency synchronization, as described in this task.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1#configure
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config)# clock-interface sync 2 location 0/RP0/CPU0
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-clock-if)# port-parameters
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-clk-parms)# gps-input tod-format cisco pps-input tt1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-clk-parms)# exit
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-clock-if)# frequency synchronization
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-clk-freqsync)# selection input
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-clk-freqsync)# wait-to-restore 1
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R1(config-clk-freqsync)# quality receive exact itu-t option 1 PRC
```

# Verifying the Frequency Synchronization Configuration

After performing the frequency synchronization configuration tasks, use this task to check for configuration errors and verify the configuration.

1. **show frequency synchronization selection**

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R5# show frequency synchronization selection
Fri Apr 24 12:49:32.833 UTC
Node 0/RP1/CPU0:
==============
Selection point: T0-SEL-B (3 inputs, 1 selected)
  Last programmed 3d04h ago, and selection made 3d04h ago
  Next selection points
    SPA scoped    : None
    Node scoped   : CHASSIS-TOD-SEL
    Chassis scoped: LC_TX_SELECT
    Router scoped : None
  Uses frequency selection
  Used for local line interface output
  S  Input                     Last Selection Point         QL  Pri  Status
  == ========================  ========================  =====  ===  ===========
  4  HundredGigE0/7/0/0        0/RP1/CPU0 ETH_RXMUX 4      PRC   10  Locked
     PTP [0/RP1/CPU0]          n/a                         PRC  254  Available
     Internal0 [0/RP1/CPU0]    n/a                         SEC  255  Available

Selection point: 1588-SEL (2 inputs, 1 selected)
  Last programmed 3d04h ago, and selection made 3d04h ago
  Next selection points
    SPA scoped    : None
    Node scoped   : None
    Chassis scoped: None
    Router scoped : None
  Uses frequency selection
  S  Input                     Last Selection Point         QL  Pri  Status
  == ========================  ========================  =====  ===  ===========
  4  HundredGigE0/7/0/0        0/RP1/CPU0 ETH_RXMUX 4      PRC   10  Locked
     Internal0 [0/RP1/CPU0]    n/a                         SEC  255  Available
```

```
Selection point: CHASSIS-TOD-SEL (2 inputs, 1 selected)
  Last programmed 3d04h ago, and selection made 3d04h ago
  Next selection points
    SPA scoped    : None
    Node scoped   : None
    Chassis scoped: None
    Router scoped : None
  Uses time-of-day selection
  S  Input                      Last Selection Point      Pri  Time  Status
  == ========================  ========================  ===  ====  ===========
  1  PTP [0/RP1/CPU0]           n/a                       100  Yes   Available
     HundredGigE0/7/0/0         0/RP1/CPU0 T0-SEL-B 4     100  No    Available

Selection point: ETH_RXMUX (1 inputs, 1 selected)
  Last programmed 3d04h ago, and selection made 3d04h ago
  Next selection points
    SPA scoped    : None
    Node scoped   : T0-SEL-B 1588-SEL
    Chassis scoped: None
    Router scoped : None
  Uses frequency selection
  S  Input                      Last Selection Point         QL  Pri  Status
  == ========================  ========================  =====  ===  ===========
  4  HundredGigE0/7/0/0         n/a                         PRC   10  Available
```

2. **show frequency synchronization configuration-errors**

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:router# show frequency synchronization configuration-errors
Node 0/2/CPU0:
==============
  interface GigabitEthernet0/2/0/0 frequency synchronization
    * Frequency synchronization is enabled on this interface, but isn't enabled globally.
interface GigabitEthernet0/2/0/0 frequency synchronization quality transmit exact itu-t
 option 2 generation 1 PRS
    * The QL that is configured is from a different QL option set than is configured
globally.
```

Displays any errors that are caused by inconsistencies between shared-plane (global) and local-plane (interface) configurations. There are two possible errors that can be displayed:

- Frequency Synchronization is configured on an interface (line interface or clock-interface), but is not configured globally.
- The QL option configured on some interface does not match the global QL option. Under an interface (line interface or clock interface), the QL option is specified using the quality transmit and quality receive commands. The value specified must match the value configured in the global quality itu-t option command, or match the default (option 1) if the global quality itu-t option command is not configured.

Once all the errors have been resolved, meaning there is no output from the command, continue to the next step.

3. **show frequency synchronization interfaces brief**

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R5# show frequency synchronization interfaces brief
Thu Feb 1 06:30:02.945 UTC
Flags: > - Up
        d - SSM Disabled
        s - Output squelched
Fl   Interface
D - Down              S - Assigned for selection
```

```
 x - Peer timed out    i - Init state
Last Selection Point
Pri Time
Status
                             QLrcv QLuse Pri QLsnd Output driven by
==== ======================== ===== ===== === ===== ========================
>S   TenGigE0/0/0/0           PRC   PRC     1 DNU   TenGigE0/0/0/0
>x   TenGigE0/0/0/1           Fail  n/a   100 PRC   TenGigE0/0/0/0
>x   TwentyFiveGigE0/0/0/30   Fail  n/a   100 PRC   TenGigE0/0/0/0

RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R5#
```

Verifies the configuration. Note the following points:

- All line interface that have frequency synchronization configured are displayed.
- All clock interfaces and internal oscillators are displayed.
- Sources that have been nominated as inputs (in other words, have selection input configured) have ‘S’ in the Flags column; sources that have not been nominated as inputs do not have ‘S’ displayed.

**Note** Internal oscillators are always eligible as inputs.

- ‘>’ or ‘D’ is displayed in the flags field as appropriate.

If any of these items are not true, continue to the next step.

4. **show processes fsyncmgr location node-id**

   This command verifies that the fsyncmgr process is running on the appropriate nodes.

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R5# show processes fsyncmgr location 0/0/cPU0
Thu Feb 1 06:26:32.979 UTC
Job Id: 181
PID: HYPERLINK "tel:3411"3411
Process name: fsyncmgr
Executable path:
/opt/cisco/XR/packages/ncs540-iosxr-fwding-1.0.0.0-r63226I/all/bin/fsyncmgr Instance #:
 1
Version ID: 00.00.0000
Respawn: ON
Respawn count: 1
Last started: Tue Jan 23 04:26:57 HYPERLINK "tel:2018"2018
Process state: Run
Package state: Normal
core: MAINMEM
Max. core: 0
Level: 100
Placement: None
startup_path:
/opt/cisco/XR/packages/ncs540-iosxr-fwding-1.0.0.0-r63226I/all/startup/fsyncmgr.startup
 Ready: 2.063s
Process cpu time: 168.480 user, 129.980 kernel, 298.460 total
JID TID Stack pri state NAME rt_pri
181 HYPERLINK "tel:3411"3411 0K 20 Sleeping fsyncmgr 0
181 HYPERLINK "tel:3572"3572 0K 20 Sleeping lwm_debug_threa 0
181 HYPERLINK "tel:3573"3573 0K 20 Sleeping fsyncmgr 0
181 HYPERLINK "tel:3574"3574 0K 20 Sleeping lwm_service_thr 0
181 HYPERLINK "tel:3575"3575 0K 20 Sleeping qsm_service_thr 0
181 HYPERLINK "tel:3622"3622 0K 20 Sleeping fsyncmgr 0
```

```
   181 HYPERLINK "tel:3781"3781 OK 20 Sleeping fsyncmgr 0
   181 HYPERLINK "tel:3789"3789 OK 20 Sleeping fsyncmgr 0
```

# Verifying the ESMC Configuration

### show frequency synchronization interfaces

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:R5# show frequency synchronization interfaces
                    Thu Feb 1 06:33:26.575 UTC
                    Interface TenGigE0/0/0/0 (up)
                    Assigned as input for selection
                    Wait-to-restore time 0 minutes
                    SSM Enabled
Peer Up for 2d01h, last SSM received 0.320s ago
Peer has come up 1 times and timed out 0 times
ESMC SSMs Total Information Event DNU/DUS
Sent: HYPERLINK "tel:178479"178479 HYPERLINK "tel:178477"178477 2 HYPERLINK "tel:178463"178463

                    Received: HYPERLINK "tel:178499"178499 HYPERLINK "tel:178499"178499 0
0
                    Input:
                    Up
                    Last received QL: Opt-I/PRC
                    Effective QL: Opt-I/PRC, Priority: 1, Time-of-day Priority 100
                    Supports frequency
                    Output:
                    Selected source: TenGigE0/0/0/0
                    Selected source QL: Opt-I/PRC
                    Effective QL: DNU
                    Next selection points: ETH_RXMUX
                    Interface TenGigE0/0/0/1 (up)
                    Wait-to-restore time 5 minutes
                    SSM Enabled
                    Peer Timed Out for 2d01h, last SSM received never
                    Peer has come up 0 times and timed out 1 times
                    ESMC SSMs Total Information Event DNU/DUS
                    Sent: HYPERLINK "tel:178479"178479 HYPERLINK "tel:178477"178477 2 0
                    Received: 0 0 0 0
                    Input:
                    Down - not assigned for selection
                    Supports frequency
                    Output:
                    Selected source: TenGigE0/0/0/0
                    Selected source QL: Opt-I/PRC
                    Effective QL: Opt-I/PRC
                    Next selection points: ETH_RXMUX
                    Interface TwentyFiveGigE0/0/0/30 (up)
                    Wait-to-restore time 5 minutes
                    SSM Enabled
                    Peer Timed Out for 01:50:24, last SSM received 01:50:30 ago
                    Peer has come up 1 times and timed out 1 times
ESMC SSMs Total Information Event DNU/DUS
Sent: HYPERLINK "tel:75086"75086 HYPERLINK "tel:75085"75085 1 0
Received: HYPERLINK "tel:68457"68457 HYPERLINK "tel:68455"68455 2 HYPERLINK "tel:68443"68443
Input:
Down - not assigned for selection
Supports frequency
Output:
Selected source: TenGigE0/0/0/0
Selected source QL: Opt-I/PRC
```

```
Effective QL: Opt-I/PRC
Next selection points: ETH_RXMUX
```

# Verifying Synchronous Ethernet LEDs

```
RP/0/RP0/CPU0:ios# show led
Mon Nov 2 09:29:34.637 UTC
================================================================================
Location LED Name Mode Color
================================================================================
0/FT0
Status OPERATIONAL GREEN
0/RP0/CPU0
Alarm OPERATIONAL AMBER
Status OPERATIONAL GREEN
Sync OPERATIONAL AMBER
```