



CHAPTER 30

Troubleshooting

This chapter describes how to identify and resolve software problems related to the Cisco IOS software on the switch. Depending on the nature of the problem, you can use the command-line interface (CLI) or the device manager to identify and solve problems.

Additional troubleshooting information, such as LED descriptions, is provided in the hardware installation guide.



Note

For complete syntax and usage information for the commands used in this chapter, see the command reference for this release and the *Cisco IOS Command Summary, Release 12.2*.

This chapter consists of these sections:

- [Recovering from a Software Failure, page 30-1](#)
- [Recovering from a Lost or Forgotten Password, page 30-4](#)



Note

Recovery procedures require that you have physical access to the switch.

- [Preventing Autonegotiation Mismatches, page 30-8](#)
- [SFP Module Security and Identification, page 30-9](#)
- [Monitoring SFP Module Status, page 30-9](#)
- [Using Ping, page 30-10](#)
- [Using Layer 2 Traceroute, page 30-11](#)
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- [Using the crashinfo Files, page 30-18](#)

Recovering from a Software Failure

Switch software can be corrupted during an upgrade, by downloading the wrong file to the switch, and by deleting the image file. In all of these cases, the switch does not pass the power-on self-test (POST), and there is no connectivity.

This procedure uses the Xmodem Protocol to recover from a corrupt or wrong image file. There are many software packages that support the Xmodem Protocol, and this procedure is largely dependent on the emulation software that you are using.

This recovery procedure requires that you have physical access to the switch. The switch bootloader uses break-key detection to stop the automatic bootup sequence for the recovery purpose.

**Note**

The break-key character is different for each operating system.

On a SUN work station running UNIX, Ctrl-C is the break key.

On a PC running Hyperterminal on Windows XP or 2000, Ctrl-Break is the break key.

Cisco TAC has tabulated break keys for most common operating systems and an alternative *break key sequence* for those terminal emulators that do not support the break keys. See <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/701/61.html#how-to> for that list.

Follow these steps to recover from a corrupt or wrong image file:

-
- Step 1** From your PC, download the software image tar file (*image_filename.tar*) from Cisco.com.
- The Cisco IOS image is stored as a bin file in a directory in the tar file. For information about locating the software image files on Cisco.com, see the release notes.
- Step 2** Extract the bin file from the tar file.
- If you are using Windows, use a zip program that can read a tar file. Use the zip program to navigate to and extract the bin file.
 - If you are using UNIX, follow these steps:
 1. Display the contents of the tar file by using the **tar -tvf <image_filename.tar>** UNIX command.


```
unix% tar -tvf image_filename.tar
```
 2. Locate the bin file, and extract it by using the **tar -xvf <image_filename.tar> <image_filename.bin>** UNIX command.


```
hostname% tar -xvf image_filename.tar image_filename.bin
x cbs30x0-i612-mz.122.25-SEE/cbs30x0-i612-mz.122.25-SEE.bin, 2928176 bytes, 5720
tape blocks
```
 3. Verify that the bin file was extracted by using the **ls -l <image_filename.bin>** UNIX command.


```
switch% ls -l image_filename.bin
-rw-r--r-- 1 boba 2928176 Apr 21 12:01
cbs30x0-i612-mz.122.25-SEE/cbs30x0-i612-mz.122.25-SEE.bin
```
- Step 3** Connect your PC with terminal-emulation software supporting the Xmodem Protocol to the switch console port.
- Step 4** Set the line speed on the emulation software to 9600 baud.
- Step 5** Push the release latch on the front of the switch to the open position.
- Step 6** Pull the switch partially out of the module bay until the power disconnects, and then push it in again. The switch restarts when it reseats in the server chassis. The switch performs POST after power is applied.
- Step 7** Push the release latch on the front of the switch to the closed position.

- Step 8** After the switch performs POST, the switch begins the autobootup process. Enter the break-key character during the boot-up sequence, when this message appears:

```
Initializing Flash
```

This example shows the messages that appear on the console after the user enters a break key:

The system has been interrupted prior to initializing the flash file system. The following commands will initialize the flash file system, and finish loading the operating system software#

```
flash_init
load_helper
boot
```



Note You can also prompt the switch to reload the operating system by using the **reload EXEC** command or by using the interface provided by the Dell Remote Access Controller/Modular Chassis (DRAC/MC) management board.

See the “Connecting through the DRAC/MC” section of the getting started guide for instructions on how to connect to the switch by using the DRAC/MC.



Note Initialize the flash file system:

```
switch: flash_init
```

- Step 9** If you had set the console port speed to anything other than 9600, it has been reset to that particular speed. Change the emulation software line speed to match that of the switch console port.

- Step 10** Load any helper files:

```
switch: load_helper
```

- Step 11** Start the file transfer by using the Xmodem Protocol.

```
switch: copy xmodem: flash:image_filename.bin
```

- Step 12** After the Xmodem request appears, use the appropriate command on the terminal-emulation software to start the transfer and to copy the software image into flash memory.

- Step 13** Boot up the newly downloaded Cisco IOS image.

```
switch:boot flash:image_filename.bin
```

- Step 14** To download the software image and device manager to the switch, use the **archive download-sw** privileged EXEC command to download the tar file.



Note This step is optional.

- Step 15** Use the **reload** privileged EXEC command to restart the switch and to verify that the new software image is operating properly.

- Step 16** Delete the `flash:image_filename.bin` file from the switch.

Recovering from a Lost or Forgotten Password

The default configuration for the switch allows an end user with physical access to the switch to recover from a lost password by interrupting the bootup process during power-on and by entering a new password. These recovery procedures require that you have physical access to the switch.

**Note**

On these switches, a system administrator can disable some of the functionality of this feature by allowing an end user to reset a password only by agreeing to return to the default configuration. If you are an end user trying to reset a password when password recovery has been disabled, a status message shows this during the recovery process.

The switch bootloader uses break-key detection to stop the automatic bootup sequence for the password recovery purpose.

**Note**

The break-key character is different for each operating system.

On a SUN work station running UNIX, Ctrl-C is the break key.

On a PC running Hyperterminal on Windows XP or 2000, Ctrl-Break is the break key.

Cisco TAC has tabulated break keys for most common operating systems and an alternative *break key sequence* for those terminal emulators that do not support the break keys. See <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/701/61.html#how-to> for that list.

These sections describe how to recover a forgotten or lost switch password:

- [Procedure with Password Recovery Enabled, page 30-5](#)
- [Procedure with Password Recovery Disabled, page 30-7](#)

You enable or disable password recovery by using the **service password-recovery** global configuration command. Follow the steps in this procedure if you have forgotten or lost the switch password.

-
- Step 1** Connect a terminal or PC with terminal-emulation software to the switch console port.
- Step 2** Set the line speed on the emulation software to 9600 baud.
- Step 3** Push the release latch on the front of the switch to the open position.
- Step 4** Pull the switch partially out of the module bay until the power disconnects, and then push it in again. The switch restarts when it reseats in the server chassis. The switch performs POST after power is applied.
- Step 5** Push the release latch on the front of the switch to the closed position.
- Step 6** After the switch performs POST, the switch begins the autobootup process. Enter the break key character during the boot-up sequence, when this message appears:
- Initializing Flash
- After you enter the break key:
- If you see a message that begins with this:
- The system has been interrupted prior to initializing the flash file system. The following commands will initialize the flash file system

go to the [“Procedure with Password Recovery Enabled” section on page 30-5](#), and follow the steps.

- If you see a message that begins with this:

The password-recovery mechanism has been triggered, but is currently disabled.

go to the [“Procedure with Password Recovery Disabled”](#) section on page 30-7, and follow the steps.


Note

You can also prompt the switch to reload the operating system by using the **reload EXEC** command or by using the interface provided by the Dell Remote Access Controller/Modular Chassis (DRAC/MC) management board.

See the “Connecting through the DRAC/MC” section of the getting started guide for instructions on how to connect to the switch by using the DRAC/MC.


Note

After recovering the password, reload the switch:

```
Switch> reload
Proceed with reload? [confirm] y
```

Procedure with Password Recovery Enabled

If the password-recovery mechanism is enabled, this message appears:

The system has been interrupted prior to initializing the flash file system. The following commands will initialize the flash file system, and finish loading the operating system software:

```
flash_init
load_helper
boot
```

Follow these steps to enable password recovery:

- Step 1** Initialize the flash file system:

```
switch: flash_init
```

- Step 2** If you had set the console port speed to anything other than 9600, it has been reset to that particular speed. Change the emulation software line speed to match that of the switch console port.

- Step 3** Load any helper files:

```
switch: load_helper
```

- Step 4** Display the contents of flash memory:

```
switch: dir flash:
```

The switch file system appears:

```
Directory of flash:
 13  drwx           192  Mar 01 1993 22:30:48  cbs30x0-lanbase-mz.122-25.SEE
 11  -rwx          5825  Mar 01 1993 22:31:59  config.text
 18  -rwx           720  Mar 01 1993 02:21:30  vlan.dat
```

```
16128000 bytes total (10003456 bytes free)
```

Step 5 Rename the configuration file to config.text.old.

This file contains the password definition.

```
switch: rename flash:config.text flash:config.text.old
```

Step 6 Boot up the system:

```
switch: boot
```

You are prompted to start the setup program. Enter **N** at the prompt:

```
Continue with the configuration dialog? [yes/no]: N
```

Step 7 At the switch prompt, enter privileged EXEC mode:

```
Switch> enable
```

Step 8 Rename the configuration file to its original name:

```
Switch# rename flash:config.text.old flash:config.text
```

Step 9 Copy the configuration file into memory:

```
Switch# copy flash:config.text system:running-config  
Source filename [config.text]?  
Destination filename [running-config]?
```

Press **Return** in response to the confirmation prompts.

The configuration file is now reloaded, and you can change the password.

Step 10 Enter global configuration mode:

```
Switch# configure terminal
```

Step 11 Change the password:

```
Switch (config)# enable secret password
```

The secret password can be from 1 to 25 alphanumeric characters, can start with a number, is case sensitive, and allows spaces but ignores leading spaces.

Step 12 Return to privileged EXEC mode:

```
Switch (config)# exit  
Switch#
```

Step 13 Write the running configuration to the startup configuration file:

```
Switch# copy running-config startup-config
```

The new password is now in the startup configuration.



Note

This procedure is likely to leave your switch virtual interface in a shutdown state. You can see which interface is in this state by entering the **show running-config** privileged EXEC command. To re-enable the interface, enter the **interface vlan vlan-id** global configuration command, and specify the VLAN ID of the shutdown interface. With the switch in interface configuration mode, enter the **no shutdown** command.

Step 14 Reload the switch:

```
Switch# reload
```

Procedure with Password Recovery Disabled

If the password-recovery mechanism is disabled, this message appears:

```
The password-recovery mechanism has been triggered, but
is currently disabled. Access to the boot loader prompt
through the password-recovery mechanism is disallowed at
this point. However, if you agree to let the system be
reset back to the default system configuration, access
to the boot loader prompt can still be allowed.
```

```
Would you like to reset the system back to the default configuration (y/n)?
```

**Caution**

Returning the switch to the default configuration results in the loss of all existing configurations. We recommend that you contact your system administrator to verify if there are backup switch and VLAN configuration files.

- If you enter **n** (no), the normal bootup process continues as if the break key had not been entered; you cannot access the bootloader prompt, and you cannot enter a new password. You see the message:

```
Press Enter to continue.....
```

- If you enter **y** (yes), the configuration file in flash memory and the VLAN database file are deleted. When the default configuration loads, you can reset the password.

Step 1 Elect to continue with password recovery and lose the existing configuration:

```
Would you like to reset the system back to the default configuration (y/n)? y
```

Step 2 Load any helper files:

```
Switch: load_helper
```

Step 3 Display the contents of flash memory:

```
switch: dir flash:
```

The switch file system appears:

```
Directory of flash:
13  drwx          192  Mar 01 1993 22:30:48  cbs30x0-lanbase-mz.122-25.SEE
16128000 bytes total (10003456 bytes free)
```

Step 4 Boot up the system:

```
Switch: boot
```

You are prompted to start the setup program. To continue with password recovery, enter **N** at the prompt:

```
Continue with the configuration dialog? [yes/no]: N
```

Step 5 At the switch prompt, enter privileged EXEC mode:

```
Switch> enable
```

Step 6 Enter global configuration mode:

```
Switch# configure terminal
```

Step 7 Change the password:

```
Switch (config)# enable secret password
```

The secret password can be from 1 to 25 alphanumeric characters, can start with a number, is case sensitive, and allows spaces but ignores leading spaces.

Step 8 Return to privileged EXEC mode:

```
Switch (config)# exit  
Switch#
```

Step 9 Write the running configuration to the startup configuration file:

```
Switch# copy running-config startup-config
```

The new password is now in the startup configuration.



Note This procedure is likely to leave your switch virtual interface in a shutdown state. You can see which interface is in this state by entering the **show running-config** privileged EXEC command. To re-enable the interface, enter the **interface vlan vlan-id** global configuration command, and specify the VLAN ID of the shutdown interface. With the switch in interface configuration mode, enter the **no shutdown** command.

Step 10 You must now reconfigure the switch. If the system administrator has the backup switch and VLAN configuration files available, you should use those.

Step 11 Reload the switch:

```
Switch# reload
```

Preventing Autonegotiation Mismatches

The IEEE 802.3ab autonegotiation protocol manages the switch settings for speed (10 Mb/s, 100 Mb/s, and 1000 Mb/s, excluding SFP module ports) and duplex (half or full). There are situations when this protocol can incorrectly align these settings, reducing performance. A mismatch occurs under these circumstances:

- A manually set speed or duplex parameter is different from the manually set speed or duplex parameter on the connected port.
- A port is set to autonegotiate, and the connected port is set to full duplex with no autonegotiation.

To maximize switch performance and ensure a link, follow one of these guidelines when changing the settings for duplex and speed:

- Let both ports autonegotiate both speed and duplex.
- Manually set the speed and duplex parameters for the ports on both ends of the connection.

**Note**

If a remote device does not autonegotiate, configure the duplex settings on the two ports to match. The speed parameter can adjust itself even if the connected port does not autonegotiate.

SFP Module Security and Identification

Cisco small form-factor pluggable (SFP) modules have a serial EEPROM that contains the module serial number, the vendor name and ID, a unique security code, and cyclic redundancy check (CRC). When an SFP module is inserted in the switch, the switch software reads the EEPROM to verify the serial number, vendor name and vendor ID, and recompute the security code and CRC. If the serial number, the vendor name or vendor ID, the security code, or CRC is invalid, the software generates a security error message and places the interface in an error-disabled state.

**Note**

The security error message references the GBIC_SECURITY facility. The switch supports SFP modules and does not support GBIC modules. Although the error message text refers to GBIC interfaces and modules, the security messages actually refer to the SFP modules and module interfaces. For more information about error messages, see the system message guide for this release.

If you are using a non-Cisco SFP module, remove the SFP module from the switch, and replace it with a Cisco module. After inserting a Cisco SFP module, use the **errdisable recovery cause gbic-invalid** global configuration command to verify the port status, and enter a time interval for recovering from the error-disabled state. After the elapsed interval, the switch brings the interface out of the error-disabled state and retries the operation. For more information about the **errdisable recovery** command, see the command reference for this release.

If the module is identified as a Cisco SFP module, but the system is unable to read vendor-data information to verify its accuracy, an SFP module error message is generated. In this case, you should remove and re-insert the SFP module. If it continues to fail, the SFP module might be defective.

Monitoring SFP Module Status

You can check the physical or operational status of an SFP module by using the **show interfaces transceiver** privileged EXEC command. This command shows the operational status, such as the temperature and the current for an SFP module on a specific interface and the alarm status. You can also use the command to check the speed and the duplex settings on an SFP module. For more information, see the **show interfaces transceiver** command in the command reference for this release.

Using Ping

These sections contain this information:

- [Understanding Ping, page 30-10](#)
- [Executing Ping, page 30-10](#)

Understanding Ping

The switch supports IP ping, which you can use to test connectivity to remote hosts. Ping sends an echo request packet to an address and waits for a reply. Ping returns one of these responses:

- Normal response—The normal response (*hostname* is alive) occurs in 1 to 10 seconds, depending on network traffic.
- Destination does not respond—If the host does not respond, a *no-answer* message is returned.
- Unknown host—If the host does not exist, an *unknown host* message is returned.
- Destination unreachable—If the default gateway cannot reach the specified network, a *destination-unreachable* message is returned.
- Network or host unreachable—If there is no entry in the route table for the host or network, a *network or host unreachable* message is returned.

Executing Ping

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, use this command to ping another device on the network from the switch:

Command	Purpose
ping ip <i>host address</i>	Ping a remote host through IP or by supplying the hostname or network address.

**Note**

Though other protocol keywords are available with the **ping** command, they are not supported in this release.

This example shows how to ping an IP host:

```
Switch# ping 172.20.52.3

Type escape sequence to abort.
Sending 5, 100-byte ICMP Echoes to 172.20.52.3, timeout is 2 seconds:
!!!!
Success rate is 100 percent (5/5), round-trip min/avg/max = 1/2/4 ms
Switch#
```

Table 30-1 describes the possible ping character output.

Table 30-1 Ping Output Display Characters

Character	Description
!	Each exclamation point means receipt of a reply.
.	Each period means the network server timed out while waiting for a reply.
U	A destination unreachable error PDU was received.
C	A congestion experienced packet was received.
I	User interrupted test.
?	Unknown packet type.
&	Packet lifetime exceeded.

To end a ping session, enter the escape sequence (**Ctrl-^ X** by default). Simultaneously press and release the **Ctrl**, **Shift**, and **6** keys and then press the **X** key.

Using Layer 2 Traceroute

These sections contain this information:

- [Understanding Layer 2 Traceroute, page 30-11](#)
- [Usage Guidelines, page 30-12](#)
- [Displaying the Physical Path, page 30-13](#)

Understanding Layer 2 Traceroute

The Layer 2 traceroute feature allows the switch to identify the physical path that a packet takes from a source device to a destination device. Layer 2 traceroute supports only unicast source and destination MAC addresses. It finds the path by using the MAC address tables of the switches in the path. When the switch detects a device in the path that does not support Layer 2 traceroute, the switch continues to send Layer 2 trace queries and lets them time out.

The switch can only identify the path from the source device to the destination device. It cannot identify the path that a packet takes from source host to the source device or from the destination device to the destination host.

Usage Guidelines

These are the Layer 2 traceroute usage guidelines:

- Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP) must be enabled on all the devices in the network. For Layer 2 traceroute to function properly, do not disable CDP.

For a list of switches that support Layer 2 traceroute, see the [“Usage Guidelines” section on page 30-12](#). If any devices in the physical path are transparent to CDP, the switch cannot identify the path through these devices. For more information about enabling CDP, see [Chapter 20, “Configuring CDP.”](#)

- A switch is reachable from another switch when you can test connectivity by using the **ping** privileged EXEC command. All switches in the physical path must be reachable from each other.
- The maximum number of hops identified in the path is ten.
- You can enter the **traceroute mac** or the **traceroute mac ip** privileged EXEC command on a switch that is not in the physical path from the source device to the destination device. All switches in the path must be reachable from this switch.
- The **traceroute mac** command output shows the Layer 2 path only when the specified source and destination MAC addresses belong to the same VLAN. If you specify source and destination MAC addresses that belong to different VLANs, the Layer 2 path is not identified, and an error message appears.
- If you specify a multicast source or destination MAC address, the path is not identified, and an error message appears.
- If the source or destination MAC address belongs to multiple VLANs, you must specify the VLAN to which both the source and destination MAC addresses belong. If the VLAN is not specified, the path is not identified, and an error message appears.
- The **traceroute mac ip** command output shows the Layer 2 path when the specified source and destination IP addresses belong to the same subnet. When you specify the IP addresses, the switch uses the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) to associate the IP addresses with the corresponding MAC addresses and the VLAN IDs.
 - If an ARP entry exists for the specified IP address, the switch uses the associated MAC address and identifies the physical path.
 - If an ARP entry does not exist, the switch sends an ARP query and tries to resolve the IP address. If the IP address is not resolved, the path is not identified, and an error message appears.
- When multiple devices are attached to one port through hubs (for example, multiple CDP neighbors are detected on a port), the Layer 2 traceroute feature is not supported. When more than one CDP neighbor is detected on a port, the Layer 2 path is not identified, and an error message appears.
- This feature is not supported in Token Ring VLANs.

Displaying the Physical Path

You can display the physical path that a packet takes from a source device to a destination device by using one of these privileged EXEC commands:

- **tracetroute mac** [**interface** *interface-id*] {*source-mac-address*} [**interface** *interface-id*] {*destination-mac-address*} [**vlan** *vlan-id*] [**detail**]
- **tracetroute mac ip** {*source-ip-address* | *source-hostname*} {*destination-ip-address* | *destination-hostname*} [**detail**]

For more information, see the command reference for this release.

Using IP Traceroute

These sections contain this information:

- [Understanding IP Traceroute, page 30-13](#)
- [Executing IP Traceroute, page 30-14](#)

Understanding IP Traceroute

You can use IP traceroute to identify the path that packets take through the network on a hop-by-hop basis. The command output displays all network layer (Layer 3) devices, such as routers, that the traffic passes through on the way to the destination.

Your switches can participate as the source or destination of the **tracetroute** privileged EXEC command and might or might not appear as a hop in the **tracetroute** command output. If the switch is the destination of the traceroute, it is displayed as the final destination in the traceroute output. Intermediate switches do not show up in the traceroute output if they are only bridging the packet from one port to another within the same VLAN. However, if the intermediate switch is a multilayer switch that is routing a particular packet, this switch shows up as a hop in the traceroute output.

The **tracetroute** privileged EXEC command uses the Time To Live (TTL) field in the IP header to cause routers and servers to generate specific return messages. Traceroute starts by sending a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) datagram to the destination host with the TTL field set to 1. If a router finds a TTL value of 1 or 0, it drops the datagram and sends an Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) time-to-live-exceeded message to the sender. Traceroute finds the address of the first hop by examining the source address field of the ICMP time-to-live-exceeded message.

To identify the next hop, traceroute sends a UDP packet with a TTL value of 2. The first router decrements the TTL field by 1 and sends the datagram to the next router. The second router sees a TTL value of 1, discards the datagram, and returns the time-to-live-exceeded message to the source. This process continues until the TTL is incremented to a value large enough for the datagram to reach the destination host (or until the maximum TTL is reached).

To learn when a datagram reaches its destination, traceroute sets the UDP destination port number in the datagram to a very large value that the destination host is unlikely to be using. When a host receives a datagram destined to itself containing a destination port number that is unused locally, it sends an ICMP *port-unreachable* error to the source. Because all errors except port-unreachable errors come from intermediate hops, the receipt of a port-unreachable error means that this message was sent by the destination port.

Executing IP Traceroute

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, follow this step to trace the path that packets take through the network:

Command	Purpose
traceroute ip <i>host</i>	Trace the path that packets take through the network.

**Note**

Though other protocol keywords are available with the **traceroute** privileged EXEC command, they are not supported in this release.

This example shows how to perform a **traceroute** to an IP host:

```
Switch# traceroute ip 171.9.15.10
```

Type escape sequence to abort.

Tracing the route to 171.69.115.10

```
 1 172.2.52.1 0 msec 0 msec 4 msec
 2 172.2.1.203 12 msec 8 msec 0 msec
 3 171.9.16.6 4 msec 0 msec 0 msec
 4 171.9.4.5 0 msec 4 msec 0 msec
 5 171.9.121.34 0 msec 4 msec 4 msec
 6 171.9.15.9 120 msec 132 msec 128 msec
 7 171.9.15.10 132 msec 128 msec 128 msec
```

```
Switch#
```

The display shows the hop count, the IP address of the router, and the round-trip time in milliseconds for each of the three probes that are sent.

Table 30-2 Traceroute Output Display Characters

Character	Description
*	The probe timed out.
?	Unknown packet type.
A	Administratively unreachable. Usually, this output means that an access list is blocking traffic.
H	Host unreachable.
N	Network unreachable.
P	Protocol unreachable.
Q	Source quench.
U	Port unreachable.

To end a trace in progress, enter the escape sequence (**Ctrl-^ X** by default). Simultaneously press and release the **Ctrl**, **Shift**, and **6** keys and then press the **X** key.

Using Debug Commands

These sections explain how you use **debug** commands to diagnose and resolve internetworking problems:

- [Enabling Debugging on a Specific Feature, page 30-15](#)
- [Enabling All-System Diagnostics, page 30-16](#)
- [Redirecting Debug and Error Message Output, page 30-16](#)

**Caution**

Because debugging output is assigned high priority in the CPU process, it can render the system unusable. For this reason, use **debug** commands only to troubleshoot specific problems or during troubleshooting sessions with Cisco technical support staff. It is best to use **debug** commands during periods of lower network traffic and fewer users. Debugging during these periods decreases the likelihood that increased **debug** command processing overhead will affect system use.

**Note**

For complete syntax and usage information for specific **debug** commands, see the command reference for this release.

Enabling Debugging on a Specific Feature

All **debug** commands are entered in privileged EXEC mode, and most **debug** commands take no arguments. For example, beginning in privileged EXEC mode, enter this command to enable the debugging for Switched Port Analyzer (SPAN):

```
Switch# debug span-session
```

The switch continues to generate output until you enter the **no** form of the command.

If you enable a **debug** command and no output appears, consider these possibilities:

- The switch might not be properly configured to generate the type of traffic you want to monitor. Use the **show running-config** command to check its configuration.
- Even if the switch is properly configured, it might not generate the type of traffic you want to monitor during the particular period that debugging is enabled. Depending on the feature you are debugging, you can use commands such as the TCP/IP **ping** command to generate network traffic.

To disable debugging of SPAN, enter this command in privileged EXEC mode:

```
Switch# no debug span-session
```

Alternately, in privileged EXEC mode, you can enter the **undebug** form of the command:

```
Switch# undebug span-session
```

To display the state of each debugging option, enter this command in privileged EXEC mode:

```
Switch# show debugging
```

Enabling All-System Diagnostics

Beginning in privileged EXEC mode, enter this command to enable all-system diagnostics:

```
Switch# debug all
```



Caution

Because debugging output takes priority over other network traffic, and because the **debug all** privileged EXEC command generates more output than any other **debug** command, it can severely diminish switch performance or even render it unusable. In virtually all cases, it is best to use more specific **debug** commands.

The **no debug all** privileged EXEC command disables all diagnostic output. Using the **no debug all** command is a convenient way to ensure that you have not accidentally left any **debug** commands enabled.

Redirecting Debug and Error Message Output

By default, the network server sends the output from **debug** commands and system error messages to the console. If you use this default, you can use a virtual terminal connection to monitor debug output instead of connecting to the console port.

Possible destinations include the console, virtual terminals, internal buffer, and UNIX hosts running a syslog server. The syslog format is compatible with 4.3 Berkeley Standard Distribution (BSD) UNIX and its derivatives.



Note

Be aware that the debugging destination you use affects system overhead. Logging messages to the console produces very high overhead, whereas logging messages to a virtual terminal produces less overhead. Logging messages to a syslog server produces even less, and logging to an internal buffer produces the least overhead of any method.

For more information about system message logging, see [Chapter 25, “Configuring System Message Logging.”](#)

Using the show platform forward Command

The output from the **show platform forward** privileged EXEC command provides some useful information about the forwarding results if a packet entering an interface is sent through the system. Depending upon the parameters entered about the packet, the output provides lookup table results and port maps used to calculate forwarding destinations, bitmaps, and egress information.



Note

For more syntax and usage information for the **show platform forward** command, see the switch command reference for this release.

Most of the information in the output from the command is useful mainly for technical support personnel, who have access to detailed information about the switch application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs). However, packet forwarding information can also be helpful in troubleshooting.

This is an example of the output from the **show platform forward** command on port 1 in VLAN 5 when the packet entering that port is addressed to unknown MAC addresses. The packet should be flooded to all other ports in VLAN 5.

```
Switch# show platform forward gigabitethernet0/1 vlan 5 1.1.1 2.2.2 ip 13.1.1.1 13.2.2.2
udp 10 20
Global Port Number:24, Asic Number:5
Src Real Vlan Id:5, Mapped Vlan Id:5

Ingress:
  Lookup                Key-Used                Index-Hit  A-Data
InptACL  40_0D020202_0D010101-00_40000014_000A0000    01FFA    03000000
L2Local  80_00050002_00020002-00_00000000_00000000    00C71    0000002B
Station Descriptor:02340000, DestIndex:0239, RewriteIndex:F005

=====
Egress:Asic 2, switch 1
Output Packets:

-----
Packet 1
  Lookup                Key-Used                Index-Hit  A-Data
OutptACL 50_0D020202_0D010101-00_40000014_000A0000    01FFE    03000000

Port      Vlan      SrcMac      DstMac      Cos  Dscp
Gi0/1     0005     0001.0001.0001  0002.0002.0002

-----
Packet 2
  Lookup                Key-Used                Index-Hit  A-Data
OutptACL 50_0D020202_0D010101-00_40000014_000A0000    01FFE    03000000

Port      Vlan      SrcMac      DstMac      Cos  Dscp
Gi0/2     0005     0001.0001.0001  0002.0002.0002

-----
<output truncated>
-----
Packet 10
  Lookup                Key-Used                Index-Hit  A-Data
OutptACL 50_0D020202_0D010101-00_40000014_000A0000    01FFE    03000000
Packet dropped due to failed DEJA_VU Check on Gi0/2
```

This is an example of the output when the packet coming in on port 1 in VLAN 5 is sent to an address already learned on the VLAN on another port. It should be forwarded from the port on which the address was learned.

```
Switch# show platform forward gigabitethernet0/1 vlan 5 1.1.1 0009.43a8.0145 ip 13.1.1.1
13.2.2.2 udp 10 20
Global Port Number:24, Asic Number:5
Src Real Vlan Id:5, Mapped Vlan Id:5

Ingress:
  Lookup                Key-Used                Index-Hit  A-Data
InptACL  40_0D020202_0D010101-00_40000014_000A0000    01FFA    03000000
L2Local  80_00050009_43A80145-00_00000000_00000000    00086    02010197
Station Descriptor:F0050003, DestIndex:F005, RewriteIndex:0003

=====
Egress:Asic 3, switch 1
Output Packets:

-----
```

```

Packet 1
  Lookup                               Key-Used           Index-Hit  A-Data
OutptACL 50_0D020202_0D010101-00_40000014_000A0000    01FFE    03000000

Port      Vlan      SrcMac          DstMac      Cos  Dscp
Gi0/2     0005  0001.0001.0001  0009.43A8.0145

```

Using the crashinfo Files

The crashinfo files save information that helps Cisco technical support representatives to debug problems that caused the Cisco IOS image to fail (crash). The switch writes the crash information to the console at the time of the failure. The switch creates two types of crashinfo files:

- Basic crashinfo file—The switch automatically creates this file the next time you boot up the Cisco IOS image after the failure.
- Extended crashinfo file—The switch automatically creates this file when the system is failing.

Basic crashinfo Files

The information in the basic file includes the Cisco IOS image name and version that failed, a list of the processor registers, and a stack trace. You can provide this information to the Cisco technical support representative by using the **show tech-support** privileged EXEC command.

Basic crashinfo files are kept in this directory on the flash file system:

```
flash:/crashinfo/.
```

The filenames are crashinfo_*n* where *n* is a sequence number.

Each new crashinfo file that is created uses a sequence number that is larger than any previously existing sequence number, so the file with the largest sequence number describes the most recent failure. Version numbers are used instead of a timestamp because the switches do not include a real-time clock. You cannot change the name of the file that the system will use when it creates the file. However, after the file is created, you can use the **rename** privileged EXEC command to rename it, but the contents of the renamed file will not be displayed by the **show tech-support** privileged EXEC command. You can delete crashinfo files by using the **delete** privileged EXEC command.

You can display the most recent basic crashinfo file (that is, the file with the highest sequence number at the end of its filename) by entering the **show tech-support** privileged EXEC command. You also can access the file by using any command that can copy or display files, such as the **more** or the **copy** privileged EXEC command.

Extended crashinfo Files

In Cisco IOS Release 12.2(25)SEC or later, the switch creates the extended crashinfo file when the system is failing. The information in the extended file includes additional information that can help determine the cause of the switch failure. You provide this information to the Cisco technical support representative by manually accessing the file and using the **more** or the **copy** privileged EXEC command.

Extended crashinfo files are kept in this directory on the flash file system:

```
flash:/crashinfo_ext/.
```

The filenames are `crashinfo_ext_`*n* where *n* is a sequence number.

You can configure the switch to not create the extended crashinfo file by using the **no exception crashinfo** global configuration command.

