



Configuring sFlow

This chapter describes how to configure sFlow on Cisco NX-OS devices.

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About sFlow

Sampled flow (sFlow) allows you to monitor real-time traffic in data networks that contain switches and routers. It uses the sampling mechanism in the sFlow agent software on switches and routers to monitor traffic and to forward the sample data to the central data collector.

For more information about sFlow, see [RFC 3176](#).

sFlow Agent

The sFlow agent, which is embedded in the Cisco NX-OS software, periodically samples or polls the interface counters that are associated with a data source of the sampled packets. The data source can be an Ethernet interface, an EtherChannel interface, or a range of Ethernet interfaces. The sFlow agent queries the Ethernet port manager for the respective EtherChannel membership information and also receives notifications from the Ethernet port manager for membership changes.

When you enable sFlow sampling, based on the sampling rate and the hardware internal random number, the ingress packets and egress packets are sent to the CPU as an sFlow-sampled packet. The sFlow agent processes the sampled packets and sends an sFlow datagram to the sFlow analyzer. In addition to the original sampled packet, an sFlow datagram includes information about the ingress port, the egress port, and the original packet length. An sFlow datagram can have multiple sFlow samples.

Prerequisites for sFlow

sFlow has the following prerequisites:

- Egress sFlow of multicast traffic requires **hardware multicast global-tx-span** configuration
- By default, the sflow region size is zero, and the span region size is non-zero. You need to configure the sflow region to 256 and allocate enough entries to the span region in order to configure the port as an sFlow data source.

Guidelines and Limitations for sFlow



Note For scale information, see the release-specific *Cisco Nexus 3400-S NX-OS Verified Scalability Guide*.

sFlow has the following guidelines and limitations:

- sFlow is a software driven feature, hardware only sends copies of traffic from the sFlow source interfaces to the CPU for further processing. Elevated CPU usage is expected. sFlow traffic sent to the CPU by hardware is rate-limited to protect the CPU.
- When you enable sFlow for an interface, it is enabled for both ingress and egress. You cannot enable sFlow for only ingress or only egress.
- sFlow is not supported on the SVIs.
- Subinterfaces are not supported for sFlow.
- We recommend you configure the sampling rate based on the sFlow configuration and traffic in the system.
- The switch supports only one sFlow collector.
- sFlow and Network Address Translation (NAT) are not supported on the same port.
- sFlow supports sampling IPv6 traffic but only on IPv4 collector ports.
- Egress sFLOW and Egress SPAN/ERSPAN cannot be enabled at the same time. The Egress sflow is disabled by default. Enabling requires a reload after configuration.

Default Settings for sFlow

The following table lists the default settings for sFlow parameters.

Table 1: Default sFlow Parameters

Parameters	Default
sFlow sampling rate	4096

Parameters	Default
sFlow sampling size	128
sFlow counter poll interval	20
sFlow maximum datagram size	1400
sFlow collector IP address	0.0.0.0
sFlow collector port	6343
sFlow agent IP address	0.0.0.0

Configuring sFlow

Enabling sFlow

You must enable the sFlow feature before you can configure sFlow settings on the switch.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] feature sflow**
3. (Optional) **show feature**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: <pre>switch# configure terminal switch(config)#</pre>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] feature sflow Example: <pre>switch(config)# feature sflow</pre>	Enables or disables sFLOW. Egress sflow is not enabled by default and the configuration has to be stored as startup configuration and system reloaded for Egress SFLOW to be enabled.
Step 3	(Optional) show feature Example: <pre>switch(config)# show feature</pre>	Displays the enabled and disabled features.
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: <pre>switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config</pre>	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the Sampling Rate

You can configure the sampling rate for sFlow.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow sampling-rate *sampling-rate***
3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: switch# configure terminal switch(config)#	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] sflow sampling-rate <i>sampling-rate</i> Example: switch(config)# sflow sampling-rate 50000	Configures the sFlow sampling rate for packets. The <i>sampling-rate</i> can be an integer between 4096 and 1000000000.
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: switch(config)# show sflow	Displays the sFlow configuration.
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the Maximum Sampled Size

You can configure the maximum number of bytes that should be copied from a sampled packet.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow max-sampled-size *sampling-size***

3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: <pre>switch# configure terminal switch(config)#</pre>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] sflow max-sampled-size <i>sampling-size</i> Example: <pre>switch(config)# sflow max-sampled-size 200</pre>	Configures the sFlow maximum sampling size. The range for the <i>sampling-size</i> is from 64 to 256 bytes.
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: <pre>switch(config)# show sflow</pre>	Displays the sFlow configuration.
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: <pre>switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config</pre>	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the Counter Poll Interval

You can configure the maximum number of seconds between successive samples of the counters that are associated with the data source. A sampling interval of 0 disables counter sampling.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow counter-poll-interval *poll-interval***
3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: <pre>switch# configure terminal switch(config)#</pre>	Enters global configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 2	[no] sflow counter-poll-interval <i>poll-interval</i> Example: switch(config)# sflow counter-poll-interval 100	Configures the sFlow poll interval for an interface. The range for the <i>poll-interval</i> is from 0 to 2147483647 seconds.
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: switch(config)# show sflow	Displays the sFlow configuration.
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the Maximum Datagram Size

You can configure the maximum number of data bytes that can be sent in a single sample datagram.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow max-datagram-size** *datagram-size*
3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: switch# configure terminal switch(config)#	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] sflow max-datagram-size <i>datagram-size</i> Example: switch(config)# sflow max-datagram-size 2000	Configures the sFlow maximum datagram size. The range for the <i>datagram-size</i> is from 200 to 9000 bytes.
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: switch(config)# show sflow	Displays the sFlow configuration.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: <pre>switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config</pre>	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the sFlow Collector Address

You can configure the IPv4 address of the sFlow data collector that is connected to the management port.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow collector-ip ip-address vrf vrf [source ip-address]**
3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: <pre>switch# configure terminal switch(config)#</pre>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] sflow collector-ip ip-address vrf vrf [source ip-address] Example: <pre>switch(config)# sflow collector-ip 192.0.2.5 vrf management</pre>	Configures the IPv4 address for the sFlow collector. If the IP address is set to 0.0.0.0, all sampling is disabled. The <i>vrf</i> can be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A user-defined VRF name—You can specify a maximum of 32 alphanumeric characters. • vrf management—You must use this option if the sFlow data collector is on the network connected to the management port. • vrf default—You must use this option if the sFlow data collector is on the network connected to the front-panel ports. <p>The source ip-address option causes the sent sFlow datagram to use the source IP address as the IP packet source address. The source IP address has to be already configured on one of the switch local interfaces; otherwise, an error message appears. If the interface with the source</p>

	Command or Action	Purpose
		IP address is changed or removed after this option is configured, the sFlow datagram will no longer be sent out, and an event history error and syslog error will be logged. When the source <i>ip-address</i> option is not configured, Cisco NX-OS picks the IP packet source address automatically for the sent sFlow datagram.
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: <code>switch(config)# show sflow</code>	Displays the sFlow configuration.
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: <code>switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config</code>	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the sFlow Collector Port

You can configure the destination port for sFlow datagrams.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow collector-port** *collector-port*
3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: <code>switch# configure terminal</code> <code>switch(config)#</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] sflow collector-port <i>collector-port</i> Example: <code>switch(config)# sflow collector-port 7000</code>	Configures the UDP port of the sFlow collector. The range for the <i>collector-port</i> is from 1 to 65535.
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: <code>switch(config)# show sflow</code>	Displays the sFlow configuration.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the sFlow Agent Address

You can configure the IPv4 address of the sFlow agent.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow agent-ip ip-address**
3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: switch# configure terminal switch(config)#	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] sflow agent-ip ip-address Example: switch(config)# sflow agent-ip 192.0.2.3	Configures the IPv4 address of the sFlow agent. The default IP address is 0.0.0.0, which means that all sampling is disabled on the switch. You must specify a valid IP address to enable sFlow functionality. Note This IP address is not necessarily the source IP address for sending the sFlow datagram to the collector.
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: switch(config)# show sflow	Displays the sFlow configuration.
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Configuring the sFlow Sampling Data Source

You can configure the source of the data for the sFlow sampler as an Ethernet port, a range of Ethernet ports, or a port channel.

Before you begin

Make sure that you have enabled sFlow.

If you want to use a port channel as the data source, make sure that you have already configured the port channel and you know the port channel number.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. **configure terminal**
2. **[no] sflow data-source interface [ethernet slot/port[-port] | port-channel channel-number]**
3. (Optional) **show sflow**
4. (Optional) **copy running-config startup-config**

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	configure terminal Example: <pre>switch# configure terminal switch(config)#</pre>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	[no] sflow data-source interface [ethernet slot/port[-port] port-channel channel-number] Example: <pre>switch(config)# sflow data-source interface ethernet 1/5-12</pre>	Configures the sFlow sampling data source. For an Ethernet data source, <i>slot</i> is the slot number, and <i>port</i> can be either a single port number or a range of ports designated as <i>port-port</i> .
Step 3	(Optional) show sflow Example: <pre>switch(config)# show sflow</pre>	Displays the sFlow configuration.
Step 4	(Optional) copy running-config startup-config Example: <pre>switch(config)# copy running-config startup-config</pre>	Copies the running configuration to the startup configuration.

Verifying the sFlow Configuration

Use these commands to display the sFlow configuration.

Table 2: sFlow Show Commands

Command	Purpose
show sflow	Displays all the data sources of the sFlow samplers and the sFlow agent configuration.
show process	Verifies whether the sFlow process is running.
show running-config sflow [all]	Displays the current sFlow running configuration.

Monitoring and Clearing sFlow Statistics

Use the **show sflow statistics** command to display the sFlow statistics.

Use the following commands to clear the sFlow statistics:

Command	Description
clear sflow statistics	Clears most of the sFlow statistics from the show sflow statistics command.
clear counters interface all	Clears the Total Packets field from the show sflow statistics command.
clear hardware rate-limiter sflow	Clears the Total Samples field from the show sflow statistics command.

Additional References

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
ACL TCAM regions	Configuring IP ACLs

