Configuring Traffic Storm Control

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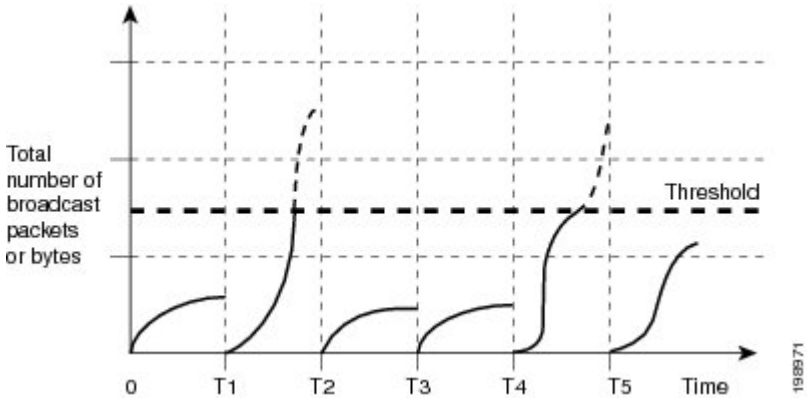
Information About Traffic Storm Control

A traffic storm occurs when packets flood the LAN, creating excessive traffic and degrading network performance. You can use the traffic storm control feature to prevent disruptions on Ethernet interfaces by a broadcast, multicast, or unknown unicast traffic storm.

Traffic storm control (also called traffic suppression) allows you to monitor the levels of the incoming broadcast, multicast, or unknown unicast traffic over a 10-microsecond interval. During this interval, the traffic level, which is a percentage of the total available bandwidth of the port, is compared with the traffic storm control level that you configured. When the ingress traffic reaches the traffic storm control level that is configured on the port, traffic storm control drops the traffic until the interval ends.

The following figure shows the broadcast traffic patterns on an Ethernet interface during a specified time interval. In this example, traffic storm control occurs between times T1 and T2 and between T4 and T5. During those intervals, the amount of broadcast traffic exceeded the configured threshold.

Figure 1: Broadcast Suppression



The traffic storm control threshold numbers and the time interval allow the traffic storm control algorithm to work with different levels of packet granularity. For example, a higher threshold allows more packets to pass through.

Traffic storm control is implemented in the hardware. The traffic storm control circuitry monitors packets that pass from an Ethernet interface to the switching bus. Using the Individual/Group bit in the packet destination address, the circuitry determines if the packet is unicast or broadcast, tracks the current count of packets within the 10-microsecond interval, and filters out subsequent packets when a threshold is reached.

Traffic storm control uses a bandwidth-based method to measure traffic. You set the percentage of total available bandwidth that the controlled traffic can use. Because packets do not arrive at uniform intervals, the 10-microsecond interval can affect the operation of traffic storm control.

The following are examples of how traffic storm control operation is affected:

- If you enable broadcast traffic storm control, and broadcast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all exceeding broadcast traffic until the end of the interval.
- If you enable multicast traffic storm control, and the multicast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all exceeding multicast traffic until the end of the interval.
- If you enable broadcast and multicast traffic storm control, and broadcast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all exceeding broadcast traffic until the end of the interval.
- If you enable broadcast and multicast traffic storm control, and multicast traffic exceeds the level within the 10-microsecond interval, traffic storm control drops all exceeding multicast traffic until the end of the interval.

By default, Cisco NX-OS takes no corrective action when traffic exceeds the configured level.

Guidelines and Limitations for Traffic Storm Control

When configuring the traffic storm control level, follow these guidelines and limitations:

- You can configure traffic storm control on a port-channel interface.
- You can configure traffic storm control on a fabric port or a fabric port channel that connects the switch to a Fabric Extender (FEX). Storm control configured on a FEX applies to the aggregate traffic coming in on all the ports on that FEX.

Note The NIF storm control feature applies on all traffic coming in on a FEX fabric port. Traffic that comes on the FEX fabric port with the VNTAG header has an additional 6 bytes added to the original traffic. Due to these additional 6 bytes of overhead, the rate at which the traffic is policed by the storm control policer is skewed depending on the packet size of the original traffic that is ingressing on the HIF ports. The skew is larger for the smaller packet sizes compared to the larger packet sizes.

- Specify the level as a percentage of the total interface bandwidth:
  - The level can be from 0 to 100.
  - The optional fraction of a level can be from 0 to 99.
  - 100 percent means no traffic storm control.
  - 0.0 percent suppresses all traffic.
- There are local link and hardware limitations that prevent storm-control drops from being counted separately. Instead, storm-control drops are counted with other drops in the discards counter.
- Because of hardware limitations and the method by which packets of different sizes are counted, the level percentage is an approximation. Depending on the sizes of the frames that make up the incoming traffic, the actual enforced level might differ from the configured level by several percentage points.
- Applying storm control over a HIF range is not recommended. The configuration might fail for one or more interfaces in the range depending on the hardware resource availability. The result of the command is partial success in some cases.
- In the Cisco Nexus 5000 switch, storm-control does not distinguish between IP, non-IP, registered, or unregistered multicast traffic. All multicast traffic is subject to a single-multicast storm control policer when configured.
- In the Cisco Nexus 5500 switch, storm-control is applied only to unregistered or unknown multicast MAC address.
- The link-level control protocols (LACP, LLDP and so on) are not affected in case of a traffic storm. The storm control is applied to data plane traffic only.
- The burst size values are:
  - For a 10G port, 48.68 Mbytes/390Mbits
  - For a 1G port, 25 Mbytes/200Mbits

Configuring Traffic Storm Control

You can set the percentage of total available bandwidth that the controlled traffic can use.

Note Traffic storm control uses a 10-microsecond interval that can affect the operation of traffic storm control.

SUMMARY STEPS

1. switch# **configure terminal**
2. switch(config)# **interface** {**ethernet** *slot*/*port* | **port-channel** *number*}
3. switch(config-if)# **storm-control** [**broadcast** | **multicast** | **unicast**] **level** *percentage*[.*fraction*]

DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	switch# **configure terminal**	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	switch(config)# **interface** {**ethernet** *slot*/*port* | **port-channel** *number*}	Enters interface configuration mode.
Step 3	switch(config-if)# **storm-control** [**broadcast** | **multicast** | **unicast**] **level** *percentage*[.*fraction*]	Configures traffic storm control for traffic on the interface. The default state is disabled.

This example shows how to configure traffic storm control for port channels 122 and 123:

```
switch# configure terminal
switch(config)# interface port-channel 122, port-channel 123
switch(config-if-range)# storm-control unicast level 66.75
switch(config-if-range)# storm-control multicast level 66.75
switch(config-if-range)# storm-control broadcast level 66.75
switch(config-if-range)#
```

Verifying the Traffic Storm Control Configuration

Use the following commands to display traffic storm control configuration information:

Command	Purpose
show interface [**ethernet** *slot*/*port* | **port-channel** *number*] **counters storm-control**	Displays the traffic storm control configuration for the interfaces. **Note** Traffic storm control uses a 10-microsecond interval that can affect the operation of traffic storm control.
show running-config interface	Displays the traffic storm control configuration.

Note When a storm event occurs on a port and the packets are dropped due to storm control configuration, a syslog message is generated to indicate that the storm event has started. An additional syslog message is generated when the storm event ends and the packet are no longer dropped.

Traffic Storm Control Example Configuration

This example shows how to configure traffic storm control:

Default Settings for Traffic Storm Control

The following table lists the default settings for traffic storm control parameters.

Table 1: Default Traffic Storm Control Parameters

Parameters	Default
Traffic storm control	Disabled
Threshold percentage	100