Connecting the Switch to the Network

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Overview of Network Connections

After you install the switch in a rack and power it up, make these network connections:

- Console connection—This is a direct local management connection that you use to initially configure the switch. Make this connection **first** to initially configure the switch and determine its IP address, which is needed for the other connections.
- Management connection—After you complete the initial configuration using a console, make this connection to manage all future switch configurations.
- Uplink and downlink interface connections—These are connections to hosts and servers in the network.

Each of these connection types is explained in one of these sections.

Note When running cables in overhead or subfloor cable trays, we strongly recommend that you locate power cables and other potential noise sources as far away as practical from network cabling that terminates on Cisco equipment. In situations where long parallel cable runs cannot be separated by at least 3.3 feet (1 meter), we recommend that you shield any potential noise sources by housing them in a grounded metallic conduit.

Creating the Initial Switch Configuration

Before you begin

- A console device must be connected with the switch.
- The switch must be connected to a power source.

- Determine the IP address and the netmask that is needed for the Management (Mgmt0) interface.

Procedure

Step 1 Power up the switch by connecting each installed power supply to an AC circuit.

If you are using the input-source (*n*+*n*) power mode, connect half of the power supplies to one AC circuit. Connect the other half of the power supplies to another AC circuit.

The Input and Output LEDs on each power supply light up (green) when the power supply units are sending power to the switch. The software asks you to specify a password to use with the switch.

Step 2 Enter a new password for this switch.

The software checks the security strength of your password. It rejects your password if it does not meet these guidelines:

- At least eight characters.
- Minimizes or avoids the use of consecutive characters (such as "abcd").
- Minimizes or avoids repeating characters (such as "aaabbb").
- Does not contain recognizable words from the dictionary.
- Does not contain proper names.
- Contains both uppercase and lowercase characters.
- Contains numbers and letters.

Examples of strong passwords are:

- If2CoM18
- 2004AsdfLkj30
- Cb1955S21

Note
Clear text passwords cannot include the dollar sign ($) special character.

Tip
If a password is trivial (such as a short, easy-to-decipher password), the software will reject your password configuration. Configure a strong password as explained in this step. Passwords are case-sensitive.

When you enter a strong password, the software asks you to confirm the password.

Step 3 Enter the same password again.

If you enter the same password, the software accepts the password and begins asking a series of configuration questions.

Step 4 Until you are asked for an IP address, enter the default configuration for each question.

Repeat this step for each question until you are asked for the Mgmt0 IPv4 address.

Step 5 Enter the IP address for the management interface.

The software asks for the Mgmt0 IPv4 netmask.

Step 6 Enter a network mask for the management interface.

The software asks if you need to edit the configuration.

Step 7 Enter **no**, to not edit the configuration.

The software asks if you need to save the configuration.

Step 8 Enter **yes** to save the configuration.

What to do next

Set up the management interface for each supervisor module on the switch.

Setting Up the Management Interface

The RJ-45 and/or SFP management ports provide out-of-band management, which enables you to use the command-line interface (CLI) to manage the switch by its IP address. Use one of these ports depending on the cable and connectors that you are using to connect the management interface to the network.

Before you begin

- The switch must be powered on.
- The switch must be initially configured using a console.

Procedure

Step 1 Connect the management cable into the management port on the switch. For shorter connections, use a cable with RJ-45 connectors. For longer connections, use an optical cable with SFP transceivers (LH or SX type).

Step 2 **Note**
Use only one of these management ports—the switch does not support the use of both management ports.

Step 3 Connect the other end of the cable to a 10/100/1000 or SFP port on a network device.

Connecting Interface Ports to Other Devices

After you perform the initial configuration for the switch and create a management connection, you are ready to connect the interface ports on the switch to other devices. Depending on the types of interface ports on the switch, use interface cables with QSFP28, QSFP+, SFP+, SFP transceivers, or RJ-45 connectors to connect the switch to other devices.

Note When using SFP+ or SFP transceivers in a QSFP+ or QSFP28 uplink port, install a QSFP-to-SFP adapter, such as the CVR-QSFP-SFP10G adapter, in the QSFP port and then install the SFP+ or SFP transceiver. The switch automatically sets the port speed to the speed of the installed transceiver.

If the transceivers that you are using can be separated from their optical cables, install the transceivers without their cables before inserting the cables into the transceivers. This helps to prolong the life of both the transceiver and cables. When removing transceivers from the switch, remove the optical cable first and then remove the transceiver.

To determine which transceivers, adapters, and cables are supported by this switch, see the Cisco Transceiver Modules Compatibility Information document.

Maintaining Transceivers and Optical Cables

Keep transceivers and fiber-optic cables clean and dust free to maintain high signal accuracy and prevent damage to the connectors. Contamination increases attenuation (loss of light) and should be below 0.35 dB.

Consider these maintenance guidelines:

- Transceivers are static sensitive. To prevent ESD damage, wear an ESD-preventative wrist strap that is connected to the grounded chassis.
- Do not remove and insert a transceiver more often than is necessary. Repeated removals and insertions can shorten its useful life.
- Keep all optical connections covered when not in use. Clean them before using to prevent dust from scratching the fiber-optic cable ends.
- Do not touch the ends of connectors. Touching the ends can leave fingerprints and cause other contamination.
- Clean the connectors regularly; the required frequency of cleaning depends upon the environment. In addition, clean connectors if they are exposed to dust or accidentally touched. Both wet and dry cleaning techniques can be effective; refer to the fiber-optic connection cleaning procedures for your site.
- Inspect routinely for dust and damage. If you suspect damage, clean and then inspect fiber ends under a microscope to determine if damage has occurred.

Note When you need to remove a fiber-optic transceiver, first remove the fiber-optic cable from the transceiver **before** you remove the transceiver from the port.