



Storm Control

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Information About Storm Control

Storm Control

Storm control prevents traffic on a LAN from being disrupted by a broadcast, multicast, or unicast storm on one of the physical interfaces. A LAN storm occurs when packets flood the LAN, creating excessive traffic and degrading network performance. Errors in the protocol-stack implementation, mistakes in network configurations, or users issuing a denial-of-service attack can cause a storm.

Storm control (or traffic suppression) monitors packets passing from an interface to the switching bus and determines if the packet is unicast, multicast, or broadcast. The device counts the number of packets of a specified type received within the 1-second time interval and compares the measurement with a predefined suppression-level threshold.

How Traffic Activity is Measured

Storm control uses one of these methods to measure traffic activity:

- Bandwidth as a percentage of the total available bandwidth of the port that can be used by the broadcast, multicast, or unicast traffic
- Traffic rate in packets per second at which broadcast, multicast, or unicast packets are received
- Traffic rate in bits per second at which broadcast, multicast, or unicast packets are received

With each method, the port blocks traffic when the rising threshold is reached. The port remains blocked until the traffic rate drops below the falling threshold (if one is specified) and then resumes normal forwarding. If the falling suppression level is not specified, the device blocks all traffic until the traffic rate drops below the rising suppression level. In general, the higher the level, the less effective the protection against broadcast storms.

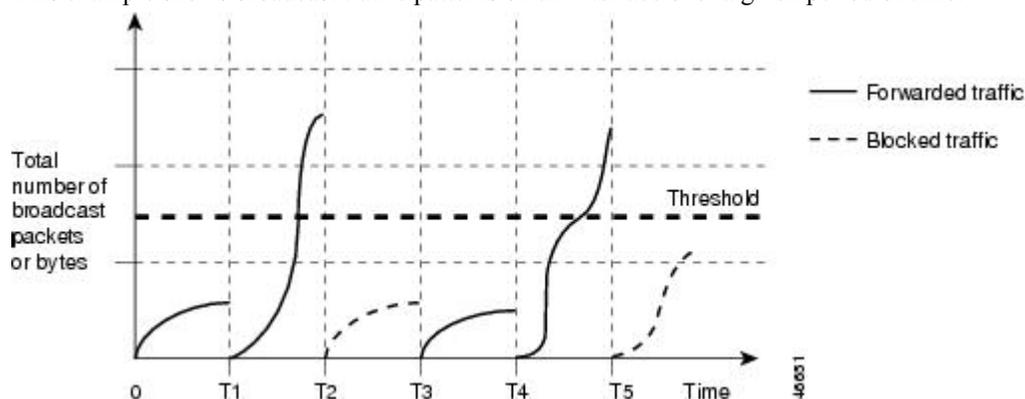


Note When the storm control threshold for multicast traffic is reached, all multicast traffic except control traffic, such as bridge protocol data unit (BDPU) and Cisco Discovery Protocol frames, are blocked. However, the device does not differentiate between routing updates, such as OSPF, and regular multicast data traffic, so both types of traffic are blocked.

Traffic Patterns

Figure 1: Broadcast Storm Control Example

This example shows broadcast traffic patterns on an interface over a given period of time.



Broadcast traffic being forwarded exceeded the configured threshold between time intervals T1 and T2 and between T4 and T5. When the amount of specified traffic exceeds the threshold, all traffic of that kind is dropped for the next time period. Therefore, broadcast traffic is blocked during the intervals following T2 and T5. At the next time interval (for example, T3), if broadcast traffic does not exceed the threshold, it is again forwarded.

The combination of the storm-control suppression level and the 1-second time interval controls the way the storm control algorithm works. A higher threshold allows more packets to pass through. A threshold value of 100 percent means that no limit is placed on the traffic. A value of 0.0 means that all broadcast, multicast, or unicast traffic on that port is blocked.



Note Because packets do not arrive at uniform intervals, the 1-second time interval during which traffic activity is measured can affect the behavior of storm control.

You use the **storm-control** interface configuration commands to set the threshold value for each traffic type.

How to Configure Storm Control

Configuring Storm Control and Threshold Levels

You configure storm control on a port and enter the threshold level that you want to be used for a particular type of traffic.

However, because of hardware limitations and the way in which packets of different sizes are counted, threshold percentages are approximations. Depending on the sizes of the packets making up the incoming traffic, the actual enforced threshold might differ from the configured level by several percentage points.



Note Storm control is supported on physical interfaces. You can also configure storm control on an EtherChannel. When storm control is configured on an EtherChannel, the storm control settings propagate to the EtherChannel physical interfaces.

Follow these steps to storm control and threshold levels:

Before you begin

Storm control is supported on physical interfaces. You can also configure storm control on an EtherChannel. When storm control is configured on an EtherChannel, the storm control settings propagate to the EtherChannel physical interfaces.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>interface-id</i> Example: Device (config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/2 Or Device (config)# interface fastethernet 1/0/2	Specifies the interface to be configured, and enter interface configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 4	<p>storm-control action {shutdown trap}</p> <p>Example:</p> <pre>Device(config-if)# storm-control action trap</pre>	<p>Specifies the action to be taken when a storm is detected. The default is to filter out the traffic and not to send traps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the shutdown keyword to error-disable the port during a storm. • Select the trap keyword to generate an SNMP trap when a storm is detected.
Step 5	<p>storm-control {broadcast multicast unicast} level {<i>level</i> [<i>level-low</i>] bps <i>bps</i> [<i>bps-low</i>] pps <i>pps</i> [<i>pps-low</i>]}</p> <p>Example:</p> <pre>Device(config-if)# storm-control unicast level 87 65</pre>	<p>Configures broadcast, multicast, or unicast storm control. By default, storm control is disabled.</p> <p>The keywords have these meanings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For <i>level</i>, specifies the rising threshold level for broadcast, multicast, or unicast traffic as a percentage (up to two decimal places) of the bandwidth. The port blocks traffic when the rising threshold is reached. The range is 0.00 to 100.00. • (Optional) For <i>level-low</i>, specifies the falling threshold level as a percentage (up to two decimal places) of the bandwidth. This value must be less than or equal to the rising suppression value. The port forwards traffic when traffic drops below this level. If you do not configure a falling suppression level, it is set to the rising suppression level. The range is 0.00 to 100.00. <p>If you set the threshold to the maximum value (100 percent), no limit is placed on the traffic. If you set the threshold to 0.0, all broadcast, multicast, and unicast traffic on that port is blocked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For bps <i>bps</i>, specifies the rising threshold level for broadcast, multicast, or unicast traffic in bits per second (up to one decimal place). The port blocks traffic when the rising threshold is reached. The range is 0.0 to 10000000000.0. • (Optional) For <i>bps-low</i>, specifies the falling threshold level in bits per second (up to one decimal place). It can be less than or equal to the rising threshold level. The port forwards traffic when traffic

	Command or Action	Purpose
		<p>drops below this level. The range is 0.0 to 10000000000.0.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For pps pps, specifies the rising threshold level for broadcast, multicast, or unicast traffic in packets per second (up to one decimal place). The port blocks traffic when the rising threshold is reached. The range is 0.0 to 10000000000.0. • (Optional) For pps-low, specifies the falling threshold level in packets per second (up to one decimal place). It can be less than or equal to the rising threshold level. The port forwards traffic when traffic drops below this level. The range is 0.0 to 10000000000.0. <p>For BPS and PPS settings, you can use metric suffixes such as k, m, and g for large number thresholds.</p>
Step 6	<p>end</p> <p>Example:</p> <pre>Device(config-if)# end</pre>	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 7	<p>show storm-control [<i>interface-id</i>] [broadcast multicast unicast]</p> <p>Example:</p> <pre>Device# show storm-control gigabitethernet 1/0/2 unicast Or Device# show storm-control fastethernet 1/0/2 unicast</pre>	Verifies the storm control suppression levels set on the interface for the specified traffic type. If you do not enter a traffic type, details for all traffic types (broadcast, multicast and unicast) are displayed.

Configuration Examples for Storm Control

Example: Configuring Storm Control and Threshold Levels

The following example shows how to configure storm control and threshold levels:

```
Device> enable
Device# configure terminal
Device(config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/1
Device(config-if)# storm-control action trap
```

```
Device(config-if)# storm-control unicast level 87 65
Device(config-if)# end
Device# show storm-control gigabitethernet 1/0/1 unicast
```

Additional References for Storm Control

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
For complete syntax and usage information for the commands used in this chapter.	Consolidated Platform Command Reference, Cisco IOS Release 15.2(7)Ex (Catalyst 1000 Switches)

Technical Assistance

Description	Link
<p>The Cisco Support website provides extensive online resources, including documentation and tools for troubleshooting and resolving technical issues with Cisco products and technologies.</p> <p>To receive security and technical information about your products, you can subscribe to various services, such as the Product Alert Tool (accessed from Field Notices), the Cisco Technical Services Newsletter, and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds.</p> <p>Access to most tools on the Cisco Support website requires a Cisco.com user ID and password.</p>	http://www.cisco.com/support

Feature History for Storm Control

This table provides release and related information for features explained in this module.

These features are available on all releases subsequent to the one they were introduced in, unless noted otherwise.

Release	Feature	Feature Information
Cisco IOS Release 15.2(7)E1	Storm Control	Storm control prevents traffic on a LAN from being disrupted by a broadcast, multicast, or unicast storm on one of the physical interfaces.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform and software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to <http://www.cisco.com/go/cfn>.