



High Availability Configuration Guide, Cisco IOS XE Everest 16.5.1a (Catalyst 9500 Switches)

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CHAPTER 1

Configuring Cisco NSF with SSO

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Finding Feature Information

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest caveats and feature information, see Bug Search Tool and the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the feature information table at the end of this module.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to <http://www.cisco.com/go/cfn>. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

Prerequisites for NSF with SSO

The following are prerequisites and considerations for configuring NSF with SSO.

- BGP support in NSF requires that neighbor networking devices be NSF-aware; that is, the devices must have the graceful restart capability and advertise that capability in their OPEN message during session establishment. If an NSF-capable router discovers that a particular BGP neighbor does not have graceful restart capability, it does not establish an NSF-capable session with that neighbor. All other neighbors that have graceful restart capability continue to have NSF-capable sessions with this NSF-capable networking device.
- OSPF support in NSF requires that all neighbor networking devices be NSF-aware. If an NSF-capable router discovers that it has non-NSF -aware neighbors on a particular network segment, it disables NSF

capabilities for that segment. Other network segments composed entirely of NSF-capable or NSF-aware routers continue to provide NSF capabilities.

Restrictions for NSF with SSO

The following are restrictions for configuring NSF with SSO:

- NSF does not support IP Multicast Routing, as it is not SSO-aware.
- For NSF operation, you must have SSO configured on the device.
- All Layer 3 neighboring devices must be NSF Helper or NSF-capable to support graceful restart capability.
- For IETF, all neighboring devices must be running an NSF-aware software image.

Information About NSF with SSO

Overview of NSF with SSO

The switch supports fault resistance by allowing a standby switch to take over if the active switch becomes unavailable. Cisco nonstop forwarding (NSF) works with stateful switchover (SSO) to minimize the amount of time a network is unavailable.

NSF provides these benefits:

- Improved network availability—NSF continues forwarding network traffic and application state information so that user session information is maintained after a switchover.
- Overall network stability—Network stability may be improved with the reduction in the number of route flaps, which were created when routers in the network failed and lost their routing tables.
- Neighboring routers do not detect a link flap—Because the interfaces remain up during a switchover, neighboring routers do not detect a link flap (the link does not go down and come back up).
- Prevents routing flaps—Because SSO continues forwarding network traffic during a switchover, routing flaps are avoided.
- Maintains user sessions established prior to the switchover.

SSO Operation

When a standby switch runs in SSO mode, the standby switch starts up in a fully-initialized state and synchronizes with the persistent configuration and the running configuration of the active switch. It subsequently maintains the state on the protocols listed below, and all changes in hardware and software states for features that support stateful switchover are kept in synchronization. Consequently, it offers minimum interruption to Layer 2 sessions in a redundant active switch configuration.

If the active switch fails, the standby switch becomes the active switch. This new active switch uses existing Layer 2 switching information to continue forwarding traffic. Layer 3 forwarding will be delayed until the routing tables have been repopulated in the newly active switch.

The state of these features is preserved between both the active and standby switches:

- 802.3
- 802.3u
- 802.3x (Flow Control)
- 802.3ab (GE)
- 802.3z (Gigabit Ethernet including CWDM)
- 802.3ad (LACP)
- 802.1p (Layer 2 QoS)
- 802.1q
- 802.1X (Authentication)
- 802.1D (Spanning Tree Protocol)
- 802.3af (Inline power)
- PAgP
- VTP
- Dynamic ARP Inspection
- DHCP snooping
- IP source guard
- IGMP snooping (versions 1 and 2)
- DTP (802.1q and ISL)
- MST
- PVST+
- Rapid-PVST
- PortFast/UplinkFast/BackboneFast
- BPDU guard and filtering
- Voice VLAN
- Port security
- Unicast MAC filtering
- ACL (VACLs, PACLS, RACLS)
- QOS (DBL)
- Multicast storm control/broadcast storm control

SSO is compatible with the following list of features. However, the protocol database for these features is not synchronized between the standby and active switches:

- 802.1Q tunneling with Layer 2 Protocol Tunneling (L2PT)

- Baby giants
- Jumbo frame support
- CDP
- Flood blocking
- UDLD
- SPAN/RSPAN
- NetFlow

All Layer 3 protocols on a switch are learned on the standby switch if SSO is enabled.

NSF Operation

Cisco IOS Nonstop Forwarding (NSF) always runs with stateful switchover (SSO) and provides redundancy for Layer 3 traffic. NSF is supported by the BGP, OSPF, and EIGRP routing protocols and is supported by Cisco Express Forwarding (CEF) for forwarding. The routing protocols have been enhanced with NSF-capability and awareness, which means that routers running these protocols can detect a switchover and take the necessary actions to continue forwarding network traffic and to recover route information from the peer devices.

Each protocol depends on CEF to continue forwarding packets during switchover while the routing protocols rebuild the Routing Information Base (RIB) tables. After the routing protocols have converged, CEF updates the FIB table and removes stale route entries. CEF then updates the hardware with the new FIB information.

If the active switch is configured for BGP (with the **graceful-restart** command), OSPF, or EIGRP routing protocols, routing updates are automatically sent during the active switch election.

NSF has two primary components:

- NSF-awareness

A networking device is NSF-aware if it is running NSF-compatible software. If neighboring router devices detect that an NSF router can still forward packets when an active switch election happens, this capability is referred to as NSF-awareness. Cisco IOS enhancements to the Layer 3 routing protocols (BGP, OSPF, and EIGRP) are designed to prevent route-flapping so that the CEF routing table does not time out or the NSF router does not drop routes. An NSF-aware router helps to send routing protocol information to the neighboring NSF router. NSF-awareness is enabled by default for EIGRP-stub, EIGRP, and OSPF protocols. NSF-awareness is disabled by default for BGP.

- NSF-capability

A device is NSF-capable if it has been configured to support NSF; it rebuilds routing information from NSF-aware or NSF-capable neighbors. NSF works with SSO to minimize the amount of time that a Layer 3 network is unavailable following an active switch election by continuing to forward IP packets. Reconvergence of Layer 3 routing protocols (BGP, OSPFv2, and EIGRP) is transparent to the user and happens automatically in the background. The routing protocols recover routing information from neighbor devices and rebuild the Cisco Express Forwarding (CEF) table.

Cisco Express Forwarding

A key element of Cisco IOS Nonstop Forwarding (NSF) is packet forwarding. In a Cisco networking device, packet forwarding is provided by Cisco Express Forwarding (CEF). CEF maintains the FIB and uses the FIB information that was current at the time of the switchover to continue forwarding packets during a switchover. This feature reduces traffic interruption during the switchover.

During normal NSF operation, CEF on the active supervisor switch synchronizes its current FIB and adjacency databases with the FIB and adjacency databases on the standby switch. Upon switchover, the standby switch initially has FIB and adjacency databases that are mirror images of those that were current on the active switch. CEF keeps the forwarding engine on the standby switch current with changes that are sent to it by CEF on the active switch. The forwarding engine can continue forwarding after a switchover as soon as the interfaces and a data path are available.

As the routing protocols start to repopulate the RIB on a prefix-by-prefix basis, the updates cause prefix-by-prefix updates to CEF, which it uses to update the FIB and adjacency databases. Existing and new entries receive the new version (“epoch”) number, indicating that they have been refreshed. The forwarding information is updated on the forwarding engine during convergence. The switch signals when the RIB has converged. The software removes all FIB and adjacency entries that have an epoch older than the current switchover epoch. The FIB now represents the newest routing protocol forwarding information.

How to Configure Cisco NSF with SSO

Configuring SSO

You must configure SSO in order to use NSF with any supported protocol.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	redundancy Example: Device(config)# redundancy	Enters redundancy configuration mode.
Step 2	mode sso Example: Device(config-red)# mode sso	Configures SSO. When this command is entered, the standby switch is reloaded and begins to work in SSO mode.
Step 3	end Example: Device(config-red)# end	Returns to EXEC mode.
Step 4	show running-config Example: Device# show running-config	Verifies that SSO is enabled.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 5	show redundancy states Example: Device# show redundancy states	Displays the operating redundancy mode.

Configuring SSO Example

This example shows how to configure the system for SSO and display the redundancy state:

```
Device(config)# redundancy
Device(config)# mode sso
Device(config)# end
Device# show redundancy states
my state = 13 -ACTIVE
peer state = 8 -STANDBY HOT
Mode = Duplex
Unit = Primary
Unit ID = 5
Redundancy Mode (Operational) = sso
Redundancy Mode (Configured) = sso
Split Mode = Disabled
Manual Swact = Enabled
Communications = Up
client count = 29
client_notification TMR = 30000 milliseconds
keep_alive TMR = 9000 milliseconds
keep_alive count = 1
keep_alive threshold = 18
RF debug mask = 0x0
```

Verifying CEF NSF

To verify CEF NSF, use the **show cef state** privileged EXEC command.

```
Device# show cef state
CEF Status:
RP instance
common CEF enabled
IPv4 CEF Status:
CEF enabled/running
dCEF enabled/running
CEF switching enabled/running
universal per-destination load sharing algorithm, id DEA83012
IPv6 CEF Status:
CEF disabled/not running
dCEF disabled/not running
universal per-destination load sharing algorithm, id DEA83012
RRP state:
I am standby RRP: no
RF Peer Presence: yes
RF PeerComm reached: yes
RF Progression blocked: never
Redundancy mode: rpr(1)
CEF NSF sync: disabled/not running
CEF ISSU Status:
FIBHWIDB broker
No slots are ISSU capable.
```

```

FIBIDB broker
No slots are ISSU capable.
FIBHWIDB Subblock broker
No slots are ISSU capable.
FIBIDB Subblock broker
No slots are ISSU capable.
Adjacency update
No slots are ISSU capable.
IPv4 table broker
No slots are ISSU capable.
CEF push
No slots are ISSU capable.

```

Additional References for Cisco NSF with SSO

Related Documents

Related Topic	Document Title
For complete syntax and usage information for the commands used in this chapter.	High Availability Command Reference, Cisco IOS XE Everest 16.6.1.

MIBs

MIB	MIBs Link
All supported MIBs for this release.	To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco IOS releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL: http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs

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



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