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Basic factory configuration of core switches



Overview

Learn how to setup a network switch with ease. Switches allow you to send and receive information efficiently and securely.

Key Takeaways

Core switches can be configured from factory defaults by restoring settings, setting hostnames, configuring management access, creating VLANs, assigning ports, and saving the configuration.1. Restore Factory Defaults

Before configuring a new or spare switch, ensure it is reset to factory defaults. On many switches, this can be done by pressing and holding the PNP or reset button for several seconds, or by using a CLI command such as reset factory-configuration on Huawei devices. This clears previous configurations while preserving protected system files if present .

2. Initial Access
• Console Access: Connect a computer to the switch console port using a rollover cable and terminal software (e.g., PuTTY) at 9600 baud .

• Web Access: Some switches allow initial configuration via a web interface using default IP addresses.

• CLI Login: Log in with default credentials or set a temporary password for first-time access .
3. Set Hostname and Domain

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Assign a meaningful hostname and domain name to identify the switch in the network. This is important for management and VTP (Virtual Trunking Protocol) operations .

4. Configure Management Access
• Assign an IP address to the management VLAN to allow remote access.

• Configure SSH or Telnet access with local AAA authentication for secure management .

• Set up line passwords and enable secret passwords to protect console and privileged access .
5. VLAN Configuration
• Create VLANs according to network design using commands like vlan [vlan-number] .

• Assign access ports to VLANs for end devices and configure trunk ports for inter-switch links. Remember that access ports carry a single VLAN untagged, while trunk ports can carry multiple VLANs tagged .
6. Port Configuration
• Verify interface capabilities using commands like show interface capabilities.

• Configure ports as access or trunk, enable portfast if needed, and apply security settings such as port security or storm control .
7. Save Configuration
• Switches maintain a running configuration in RAM and a startup configuration in NVRAM.

• Save changes to ensure they persist after a reboot using commands like copy running-config startup-config .
8. Verification
• Use commands such as show vlan brief, show running-config, and show ip interface brief to verify VLANs, port assignments, and management IP settings .

• Test connectivity to ensure the switch is reachable and properly integrated into the network. By following these steps, a core switch can be prepared for deployment with a clean configuration, secure management access, and properly segmented network traffic.

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