ZITHA TECH SPECIALTY CABLES (Pty) Ltd

How long is the lifespan of a core switch



Overview

How often do you replace core networking Equipment?

Recently we replaced 90% of all switches in one go because we needed added functionality, however I susp.

Key Takeaways

Core switches typically have a lifespan of 5–10 years, with industrial-grade models lasting up to 15 years under optimal conditions.Typical Lifespan

Enterprise core switches generally last 5–7 years based on Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF), though many organizations keep them operational for 10 years or more with proper maintenance and support . Industrial or ruggedized switches, designed for harsh environments, can last 10–15 years due to features like extended temperature tolerance, vibration resistance, and sealed enclosures . Consumer-grade switches, by contrast, usually last 3–5 years, but these are not typically used as core switches .

Factors Affecting Lifespan
• Usage and Workload: Heavy traffic and high data throughput accelerate wear, potentially shortening the switch's operational life .

• Environmental Conditions: Exposure to heat, humidity, dust, or poor ventilation can degrade components faster .

• Maintenance and Support: Regular firmware updates, monitoring, and timely replacement of failing modules extend lifespan .

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• Vendor Support and End-of-Life (EOL): Once a switch reaches EOL or End of Service Life (EOSL), it no longer receives updates or support, which often triggers replacement even if the hardware is still functional .
Replacement Considerations

Organizations often replace core switches not solely due to failure but because of performance requirements, security updates, or the end of vendor support . Many IT teams plan for replacement around 8–10 years, balancing operational reliability with budget constraints . In some cases, switches can continue running beyond official support if spare parts and third-party maintenance are available, but this carries increased risk .

Summary

A core switch is a critical backbone device in enterprise networks, and its lifespan depends on type, usage, environment, and support. While the average operational life is 5–7 years, careful maintenance and industrial-grade design can extend this to 10–15 years. Planning for replacement around the EOL or EOSL ensures network reliability, security, and performance .

Article Content

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Core and distribution switches with chassis-based modular designs typically run 7 to 10 years, with some platforms

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Life Span of Layer 2 Switches How long do you all keep your managed layer 2 switches in production? Our whole internal network is

What''s the Typical Lifespan of a Network Switch?

The average lifespan of a network switch On average, a well-maintained network switch can last between 5 and 10 years. However,

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Understanding the Lifecycle of Network Hardware The lifespan of a particular piece of

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When you purchase the switch, you can''t claim the full cost of the asset against profits. You can only claim one year of the five

How Often Should I Replace my Networking Devices

That''s a huge rate of change. Physical Switches/Routers Generally, wired networking devices can last around five

Switch Life Expectancy?

6+ year life expectancy for a switch is not uncommon (assuming it hasn''t lived in an environment with excessive dust,

How to plan for a campus core switch refresh: Basic requirements

Big campus core switch refreshes typically occur every 5 to 10 years, or longer, depending on the switch. When

Hardware Lifecycle

(Ten years might seem a long time, but those who have to pay the bills like "if it ain''t broke, don''t replace it".) Things

Solved: Life Expectancy of Cisco Equipment

Can anyone tell me what the lifetime expectancy (or MTBF) is of the Cisco switches. In particular, the 2950, 2970, and

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When Is the Right Time to Upgrade Your Network Equipment?

Upgrading before devices reach end-of-life ensures continued support and availability of parts. 10. Plan Incremental

When to Replace vs Upgrade a Cisco Switch?

Learn when to replace or upgrade your Cisco switches for optimal security, performance, and budget. Enterprise guidance on

What is the lifespan of a network switch?

What is the service life of a network switch? Industrial Ethernet switches generally use a fanless case to dissipate

"What''s the lifespan of a Nintendo Switch? Is it still worth it ...

Long gaming sessions in warm environments If your Switch feels unusually hot, the fan is running constantly, or the console displays

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What Exactly Is the Life Cycle of a Cisco Switch? Could Ignoring It Gut ...

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Deploying Cisco switches without grasping their life cycle is like driving blindfolded—you''ll crash eventually. After ten years drafting

How long is an enterprise cisco switch good for?

How long is an enterprise cisco switch good for? The lifecycles on things varies over the years and by device, and I am just not sure

Lifespan of 2960 Switches?

We are going on 5 years with our network and it looks like most of devices will be reaching their end of life according

How often do you replace your network switches? : r/sysadmin

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