Purchase of Core Switch Upgrade Version



Overview

Upgrade core switch without disrupting networkSince we have a production network running we have to plan for an online core switch upgrade. Could you pleas.

Key Takeaways

Upgrading a core switch involves selecting the right hardware, ensuring software compatibility, and planning for minimal network disruption.

Selecting the Core Switch

When purchasing a core switch, consider the following factors: Vendor and Model: Cisco Catalyst, Aruba, HP, and Extreme Networks are common enterprise-grade options. Cisco is widely used for robust L3 features, stacking, and advanced QoS, while Aruba and Meraki offer cloud-managed simplicity. Port Requirements: Assess current and future port needs.

For example, if you currently use 60–70 ports, plan for 96 ports to allow growth. Speed and Connectivity: Consider 10GbE or higher for core switches. For longer distances, fiber connections (QSFP or SFP+) may be required.

Redundancy and Load Balancing: Ensure support for multi-chassis EtherChannel, active/active configurations, and FHRP protocols like HSRP for high availability. Power over Ethernet (PoE): Required if powering devices like IP phones or access points directly from the switch. Software ConsiderationsIOS XE Upgrade: If using Cisco switches, upgrading to the latest IOS XE version ensures security patches, new features, and improved stability.

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Upgrade Modes: Use Install Mode for modern platforms like Catalyst 9000 series, which allows modular upgrades and easier rollback. Bundle Mode is simpler but consumes more flash.

In-

Service Software Upgrade (ISSU): For supported platforms, ISSU allows upgrades without downtime by shifting traffic to standby processors.

Pre-

Upgrade Checks: Verify flash space, backup configurations, confirm console access, and download verified images from Cisco.com.

Upgrade Planning and Execution

Minimize Disruption: Connect the new core switch alongside the old one, configure FHRP, and ensure spanning tree protocols (Rapid PVST) are optimized. Topology Considerations: Use a star or triangle topology for access switches to reduce downtime during migration. Testing: Validate VLANs, ACLs, QoS, and routing configurations before moving production traffic.

Rollback Plan: Always have a tested rollback procedure in case of issues during the upgrade. Cost and Vendor ConsiderationsEnterprise-grade switches can be expensive (e.g., Aruba or Cisco), but lower-cost alternatives like FS switches may be suitable for L2-only environments. Avoid SMB-grade switches like Ubiquiti USW-Pro for critical core functions.

Evaluate total cost including modules (SFP/QSFP), stacking licenses, and support contracts.

Summary

To successfully upgrade a core switch: Select the right hardware based on port count, speed, redundancy, and PoE needs. Plan software upgrades carefully, using IOS XE best practices and ISSU if available. Implement with minimal disruption by connecting new switches in parallel, configuring redundancy protocols, and testing thoroughly.

Consider cost and vendor support to ensure long-term reliability and maintainability. Following these steps ensures a smooth transition to a modern, secure, and high-performance core network infrastructure.

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Article Content

Upgrade core switch without disrupting network

Since we have a production network running we have to plan for an online core switch upgrade. Could you please help me with the high level steps to acheive this without any kind of

Core switch replacement

I used an Aggregation switch, not as a core, but as a stand-alone for iSCSI traffic. It was purchased as a temporary switch because of equipment that required 10G connections prior to my

Upgrading Cisco Nexus and Catalyst Switches

Hi there, I am in need of some help. I need to upgrade some core and distribution switches, and I haven''t done this in a log time so needed some help on a couple fronts.

Cisco IOS XE Upgrade Guide: Best Practices and Step-by-Step Process

This guide will walk you through Comprehensive Cisco IOS XE upgrade guide covering preparation, installation, verification, rollback, and troubleshooting. Ideal for network engineers and IT

Core switch replacement

What "core switch" are you replacing? Why are you replacing it? To what end? Is this a home install, or a business? I sold my soul for ProSupport.

Cisco 9000 – Upgrading Software – Kerry Cordero

Upgrading Cisco Catalyst 9000 (Cat9K) switches is a crucial process for network maintenance and efficiency. This post provides detailed methods for upgrading these switches, focusing on both the

Cisco Switch License Upgrade Guide: Smart Licensing ...

Learn how to upgrade Cisco switch licenses with Smart Licensing, manage Catalyst 9000 Series feature sets, and ensure seamless network operation. Step-by-step guide with CLI commands and FAQ.

Upgrade Cisco IOS Switch Step-by-Step | NetworkProGuide

Before we get to the steps I want to point out that there will be some variation in update steps between single switches and stack switches as well as between switches and routers.

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Upgrade core switch without disrupting network

I am planning to upgrade the current core switch(3750) to 6509 series switch. Since we have a production network running we have to plan for an online core switch upgrade. Could you

Core switch IOS upgrade/software or hardware reboot is the best?

Solved: we are planning to upgrade the IOS for our core switch? after next reload only it will work on that newly upgraded IOS? can anybody say that software reboot is enough or physically

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Cisco Core Switch upgrade questions : r/networking

Cisco Core Switch upgrade questions I''m looking to upgrade our Cisco core switch. it''s an old 3560 catalyst with a pretty basic configuration. The existing 10/100 ports are split up into VLANs for various

Core Switch Upgrade

Alternatively, if you want to simply collapse your core-distro-access into a single "unit", then you may want to look into 6880/6807-X with 6800IA and 3560CX-12PD switches. In this method,

Rename the current session (alias ''/title'') | | ''grok sessions list ...

'' | Rename the current session (alias ''/title'') | | ''grok sessions list'' | List recent sessions for this directory | | ''grok sessions search '' | Search session titles and prompts | | ''grok sessions delete ''

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Want to Upgrade Your Switch Games to Switch 2? It Might Cost

Some Switch games you already own can be upgraded into enhanced Switch 2 titles, but the cost structure is pretty confusing. Here''s how much you can expect to pay for the upgrade packs

Looking to upgrade our core switch.

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We are about to go through a fairly major software change, and that will require a lot more internet traffic on our network. This has led us to look at our core switch, which we currently

Prusa CORE One to CORE One+ upgrade (community version)

This article guides you through the community version of the Prusa CORE One to the Prusa CORE One+ upgrade. It lists all the components required for the upgrad

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

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