

How to debug the external network of the core switch



AI Overview

Debugging a core switch's external network involves verifying physical connections, running interface diagnostics, and using targeted debug commands to monitor traffic and errors in real time.

Step 1: Verify Physical Connectivity Start by checking the physical layer: Inspect LED indicators on the switch ports; green usually indicates a healthy link, while red or orange may indicate errors or flapping. Ensure cables are correctly seated and of the proper type (Cat5e/Cat6 for copper, SMF/MMF for fiber). Swap suspect cables or GBICs with known good ones to rule out hardware faults. Bypass patch panels or media converters if possible to isolate the issue.

Step 2: Check Interface Status Use switch commands to verify interface health: `show interface` to check for `errdisable`, shutdown, or packet errors. `show module` to detect faulty modules or hardware issues. Look for port flapping, high error counts, or mismatched duplex/speed settings.

Step 3: Use Debug Commands Carefully For Cisco switches: Enable targeted debug commands for specific protocols or events, e.g., `debug ip icmp` for ICMP traffic or `debug lacp` events for EtherChannel issues. Avoid `debug all` in production as it can consume CPU resources and impact switch performance. After collecting logs, disable debugging with `undebug all` or `no debug`. Use `show debug` to verify which debug processes are active.

Step 4: Run Switch Diagnostics If hardware issues are suspected: On ExtremeSwitching devices, run normal or extended diagnostic routines to test ASICs, memory, and packet loopback on external ports. Ensure the External Power Supply (EPS) is powered on before diagnostics. Be aware that running diagnostics may temporarily take the switch offline.

Step 5: Monitor Traffic and Logs Enable logging or terminal monitoring to capture real-time events. For embedded systems using LwIP stacks, enable `debug lo...`

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Those features have the regular debugs and show commands Switch#show ip route Switch#show cdp neig Switch#debug ip packet 101 Note: Some commands on IOS in background get information

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Troubleshooting Switched Network

We will be basically going through a systematic procedure that will help us to develop a means of troubleshooting the switch networks.

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Cisco Troubleshooting Commands at Your Service

To know exactly how a particular switch will forward an Ethernet frame, you need to examine the MAC address table on a Cisco switch. The `show mac address-table` exec command

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