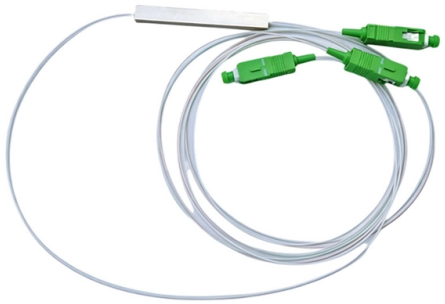
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Function of the Reflector Port of the Core Switch



Overview

The reflector port forwards only the traffic from the RSPAN source session with which it is affiliated.

Key Takeaways

A reflector port on a core switch is used to loop back traffic from a source port onto an RSPAN VLAN for remote monitoring, effectively enabling traffic analysis without affecting normal network operations.Overview

A reflector port is a specialized port on a switch configured to copy packets from a source port or VLAN and place them onto an RSPAN (Remote Switched Port Analyzer) VLAN for monitoring purposes . It is primarily used in network traffic analysis, allowing administrators to capture and inspect traffic from multiple switches or VLANs without physically connecting monitoring devices to each source port.

Key Functions
• Traffic Loopback: The reflector port loops back untagged traffic from the source session and forwards it to the RSPAN VLAN, which is then flooded to trunk ports carrying that VLAN .

• Remote Mirroring: It enables remote mirroring, allowing traffic from one switch to be analyzed on another switch or monitoring device located elsewhere in the network .

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• Isolation: The port is invisible to all other VLANs and cannot participate in normal network communication while configured as a reflector port .

• Spanning Tree Disabled: Spanning Tree Protocol is automatically disabled on the reflector port to prevent loops and ensure uninterrupted mirroring .

• Port Restrictions: A reflector port cannot be a SPAN source or destination, cannot be part of an EtherChannel while active, and can only serve one RSPAN session at a time .

Operational Considerations

• Device Connectivity: Any device connected to a reflector port loses connectivity until the RSPAN session is disabled .

• VLAN Tagging: Administrators can configure the reflector port to send mirrored traffic as tagged or untagged depending on monitoring requirements .

• Temporary Use: The port is dedicated to mirroring while the session is active and cannot perform other switching functions .

Importance in Core Switches

In a core switch, which aggregates traffic from distribution and access layers and handles high-volume routing and switching, reflector ports are critical for:

• Network Diagnostics: Capturing traffic from multiple layers for troubleshooting or performance analysis.

• Security Monitoring: Observing suspicious traffic patterns without disrupting normal operations.

• Performance Testing: Evaluating network load and latency by analyzing mirrored traffic. By using a reflector port, network administrators can monitor and analyze traffic efficiently across the network backbone while maintaining the high performance and reliability expected from core switches.

Article Content

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Core Switch: The Powerhouse of Your Network Infrastructure

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Core Baffle

The core baffle is a reflector that consists of the baffle and former assembly that consists of vertical plates called baffles and

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Reflector | Nuclear Regulatory Commission

A layer of material immediately surrounding a reactor core that scatters back (or reflects) into the core many neutrons that would

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A core switch is not merely a type of switch but rather denotes the switch that operates at the core layer (the network''s

Introduction to Core Switch Configuration

A switch that functions as part of a router and operates at the third layer of the OSI network standard model, the network layer. The

Core Switch Vs Distribution Switch Vs Access Switch

The hierarchical internetworking model defined by Cisco includes core layer, distribution layer and access layer.

Reflector port in RSPAN. can someone explain? : r/networking

Here''s the documentation for reflector ports. It''s any port on the switch. It''s unusable for any purpose other than being a reflector

Difference between a core switch and ''normal'' switch?

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What''s the difference between a Core Switch and a normal switch? I have 4 switches in a stack that everything connects to. This is

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reflector port and rspan

My understanding is that the switch has to realize "VLAN hopping" for RSPAN, i.e. to remove VLAN tags from all the

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• The reflector port loops back untagged traffic to the switch. The traffic is then placed on the RSPAN VLAN and flooded to any trunk

How to Choose a Core Layer Switch?

Port Type/Rate/Number When choosing the port type, rate and number of core switches, you should refer to the port

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