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Switch External Network Access Setup Method



Overview

Support As shown in Figure 1, a company has multiple departments located on different subnets, and each department requires access to the 8 Steps to config.

Key Takeaways

External network access can be configured by connecting the switch or virtual switch to a physical network adapter and properly setting VLANs, trunking, or external switch types.Physical Switch Setup

To enable external network access on a physical switch:

• Enable Interfaces: By default, switch interfaces may be administratively down. Use the undo shutdown command to activate the interface .

• Configure VLANs: Assign ports to VLANs to separate traffic for different departments or subnets. For example, vlan 10 and vlan 20 can be assigned to specific ports .

• Trunk Configuration: Configure the interface connecting to the router as a trunk to carry multiple VLANs. Use commands like port link-type trunk and port trunk permit vlan 10 20 .

• Router Integration: Connect the switch to a router, which acts as the gateway. The router can use VLAN interfaces or Layer 3 subinterfaces to route traffic between VLANs and provide NAT for Internet access .

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• DHCP Assignment: Configure the router as a DHCP server to assign IP addresses to devices on the switch .

Hyper-V Virtual Switch Setup

For virtualized environments using Hyper-V:

• Open Virtual Switch Manager: Launch Hyper-V Manager and select Virtual Switch Manager from the Actions panel .

• Select External Switch Type: Choose "External" to allow VMs to access the physical network and Internet .

• Select Physical Adapter: Assign the host's active network adapter (Wi-Fi or Ethernet) to the external switch. This bridges the VM network to the physical network .

• Name the Switch: Give the switch a clear name, such as "External Internet Switch," for easy identification .

• Apply Changes: Confirm the warning about temporary host network disconnection and click Apply/OK .

• Assign to VM: In the VM settings, select the newly created external switch for the network adapter. The VM will receive an IP from the DHCP server on the physical network .

• Verify Connectivity: Test by pinging external addresses (e.g., google.com) from the VM to ensure Internet access .

Key Considerations

• Single vs Multiple Adapters: For stability, it is recommended to use a dedicated physical NIC for the external switch if possible .

• Firewall and Security: Ensure host firewall rules allow traffic from the VM subnet to prevent connectivity issues .

• VLAN Support: If your network uses VLANs, configure the external switch and VM network adapter to support the appropriate VLAN IDs . By following these steps, both physical and virtual switches can be configured to provide reliable external network access for connected devices or virtual machines.

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