

How to disable ports on a core switch

Article Overview

Core switch ports can be disabled either administratively via configuration commands or physically using port blockers to prevent unauthorized use.

Administrative Shutdown

For managed switches like Cisco Catalyst series, you can disable a port via the command-line interface (CLI):

- o Log into the switch:

Switch> enable
Switch# configure terminal

- o Enter the interface configuration for the port you want to disable:

Switch(config)# interface fa0/1

- o Shut down the port:

Switch(config-if)# shutdown

This administratively disables the port, preventing any traffic from passing through it while keeping the switch operational .

Physical Port Blocking

If you want to permanently or semi-permanently prevent a port from being used, you can use physical methods:

- o RJ45 port blockers/security caps: Snap into the port and require a special key to remove, effectively preventing accidental connections .
- o Empty RJ45 connectors or cut cables: Inserted into the port to block access, though this is less elegant and may damage the port .
- o Labeling and administrative shutdown together: Even when using physical blockers, it's recommended to shut down the port in the configuration and label it to ensure it is not used .

Port Isolation (Optional)

For switches that support port isolation (e.g., Meraki MS series), you can restrict traffic between ports without fully shutting them down:

- o Navigate to the switch management dashboard.
- o Select the ports to isolate.
- o Enable Isolation in the configuration. This prevents communication between isolated ports while still allowing access to the network gateway, useful in multi-tenant or segmented environments .

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Automated Management via PowerShell

On Windows Server environments with Network Switch Manager, you can disable ports using PowerShell:

```
$Session = New-CimSession -ComputerName "NetworkSwitch01"Disable-NetworkSwitchEthernetPort  
-CimSession $Session -DeviceId "Ethernet17"
```

This method allows remote and scripted management of switch ports, ideal for large deployments .

Best Practices

- o Always document which ports are disabled.
- o Combine administrative shutdown with physical blocking for maximum security.
- o Use port isolation when you need to restrict traffic without fully disabling the port.
- o Test changes in a lab environment before applying to production core switches. By following these methods, you can effectively disable core switch ports to enhance network security and prevent unauthorized access.

The video explains how to use the "show interfaces switchport" command on Cisco switches to obtain detailed

This is a short video showing how to enable and disable a port on a NETGEAR M4300

This video will Show You that How to shutdown or Disable Unused Ports in a Cisco Switch .

Hier sollte eine Beschreibung angezeigt werden, diese Seite lässt dies jedoch nicht zu.

Hi All, Any advice how to disable a port on M4100-26G Managed Network Switch? Users would like to disable unused

On a cisco switch such as a catalyst 2900 & 3500 series switches, you can just shut the port down. It treats each port

Enabling or Disabling Switch Ports To enable or disable selected switch ports: Select the Configuration > Ports > Ports page. If not

Step-by-step free A+ lab: disable unused network ports on Windows and a switch to reduce attack surface and improve security.

In this video, renowned networking expert Sikandar Shaik explains the importance of disabling unused ports

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on

Internal security policies may mandate that an unused port must be protected by several layers to disallow access to

In this video, Sikandar Shaik explains the essential security best practice of disabling

Hi i have Cisco switch model 2960 48 ports i plane to disable three ports on it for Internet service. I want to know how

Solved: Noob alert!! How do I go about disabling / enabling a port on a 3560?

Securing Unused Ports: A Guide to Protecting Networks from Security Threats. Find out how to disable, configure,

We have been disabling ports manually and putting them in a dead Vlan whenever a port shows not connected. Is

I disable any unused ports on managed switches and pull the cable for any of my clients. I'm still trying to convince

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