

Interconnecting core switches from different brands



AI Overview

Core switches from different brands can interoperate as long as they adhere to standard Ethernet protocols, but careful planning is needed for features like VLANs, Layer 3 routing, and redundancy. Compatibility and Standards Switches from different vendors generally follow IEEE Ethernet standards, so basic connectivity using standard ports (1Gbps, 10Gbps, etc.) works without issues. Problems typically arise only when using proprietary features or advanced functions like vendor-specific stacking, link aggregation protocols, or certain QoS implementations. For standard Layer 2 or Layer 3 switching, interoperability is usually reliable.

Layer 2 vs Layer 3 Considerations Layer 2 switches forward traffic based on MAC addresses. Connecting different brands at Layer 2 is straightforward, but ensure that VLAN tagging (802.1Q) is supported consistently across all switches. Layer 3 switches perform routing between VLANs. If one switch supports Layer 3 and another does not, inter-VLAN routing must be handled by the Layer 3 device, and the Layer 2 switches should be configured as access or trunk ports accordingly.

Physical Interconnections Uplinks between core switches can use copper (RJ45) or fiber (SFP/SFP+) depending on distance and bandwidth requirements. Redundancy is recommended: connect multiple links between core switches to allow failover if one link fails. Use link aggregation (LACP) if supported to combine multiple physical links into a single logical connection for higher throughput and redundancy.

Cabling: Standard straight-through Ethernet cables are sufficient for most connections; crossover cables are rarely needed with modern auto-MDI/MDIX ports.

Configuration Best Practices VLAN consistency: Ensure VLAN IDs and trunk configurations match across all switches to prevent traffic loss or loops. Spanning Tree Protocol (STP): Enable STP to prevent lo...

Article Content

SMB Network Design: Core vs. Distribution vs. Access Switches

Don't overspend on network hardware. Our expert guide explains core, distribution, and access switches so you can design the right network for your SMB.

Connecting 2 different vendor switches | Wired Intelligent Edge

In general, mixing different brand equipment should work. Things you may run into are SFP/Optics where many brands prefer and support only their own or a list of supported modules.

How to Connect Two Switches Together: A Comprehensive Guide

How to connect two switches together? Are you looking to expand your network infrastructure and connect multiple switches together? Connecting switches can be achieved through

Accessing other switches from core switch

I have an old catalyst switch and I want to connect these 2 switches together. One of them will be used as core and the second will be used as access

How to Connect Multiple Ethernet Switches Using Fiber

If you have multiple Ethernet switches that need to be connected over long distances, fiber is obviously a preferred choice. Moreover, when it

All Switches with different Brands and Categories

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SFP Compatibility Test | SFP Compatibility Problem Solved I Can ...

☐☐ In this video, I show you how to connect two different branded switches using SFP modules and fiber optic cables. Whether you're using Cisco, Planet, TP-Link, D-Link, Ubiquiti, or any...

Methods of Connecting Multiple Ethernet Switches

There are different methods for connecting Ethernet switches. However, depending on the applications, one must choose a suitable method for

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From core to edge, Cisco network switches provide the performance, high availability, comprehensive security, delivery optimization, and enhanced manageability you need to optimize your network

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We list the 12 network switch vendors for 2025. Our list compares their features, performance, and price to help you pick the right option for your

Connecting two core switches : r/networking

How STP root is selected when you connect two different vendors core layer switches? Can you connect them without changing the Root selection value or you must first check the documentation and make

Connect Optical Transceivers of Different Brands,

Connect Optical Transceivers of Different Brands, Fibers or Wavelengths? Optical transceivers usually work coordinately on a pair of

FS Community

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

What is Interconnect & Cross Connect

In fact, the ability to interconnect with the ecosystem of service providers within a given data center is a core benefit of colocation. There are two

How to Interconnect Optical Modules of Different Brands?

How to Interconnect Optical Modules of Different Brands? A large data center can often accommodate hundreds or even thousands of fiber optic switches, and it is

Switch port trunking between different brands

There are two main topologies for connecting LAN switches, Star where each access switch directly connects back to the Main switch, or Daisy

Best Core Switches for 2026 Enterprise Networks

Discover the top core switches for 2026 enterprise and data center networks. Compare modular, fixed, and high-performance options. Click to find the best fit for your business needs.

Comprehensive Guide to Optical Transceiver Interoperability and ...

Optical transceiver interoperability refers to the ability of transceiver modules from different manufacturers to function correctly with a range of networking equipment—switches,

Core Switch Vs Distribution Switch Vs Access

Core Switch Vs Distribution Switch Vs Access Switch□What''s the difference□ Ethernet networks are expanding and their designs are evolving and getting

VLAN communication between different vendors. Possible?

Question is: if i setup up VLANs on the WS-C3750 core switch, will it be recognized on the TP-Link switch as well? I desire to fragment the network based on the different departments, and

How To Connect A Network Switch To Another Network Switch

Learn how to connect a network switch to another network switch with this comprehensive guide. Understand the

Switch port trunking between different brands

Would they benefit by creating LACP Trunking between switches, or better keep existing paralel single-cable per switch configuration? or would

Connecting core switches

In regards to the core switches, I have 2 X 3750v2 switches acting as core 1 and core 2. In the course Jeremy connects these up using sfp modules and a fibre cable.

Pretty much a over simplified answer is they will work fine together because all switches follow certain standards for data transmission. That said of course you are going to have issue if you...

Contact Us

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