

Catalyst 2960 Power over Ethernet Switches

Ramesh: Hello, everyone, I'm Ramesh Bijor, Product Marketing Manager for Network Systems at Cisco. Thanks for tuning in to this edition of the LAN switching update. This session is one in a series of LAN switching podcasts where we talk about business and deployment considerations in focused five- to ten-minute topics.

Today's session is on the new Catalyst 2960 Switches that bring the Power over Ethernet capability to the 2960 Series for the first time.

With me today is Jessica Koh, the Product Manager at Cisco for the Catalyst 2k switches.

Welcome, Jessica.

Jessica: Thanks, Ramesh. Glad to be here.

Ramesh: Jessica, I have heard that you announced new extensions to the Catalyst 2960 family. Tell me a bit about them.

Jessica: Sure, Ramesh, we have announced three new Catalyst 2960 switches in January 2008. With these switches, Cisco is extending its industrial-leading Catalyst 2960 family by offering two new Power over Ethernet models and a compact powered device (PD) model. The two PoE switches are 24-port Fast Ethernet switches with different PoE configurations for small branch office environments and small and medium businesses. The compact PD switch is an eight-port Fast Ethernet switch that is powered via PoE input port, which is ideal for space- and wiring-constrained environments. All new models support LAN Base software.

Ramesh: What can you do with Power over Ethernet?

Jessica: PoE-powered devices such as IP phones, wireless access points, video surveillance cameras, or scanners to a PoE switch, which supplies power to these devices, these enable the network for rich applications.

Ramesh: But, what are the business benefits of Power over Ethernet?

Jessica: Power over Ethernet can provide a lower total cost of ownership for deployments that incorporate Cisco IP phones and Cisco Aironet wireless LAN access points, as well as any IEEE 802.3af-compliant end device. Power over Ethernet removes the need for wall power to each PoE-enabled device and eliminates the cost for additional electrical cabling that would otherwise be necessary in IP phone and wireless LAN deployments. PoE switches also eliminate the need for power injectors and midspans for powering IP devices, that really save cost and simplify cable plants.

Ramesh: OK. Tell me more about the two PoE models and what configurations they come in.

Jessica: The Catalyst 2960-24PC model supports 24 full PoE Fast Ethernet ports and two dual-purpose uplinks. Each dual purpose uplink port gives you the flexibility to choose between SFP or 10/100/1000 connection. The other model, Catalyst 2960-24LT, is also a 24-port Fast Ethernet switch where 8 out of the 24 ports support PoE. And it has 2 10/100/1000 uplinks. Each PoE port supports up to 15.4W.

Ramesh: Jessica, when would you use one or the other model?

Jessica: If you are looking for PoE support for lots of devices such as IP phones and wireless access points, you would use 2960-24PC that supports PoE on all 24 ports. Also, the 24-port model provides future-proofing for business growth.

On the other hand, an installation may need to support only a few PoE devices, for example, a couple of wireless access points and a few cameras. Current solution may be using midspans and power injectors with non-PoE switches. These devices are expensive and cumbersome and increase operating costs. These installations can benefit from 2960-24LT that supports PoE on 8 ports and eliminates midspans and power injectors.

Ramesh: Earlier you mentioned the compact PD model. Tell me a little bit more about that one.

Jessica: The Cisco Catalyst 2960PD-8TT-L switch has eight 10/100 Mbps ports and receives power over the Gigabit uplink port from an upstream power over Ethernet (PoE) switch. This switch does not need a power supply. The Cisco Catalyst 2960 powered device (PD) switch is ideal for deployments outside the wiring closet such as conference rooms and classrooms with spacing and wiring constraints.

Ramesh: So, I know that you also have other Power over Ethernet switches in our portfolio. What is the Power over Ethernet positioning of Cisco Catalyst 2960 Series Switches and Cisco Catalyst 3560 or 3750 Series Switches?

Jessica: The Catalyst 2960 Series PoE switches with intelligent services are ideally suited for small branch offices that can benefit from converged networks. The Catalyst 2960 Series provides enhanced security, scalable management, and unified network services for applications such as unified communications and mobility. The Catalyst 3750 and 3560 with advanced intelligent services that are better suited for enterprise and midmarket campus wiring closets as well as large branch offices. The Catalyst 3750 and 3560 Series Switches provide investment protection and deliver increased availability and scalability through advanced L3 services, advanced security such as man-in-the-middle attack threat mitigation features, and increased control for applications like TelePresence.

Ramesh: Where would you position Catalyst 2960 as compared to Catalyst Express 500?

Jessica: The Catalyst 2960 is primarily targeted at small branch offices and provides enhanced security, such as ACLs, DHCP snooping, 802.1x, and NAC enhancements. It also supports unified network services with features such as AutoQoS, trusted boundary, voice over features, FlexLinks, and PVRST+. Lastly, 2960 supports higher manageability with Cisco IOS CLI, SNMP, CNA, and Device Manager. With CiscoWorks LMS solution, 2960 can support hundreds of branch offices. On the other hand, Catalyst Express 500 is targeted at small and medium businesses with many simple and ease-of-use features.

Ramesh: Jessica, what are the benefits of Catalyst 2960 over commonly available switches?

Jessica: Cisco offers enhanced security with NAC support, QoS, manageability, and availability features with complete end-to-end solutions. Cisco products offer higher reliability and better service and support at the global level. All these enterprise-class features are available on the compact switches as well.

Ramesh: As always, this is great information, Jessica. Where can I find technical and product specifications and other additional information about the Cisco Catalyst 2960 Series?

Jessica: For product literature, including data sheets and product specifications, you can visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/catalyst2960>.

Ramesh: Thanks, Jessica. Well, that wraps it up for today. Thanks for listening, everyone. Stay tuned for another session on the latest in switching news.



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