

## Smartports Features

**Andy:** Hello, everyone. I'm Andy Gremett, Product Marketing Manager for Network Systems at Cisco. Thanks for tuning in to this edition of our online LAN switching update. This session is one in a series of LAN switching podcasts where we talk about business and deployment considerations in focused 5- to 10-minute topics.

Today's session will cover SmartPorts feature found in Catalyst switches.

With me today is one of Cisco's product managers for the Catalyst desktop switches, Anupam Barua. Anupam, welcome!

**Anupam:** Thanks, Andy. Glad to be here.

**Andy:** So, Anupam, my impression of SmartPorts are that they are a great feature, but not everyone knows about them or uses them?

**Anupam:** Yes, Andy, you are right. SmartPorts can save you time in configuring your switch and help eliminate configuration errors. They provide a great way to enable mass switch deployment.

**Andy:** SmartPorts is really a set of CLI commands that can be applied to an interface with just one command. Not really a new command, just a predetermined set of commands. Is that about right?

**Anupam:** Yes, that's right. These macros are a set of commands that can be applied to a port. They provide a great way to save and share common configurations. For example, Cisco offers a set of preconfigured macros that can quickly enable quality of service and security. These are pretested Cisco recommended baseline configurations. In addition, you can also define a set of commands based on your specific network needs.

**Andy:** Why do you think SmartPorts are becoming more popular today?

**Anupam:** Very simple: simplified deployment, time saved in configuring, and fewer configuration errors are three good reasons.

Downtime is expensive, Andy. Forrester recently surveyed 250 Fortune 1000 companies, and they found that depending on the application, the cost of network downtime can be up to \$13,000 per minute.

Did you know that 40 percent of downtime is attributed to operational errors? This includes things like improper network design, improper configuration, and insufficient feature sets.

**Andy:** It would seem that SmartPorts would also allow me to better use features across my entire network, kind of ensuring that similar port types had similar or the same configuration. This would help me get everything I need from my network.

**Anupam:** Exactly. SmartPorts can also help you release a new feature faster across your network.

**Andy:** Ok, you have my attention. Can you tell me more about the Cisco default SmartPorts macros?

**Anupam:** Sure. There are two deployment “roles” for switches: access and aggregation. Access roles are for connecting users or servers. Aggregation, on the other hand, is used for connecting to other networking devices, such as other switches or routers.

Some of the macros that support these two areas are, for example:

- Cisco-desktop: Cisco desktop combines network security and reliability when connecting a desktop device.
- Cisco-phone: Combines the desktop macro with the addition of a dedicated voice VLAN for voice traffic.
- Cisco-switch is used for connecting to other switches.
- Cisco-router is used when you’re connecting to a core router.
- And you can use Cisco wireless for connecting to an access point.

**Andy:** So I can use these predefined macros, or I can make my own. Is that right?

**Anupam:** Yes. You can create your own macros and then use them for your deployments across other switches in your network. This would provide you with some of the same benefits as the Cisco predefined macros in terms of reducing errors and consistent configurations across the network.

**Andy:** This sounds great. What switches support SmartPorts?

**Anupam:** SmartPorts is supported on the Catalyst 2940, 2950, 2960, 3560, 3560-E, 3750, 3750-E, and Catalyst 4500 Series Switches, as well as in our Catalyst Express 500.

**Andy:** So I would imagine support for the Catalyst Express 500 must come from Cisco Network Assistant. Is that right?

**Anupam:** Yes, Cisco Network Assistant provides a graphical interface for configuring SmartPorts, and Cisco Network Assistant is free to download.

**Andy:** This is good information. It sounds like there are some real advantages to using SmartPorts, and I can use it on almost any Catalyst desktop switch. Anupam, are there documents or videos that we can read or watch to get more information on SmartPorts?

**Anupam:** Yes, we have materials that address both technical issues and business benefits. You can go to <http://www.cisco.com/go/smartports> and get all the information about all these predefined macros.

**Andy:** Thank you very much, Anupam. Well, that wraps it up for today. If you would like a transcript of this session or would like to listen to other podcasts in this series, you can go to <http://www.cisco.com/go/switching> for more information. Thanks for listening, everyone. Stay tuned for another session on the latest in switching news.

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