

Stackwise Plus Architecture for Cisco Catalyst 3750-E Series Switches, Part 2

Ramesh: Hello everyone. I'm Ramesh Bijor, Product Marketing Manager for Network Systems at Cisco Systems. Thanks for tuning in to this edition of the LAN Switching Update. This session is one in a series of monthly LAN Switching podcasts where we talk about business and deployment considerations in focused 5- to 10-minute topics.

Today's session will be the second part of the two-part series on StackWise Plus, the latest stacking architecture for the new Catalyst 3750-E Series Switches.

With me today is William Choe, Manager, Product Management at Cisco for the new Catalyst 3750-E Series of stacking switches.

Welcome, William.

William: Thanks, Ramesh. I'm glad to be here.

Ramesh: So, William, in the last session we covered some of the technology behind StackWise Plus. Today, let's talk about some of the ways that StackWise Plus helps maximize our customers' network investments.

William: Yes, so with new 3750-E Series, the StackWise Plus as a stacking architecture improved on the existing StackWise technology, which is 32 Gpbs up to 64 Gpbs. Moreover, it also provides an investment protection the way that you can actually use the new 3750-E Series to stack with existing Catalyst 3750s. As well, we'll also provide two TwinGig converter modules with every switch, such that you can use Gigabit Ethernet uplinks today, and over time, as needed, you can actually migrate to dual 10 gig uplinks in a line rate nonblocking fashion.

Ramesh So folks with Catalyst 3750s can stack the new 3750-E switches with their existing stacks. Sounds like a great way to add new capabilities to their existing switches without doing a forklift upgrade. Are there any limitations that we need to be aware of? Things like fewer switches per stack or special cables?

William: In fact, with the new 3750-E Series, we're building upon all of the great features that you experience with the 3750 current StackWise technology, and so you'll use the same cables and connectors as well as being able to stack up to nine switches per stack and ultimately maximizing your investment they have in your existing switches.

Ramesh: I also understand that StackWise Plus allows us to stack the Catalyst 3750-Es with integrated routers and some of the other capabilities such as wireless access points?

William: That's correct. So, StackWise was really architected as an extensible capability such that it was used in multiple Cisco products, including the ISRs, the 3750 wireless controller, and the new E-series family of products. And this ultimately allows you to integrate them all together in a plug-and-play fashion and being able to mix and match all these different configurations for a great branch office deployment. Complementary to that, you'll also have the new RPS 2300, which allows redundant power supply capabilities for all of these devices: the ISRs, the wireless

controller, and the new 3750-E Series included.

Ramesh: Outside of the advantages of physically stacking switches and routers and wireless connectivity together, are there some other advantages that StackWise Plus supports that you should be telling us about?

William: Yes, absolutely. So one of the great benefits of StackWise technology is high availability. In the world of real-time communications, the ability to do cross-stack EtherChannel and having diverse uplinks on any one of the stacked switches really provides high-availability capability. Moreover, with the 1 for N master redundancy in the sense that any one of the switches could be a master in the event of a failover, in taking over configuration forwarding and control, becomes integral to a high-availability application. And then lastly, with the ability to do hot adds and deletes of any switches at any time by adding or removing a switch without affecting performance on the existing switches also is another key component to a high-availability application.

Ramesh: Oh, that's really good. So, William, I would like to know, how do you configure and manage these new 3750-E switches?

William: And this is actually the other great benefit of StackWise technology in that we support automatic image and configuration management. So effectively, the master switch provides the host image to any one of the switches in the stack as a slave and then also provides configuration download capability. So in the event that you had a failed switch, and you replaced it with a light switch, the configuration would automatically download it to that configuration, maximizing your uptime and service velocity.

Ramesh: Good. Just curious here, William, what types of customers are looking at these new switches? You know, like hospitals, schools, etc.?

William: So, we've really enjoyed great success with the Catalyst 3750 family of switches. From all different markets, all different theaters, and really all different verticals, from your largest customers or vertical markets in the automotive, finance, as well as your retail environments as well as your midmarket environments such as K through 12, higher education, and professional services such as law firms, accounting firms, and real estate.

Ramesh: So, more companies seem to be turning to technology to create competitive advantages. So what are some of the key trends that are happening in the networking area that they should be aware of?

William: Well, it's probably no surprise, we're seeing three major trends in the campus LAN environment: voice and video are becoming integral in every campus environment, Power over Ethernet as an enabler for IP telephony, wireless access points as well as IP surveillance is another key trend; and then lastly certainly Gigabit to the desktop and complementary to that is 10 Gigabit Ethernet uplinks is another key trend that we're seeing in the campus LAN environment.

Ramesh: Good. So as always this is great information for us and our customers. It sounds like there are some real advantages to using the Catalyst 3750-E switches. William, are there any materials we can read or watch to get more information on stacking and these new switches?

William: Yes, we actually have quite a bit of materials that we've been developing over the last 6 to 12 months that address both technical as well as business benefits. We have some great flash and video demos for you to watch. So please go to Cisco.com and search for 3750-E Series today.

Ramesh: Thanks, William. 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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