



Configuring VLAN Trunks

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Prerequisites for VLAN Trunks

The IEEE 802.1Q trunks impose these limitations on the trunking strategy for a network:

- In a network of Cisco devices connected through IEEE 802.1Q trunks, the devices maintain one spanning-tree instance for each VLAN allowed on the trunks. Non-Cisco devices might support one spanning-tree instance for all VLANs.

When you connect a Cisco device to a non-Cisco device through an IEEE 802.1Q trunk, the Cisco device combines the spanning-tree instance of the VLAN of the trunk with the spanning-tree instance of the non-Cisco IEEE 802.1Q device. However, spanning-tree information for each VLAN is maintained by Cisco device separated by a cloud of non-Cisco IEEE 802.1Q devices. The non-Cisco IEEE 802.1Q cloud separating the Cisco devices is treated as a single trunk link between the devices.

- Make sure the native VLAN for an IEEE 802.1Q trunk is the same on both ends of the trunk link. If the native VLAN on one end of the trunk is different from the native VLAN on the other end, spanning-tree loops might result.
- Disabling spanning tree on the native VLAN of an IEEE 802.1Q trunk without disabling spanning tree on every VLAN in the network can potentially cause spanning-tree loops. We recommend that you leave spanning tree enabled on the native VLAN of an IEEE 802.1Q trunk or disable spanning tree on every VLAN in the network. Make sure your network is loop-free before disabling spanning tree.

Information About VLAN Trunks

Trunking Overview

A trunk is a point-to-point link between one or more Ethernet switch interfaces and another networking device such as a router or a switch. Ethernet trunks carry the traffic of multiple VLANs over a single link, and you can extend the VLANs across an entire network.



Note You can configure a trunk on a single Ethernet interface or on an EtherChannel bundle.

Trunking Modes

Ethernet trunk interfaces support different trunking modes. You can set an interface as trunking or nontrunking or to negotiate trunking with the neighboring interface. To autonegotiate trunking, the interfaces must be in the same VTP domain.

Trunk negotiation is managed by the Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP), which is a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP). However, some internetworking devices might forward DTP frames improperly, which could cause misconfigurations.

Layer 2 Interface Modes

Table 1: Layer 2 Interface Modes

Mode	Function
switchport mode access	Puts the interface (access port) into permanent nontrunking mode and negotiates to convert the link into a nontrunk link. The interface becomes a nontrunk interface regardless of whether or not the neighboring interface is a trunk interface.
switchport mode dynamic auto	Makes the interface able to convert the link to a trunk link. The interface becomes a trunk interface if the neighboring interface is set to trunk or desirable mode. The default switchport mode for all Ethernet interfaces is dynamic auto .
switchport mode dynamic desirable	Makes the interface actively attempt to convert the link to a trunk link. The interface becomes a trunk interface if the neighboring interface is set to trunk , desirable , or auto mode.
switchport mode trunk	Puts the interface into permanent trunking mode and negotiates to convert the neighboring link into a trunk link. The interface becomes a trunk interface even if the neighboring interface is not a trunk interface.

Mode	Function
<code>switchport nonegotiate</code>	Prevents the interface from generating DTP frames. You can use this command only when the interface switchport mode is access or trunk . You must manually configure the neighboring interface as a trunk interface to establish a trunk link.

Allowed VLANs on a Trunk

By default, a trunk port sends traffic to and receives traffic from all VLANs. All VLAN IDs, 1 to 4094, are allowed on each trunk. However, you can remove VLANs from the allowed list, preventing traffic from those VLANs from passing over the trunk.

To reduce the risk of spanning-tree loops or storms, you can disable VLAN 1 on any individual VLAN trunk port by removing VLAN 1 from the allowed list. When you remove VLAN 1 from a trunk port, the interface continues to send and receive management traffic, for example, Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP), Port Aggregation Protocol (PAgP), Link Aggregation Control Protocol (LACP), DTP, and VTP in VLAN 1.

If a trunk port with VLAN 1 disabled is converted to a nontrunk port, it is added to the access VLAN. If the access VLAN is set to 1, the port will be added to VLAN 1, regardless of the **switchport trunk allowed** setting. The same is true for any VLAN that has been disabled on the port.

A trunk port can become a member of a VLAN if the VLAN is enabled, if VTP knows of the VLAN, and if the VLAN is in the allowed list for the port. When VTP detects a newly enabled VLAN and the VLAN is in the allowed list for a trunk port, the trunk port automatically becomes a member of the enabled VLAN. When VTP detects a new VLAN and the VLAN is not in the allowed list for a trunk port, the trunk port does not become a member of the new VLAN.

Load Sharing on Trunk Ports

Load sharing divides the bandwidth supplied by parallel trunks connecting switches. To avoid loops, STP normally blocks all but one parallel link between switches. Using load sharing, you divide the traffic between the links according to which VLAN the traffic belongs.

You configure load sharing on trunk ports by using STP port priorities or STP path costs. For load sharing using STP port priorities, both load-sharing links must be connected to the same switch. For load sharing using STP path costs, each load-sharing link can be connected to the same switch or to two different switches.

Network Load Sharing Using STP Priorities

When two ports on the same switch form a loop, the switch uses the STP port priority to decide which port is enabled and which port is in a blocking state. You can set the priorities on a parallel trunk port so that the port carries all the traffic for a given VLAN. The trunk port with the higher priority (lower values) for a VLAN is forwarding traffic for that VLAN. The trunk port with the lower priority (higher values) for the same VLAN remains in a blocking state for that VLAN. One trunk port sends or receives all traffic for the VLAN.

Network Load Sharing Using STP Path Cost

You can configure parallel trunks to share VLAN traffic by setting different path costs on a trunk and associating the path costs with different sets of VLANs, blocking different ports for different VLANs. The VLANs keep the traffic separate and maintain redundancy in the event of a lost link.

Feature Interactions

Trunking interacts with other features in these ways:

- A trunk port cannot be a secure port.
- Trunk ports can be grouped into EtherChannel port groups, but all trunks in the group must have the same configuration. When a group is first created, all ports follow the parameters set for the first port to be added to the group. If you change the configuration of one of these parameters, the switch propagates the setting that you entered to all ports in the group:
 - Allowed-VLAN list.
 - STP port priority for each VLAN.
 - STP Port Fast setting.
 - Trunk status:
 - If one port in a port group ceases to be a trunk, all ports cease to be trunks.
- If you try to enable IEEE 802.1x on a trunk port, an error message appears, and IEEE 802.1x is not enabled. If you try to change the mode of an IEEE 802.1x-enabled port to trunk, the port mode is not changed.
- A port in dynamic mode can negotiate with its neighbor to become a trunk port. If you try to enable IEEE 802.1x on a dynamic port, an error message appears, and IEEE 802.1x is not enabled. If you try to change the mode of an IEEE 802.1x-enabled port to dynamic, the port mode is not changed.

Default Layer 2 Ethernet Interface VLAN Configuration

The following table shows the default Layer 2 Ethernet interface VLAN configuration.

Table 2: Default Layer 2 Ethernet Interface VLAN Configuration

Feature	Default Setting
Interface mode	switchport mode dynamic auto
Allowed VLAN range	VLANs 1 to 4094
VLAN range eligible for pruning	VLANs 2 to 1001
Default VLAN (for access ports)	VLAN 1
Native VLAN (for IEEE 802.1Q trunks)	VLAN 1

How to Configure VLAN Trunks

To avoid trunking misconfigurations, configure interfaces connected to devices that do not support DTP to not forward DTP frames, that is, to turn off DTP.

- If you do not intend to trunk across those links, use the **switchport mode access** interface configuration command to disable trunking.
- To enable trunking to a device that does not support DTP, use the **switchport mode trunk** and **switchport nonegotiate** interface configuration commands to cause the interface to become a trunk but to not generate DTP frames.

Configuring an Ethernet Interface as a Trunk Port

Configuring a Trunk Port

Because trunk ports send and receive VTP advertisements, to use VTP you must ensure that at least one trunk port is configured on the switch and that this trunk port is connected to the trunk port of a second switch. Otherwise, the switch cannot receive any VTP advertisements.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>interface-id</i> Example: Device(config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/2	Specifies the port to be configured for trunking, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport mode {dynamic {auto desirable} trunk} Example: Device(config-if)# switchport mode dynamic desirable	Configures the interface as a Layer 2 trunk (required only if the interface is a Layer 2 access port or tunnel port or to specify the trunking mode). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dynamic auto: Sets the interface to a trunk link if the neighboring interface is set to trunk or desirable mode. This is the default. • dynamic desirable: Sets the interface to a trunk link if the neighboring interface is set to trunk, desirable, or auto mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trunk: Sets the interface in permanent trunking mode and negotiate to convert the link to a trunk link even if the neighboring interface is not a trunk interface.
Step 5	switchport access vlan <i>vlan-id</i> Example: <pre>Device(config-if)# switchport access vlan 200</pre>	(Optional) Specifies the default VLAN, which is used if the interface stops trunking.
Step 6	switchport trunk native vlan <i>vlan-id</i> Example: <pre>Device(config-if)# switchport trunk native vlan 200</pre>	Specifies the native VLAN for IEEE 802.1Q trunks.
Step 7	end Example: <pre>Device(config)# end</pre>	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 8	show interfaces <i>interface-id</i> switchport Example: <pre>Device# show interfaces gigabitethernet 1/0/2 switchport</pre>	Displays the switch port configuration of the interface in the <i>Administrative Mode</i> and the <i>Administrative Trunking Encapsulation</i> fields of the display.
Step 9	show interfaces <i>interface-id</i> trunk Example: <pre>Device# show interfaces gigabitethernet 1/0/2 trunk</pre>	Displays the trunk configuration of the interface.
Step 10	copy running-config startup-config Example: <pre>Device# copy running-config startup-config</pre>	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

Defining the Allowed VLANs on a Trunk

VLAN 1 is the default VLAN on all trunk ports in all Cisco switches, and it has previously been a requirement that VLAN 1 always be enabled on every trunk link. You can use the VLAN 1 minimization feature to disable VLAN 1 on any individual VLAN trunk link so that no user traffic (including spanning-tree advertisements) is sent or received on VLAN 1.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface interface-id Example: Device (config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/2	Specifies the port to be configured, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport mode trunk Example: Device (config-if)# switchport mode trunk	Configures the interface as a VLAN trunk port.
Step 5	end Example: Device (config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	show interfaces interface-id switchport Example: Device# show interfaces gigabitethernet 1/0/2 switchport	Verifies your entries in the <i>Trunking VLANs Enabled</i> field of the display.
Step 7	copy running-config startup-config Example: Device# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

Changing the Pruning-Eligible List

The pruning-eligible list applies only to trunk ports. Each trunk port has its own eligibility list. VTP pruning must be enabled for this procedure to take effect.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>interface-id</i> Example: Device(config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/1-48	Selects the trunk port for which VLANs should be pruned, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport trunk pruning vlan { add except none remove } <i>vlan-list</i> [, <i>vlan</i> [, <i>vlan</i> [,,,]]]	Configures the list of VLANs allowed to be pruned from the trunk. For explanations about using the add , except , none , and remove keywords, see the command reference for this release. Separate non-consecutive VLAN IDs with a comma and no spaces; use a hyphen to designate a range of IDs. Valid IDs are 2 to 1001. Extended-range VLANs (VLAN IDs 1006 to 4094) cannot be pruned. VLANs that are pruning-ineligible receive flooded traffic. The default list of VLANs allowed to be pruned contains VLANs 2 to 1001.
Step 5	end Example: Device(config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	show interfaces <i>interface-id</i> switchport Example: Device# show interfaces gigabitethernet 1/0/2 switchport	Verifies your entries in the <i>Pruning VLANs Enabled</i> field of the display.
Step 7	copy running-config startup-config Example:	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device# <code>copy running-config startup-config</code>	

Configuring the Native VLAN for Untagged Traffic

A trunk port configured with IEEE 802.1Q tagging can receive both tagged and untagged traffic. By default, the switch forwards untagged traffic in the native VLAN configured for the port. The native VLAN is VLAN 1 by default.

The native VLAN can be assigned any VLAN ID.

If a packet has a VLAN ID that is the same as the outgoing port native VLAN ID, the packet is sent untagged; otherwise, the switch sends the packet with a tag.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> <code>enable</code>	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# <code>configure terminal</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>interface-id</i> Example: Device(config)# <code>interface gigabitethernet 1/0/2</code>	Defines the interface that is configured as the IEEE 802.1Q trunk, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport trunk native vlan <i>vlan-id</i> Example: Device(config-if)# <code>switchport trunk native vlan 12</code>	Configures the VLAN that is sending and receiving untagged traffic on the trunk port. For <i>vlan-id</i> , the range is 1 to 4094.
Step 5	end Example: Device(config)# <code>end</code>	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 6	show interfaces <i>interface-id</i> switchport Example: Device# show interfaces gigabitethernet 1/0/2 switchport	Verifies your entries in the <i>Trunking Native Mode VLAN</i> field.
Step 7	copy running-config startup-config Example: Device# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

Configuring Trunk Ports for Load Sharing

Configuring Load Sharing Using STP Port Priorities

These steps describe how to configure a network with load sharing using STP port priorities.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	vtp domain <i>domain-name</i> Example: Device (config)# vtp domain workdomain	Configures a VTP administrative domain. The domain name can be 1 to 32 characters.
Step 4	vtp mode server Example: Device (config)# vtp mode server	Configures Switch A as the VTP server.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 5	end Example: Device(config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 6	show vtp status Example: Device# show vtp status	Verifies the VTP configuration on both Switch A and Switch B. In the display, check the <i>VTP Operating Mode</i> and the <i>VTP Domain Name</i> fields.
Step 7	show vlan Example: Device# show vlan	Verifies that the VLANs exist in the database on Switch A.
Step 8	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 9	interface interface-id Example: Device(config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/2	Defines the interface to be configured as a trunk, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 10	switchport mode trunk Example: Device(config-if)# switchport mode trunk	Configures the port as a trunk port.
Step 11	end Example: Device(config)# end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 12	show interfaces interface-id switchport Example: Device# show interfaces gigabitethernet 1/0/2 switchport	Verifies the VLAN configuration.
Step 13	Repeat the above steps on Switch A for a second port in the switch.	

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 14	Repeat the above steps on Switch B to configure the trunk ports that connect to the trunk ports configured on Switch A.	
Step 15	show vlan Example: Device# show vlan	When the trunk links come up, VTP passes the VTP and VLAN information to Switch B. This command verifies that Switch B has learned the VLAN configuration.
Step 16	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode on Switch A.
Step 17	interface interface-id Example: Device (config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/1	Defines the interface to set the STP port priority, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 18	spanning-tree vlan vlan-range port-priority priority-value Example: Device (config-if)# spanning-tree vlan 8-10 port-priority 16	Assigns the port priority for the VLAN range specified. Enter a port priority value from 0 to 240. Port priority values increment by 16.
Step 19	exit Example: Device (config-if)# exit	Returns to global configuration mode.
Step 20	interface interface-id Example: Device (config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/2	Defines the interface to set the STP port priority, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 21	spanning-tree vlan vlan-range port-priority priority-value Example: Device (config-if)# spanning-tree vlan 3-6 port-priority 16	Assigns the port priority for the VLAN range specified. Enter a port priority value from 0 to 240. Port priority values increment by 16.
Step 22	end Example:	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device (config) # end	
Step 23	show running-config Example: Device# show running-config	Verifies your entries.
Step 24	copy running-config startup-config Example: Device# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

Configuring Load Sharing Using STP Path Cost

These steps describe how to configure a network with load sharing using STP path costs.

Procedure

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable Example: Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter your password if prompted.
Step 2	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	interface <i>interface-id</i> Example: Device (config) # interface gigabitethernet 1/0/1	Defines the interface to be configured as a trunk, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 4	switchport mode trunk Example: Device (config-if) # switchport mode trunk	Configures the port as a trunk port.

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 5	exit Example: Device (config-if) # exit	Returns to global configuration mode.
Step 6	Repeat Steps 2 through 4 on a second interface in Switch A.	
Step 7	end Example: Device (config) # end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 8	show running-config Example: Device# show running-config	Verifies your entries. In the display, make sure that the interfaces are configured as trunk ports.
Step 9	show vlan Example: Device# show vlan	When the trunk links come up, Switch A receives the VTP information from the other switches. This command verifies that Switch A has learned the VLAN configuration.
Step 10	configure terminal Example: Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 11	interface interface-id Example: Device (config) # interface gigabitethernet 1/0/1	Defines the interface on which to set the STP cost, and enters interface configuration mode.
Step 12	spanning-tree vlan vlan-range cost cost-value Example: Device (config-if) # spanning-tree vlan 2-4 cost 30	Sets the spanning-tree path cost to 30 for VLANs 2 through 4.
Step 13	end Example:	Returns to global configuration mode.

	Command or Action	Purpose
	Device(config-if)# end	
Step 14	Repeat Steps 9 through 13 on the other configured trunk interface on Switch A, and set the spanning-tree path cost to 30 for VLANs 8, 9, and 10.	
Step 15	exit Example: Device(config)# exit	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
Step 16	show running-config Example: Device# show running-config	Verifies your entries. In the display, verify that the path costs are set correctly for both trunk interfaces.
Step 17	copy running-config startup-config Example: Device# copy running-config startup-config	(Optional) Saves your entries in the configuration file.

Configuration Examples for VLAN Trunking

Example: Configuring a Trunk Port

The following example shows how to configure a port as an IEEE 802.1Q trunk. The example assumes that the neighbor interface is configured to support IEEE 802.1Q trunking.

```
Switch# configure terminal
Enter configuration commands, one per line. End with CNTL/Z.
Switch(config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/2
Switch(config-if)# switchport mode dynamic desirable
Switch(config-if)# end
```

Example: Removing a VLAN from a Port

This example shows how to remove VLAN 2 from the allowed VLAN list on a port:

```
Switch(config)# interface gigabitethernet 1/0/1
Switch(config-if)# switchport trunk allowed vlan remove 2
```

```
Switch(config-if) # end
```

Feature History for VLAN Trunks

This table provides release and related information for features explained in this module.

These features are available on all releases subsequent to the one they were introduced in, unless noted otherwise.

Release	Feature	Feature Information
Cisco IOS Release 15.2(7)E3k	VLAN Trunks	A trunk is a point-to-point link between one or more Ethernet interfaces and another networking device such as a router or a controller.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform and software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to <http://www.cisco.com/go/cfn>.