

How to interconnect two core switches



Article Overview

The optimal way to connect two core switches is to use a combination of Layer-3 point-to-point links for routing and Layer-2 trunks for VLAN traffic, ensuring redundancy and proper spanning tree configuration.

Connection Methods

1. Layer-3 Point-to-Point Links: For core switches, it is recommended to establish Layer-3 connections using dedicated VLAN interfaces (SVIs) or routed ports. Each link should have its own subnet and IP addresses, allowing the switches to route traffic efficiently without creating Layer-2 loops. This approach reduces STP complexity and avoids broadcast storms between cores (Cisco community guidance) . 2. Layer-2 Trunks: In addition to Layer-3 links, a Layer-2 trunk can be configured between the core switches to carry multiple VLANs. This trunk allows VLAN traffic to traverse both switches while maintaining VLAN separation. It is common to create a dedicated VLAN for the point-to-point link to simplify management and avoid conflicts with production VLANs . 3. Redundancy and Spanning Tree:

- Use Rapid-PVST or MSTP to manage Layer-2 loops.
- Define primary and secondary root bridges for each VLAN to control traffic paths.
- Align HSRP or VRRP active gateways with the spanning tree topology to ensure optimal routing for end devices . 4. Stacking vs Cascading:
 - Stacking: If the switches support stacking, use stacking ports and cables to create a single logical switch. This provides high bandwidth and simplified management but requires switches from the same vendor .
 - Cascading: If stacking is not supported, connect switches using multiple Ethernet I...

Article Content

Oct 28, 2025

Connecting two core switches : r/networking

Both Office and Lab network have switches in spine (access layer) where servers or desktops are connected. As Edge core is

Oct 06, 2025

Connecting Switches Together

I'm going to show you really quickly the process for connecting switches together and how

Jun 10, 2026

HSRP between 2 access switches and 2 core switches

Hi I am looking for running HSRP between 2 access switches and 2 core switches for client PC and Server network's

Sep 04, 2025

Routing Between VLANs & Layer 3 Switches

Learn what a Router Sub-interface and a L3 Switch is, as well as how to configure both of them on Cisco devices to enable Routing

Aug 08, 2025

Network with inter vlan routing

I have two routers (in my opinion for redundancy like HSRP). They are connected to 2 core switches L3 (in my opinion

Jun 22, 2026

How to Connect Multiple Switches together

The post introduces how to connect multiple switches together by three methods including cascade, stack, and cluster.

Jun 30, 2026

How to Connect Multiple Ethernet Switches Using Fiber

In the star topology, all devices need to be connected to the central hub, which means the core switch must have

Sep 28, 2025

How to interlink switches

Connect the servers and services (such as internet gateway) to this central switch, and then connect the other

Mar 13, 2026

Solved: interconnecting two core switches

Solved: Hi all, I need to connect two Cisco C4500X, using a 1000BaseLH transceiver. Each core switch manage its

Jul 01, 2026

How to connect multiple switches together?

For example, the core switching fabric in my office is two gigabit switches with 4 ports connecting them, providing a

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Solved: interconnecting two core switches

Yes, I'm connecting a pair of switches configured in VSS mode to another pair of switches configured in VSS mode. I

Jan 16, 2026

How do I setup two switches together?

How to Setup Two Switches Together Setting up two switches together can be a crucial step in expanding your

Sep 25, 2025

How to Build Intercommunication between Two Switches: A ...

Connecting two switches or configuring them to prevent access between each other can be complex. This guide will

Feb 15, 2026

Can you connect 2 switches together?

Can You Connect 2 Switches Together? In today's network infrastructure, switches play a crucial role in connecting

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Best way to connect multiple switches together

Maybe the switches were just in awe of your amazing topology? Seriously though, if you can take the time, do it again, but only

Aug 23, 2025

connecting multiple switches together

Layer 2 doesn't work without Layer 1.) exist between two or more switches then the switches in question must be

Sep 11, 2025

How to Connect Multiple Ethernet Switches

This article will explore three common connection methods: switch cascading, switch stacking, and switch clustering,

Oct 21, 2025

Linking of multiple Ethernet switches — cascading, stacking and ...

In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore these three methodologies, providing insights on how they work, and help

Jan 08, 2026

How to Connect Two Switches Together: A Comprehensive Guide

Connecting switches can be achieved through two common methods: cascading and stacking. In this guide, we will

Apr 26, 2026

How To Connect Two Switches Together In a Network

There are three main types of switches - unmanaged, managed and smart switches. In this article, we will focus on

Apr 16, 2026

Designing a redundant switching infrastructure

The hardware bought was out of my hands, but it's fairly decent high-end switching that should be able to achieve what

Dec 09, 2025

How To Connect 2 Switches Together

With the right tools and knowledge, connecting two switches together is a relatively simple task. In this guide, we'll

Jul 12, 2026

Spark Stacking — DGX Spark User Guide

Spark Stacking # Connecting DGX Spark Systems into a Cluster # Overview # This guide explains how to connect

Apr 15, 2026

How To Connect Two Switches Together In a Network

Switches are typically used in local area networks (LANs) and they allow multiple devices to communicate and share

Apr 05, 2026

Connecting multiple switches correctly

Plug all other switches into the core switch above. These switches would be known as "Edge switches" Obviously I am

Feb 16, 2026

Solved: CORE Switch Interconnection

Solved: What is the Best way to interconnect two core switches with a huge bandwidth Link? Sent from Cisco

Feb 22, 2026

Connecting multiple cisco dwitches together

What is the best approach, protocol and configuration to use when connecting 3 nx 9000 cisco switches together as

Aug 19, 2025

How To Connect A Network Switch To Another Network

Learn how to connect a network switch to another network switch with this comprehensive

Contact Us

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