

Monitoring Network Core Switches



Article Overview

Monitoring a core switch involves tracking its availability, performance, traffic, and health using tools like SNMP, NPM solutions, and network monitoring software to ensure optimal network performance and reliability.

Understanding the Core Switch

A core switch serves as the high-capacity backbone of a network, centralizing data flow and connecting distribution and access switches. It handles massive volumes of traffic, routes data efficiently, and ensures minimal latency and maximum throughput. Core switches often include redundant power supplies, advanced security features, and centralized management capabilities to maintain continuous operation and network stability . Monitoring these devices is critical because any failure can impact a large portion of the network .

Key Metrics to Monitor

When monitoring a core switch, focus on the following metrics:

- Availability and uptime: Ensure the switch is operational using SNMP ping or similar methods .
- Port status and utilization: Track which ports are active, blocked, or forwarding, and monitor traffic levels to prevent congestion .
- CPU and memory usage: High utilization can indicate performance bottlenecks .
- Traffic flow and bandwidth: Measure IN/OUT traffic per port to detect overuse or underuse

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