

RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

Is the switch s aggregation and uplink used for monitoring



Overview

What you need is link aggregation (LAG), preferably LACP which is an IEEE, vendor-agnostic aggregation protocol.

Key Takeaways

Standard switch aggregation and uplinks are primarily for bandwidth and redundancy, but specialized aggregation setups like TAP aggregation can be used for monitoring network traffic. Standard Link Aggregation

Link aggregation (LAG), also called port bonding or EtherChannel, combines multiple physical ports into a single logical link to increase bandwidth and provide redundancy. This is commonly used for:

- Switch-to-switch connections to handle higher traffic loads and ensure network resilience.
- Switch-to-client connections for high-performance servers or devices requiring more throughput than a single port can provide.
- Load balancing and failover, where traffic is distributed across multiple member links, and the link remains active even if one member fails . Standard uplinks and aggregated ports are not inherently designed for monitoring; their main purpose is performance and reliability. They carry normal network traffic and do not automatically provide packet visibility for analysis.

Aggregation for Monitoring

Monitoring traffic requires capturing or redirecting packets without disrupting normal network operations. This is achieved through:

- TAP aggregation switches: These switches aggregate traffic from multiple test access points (TAPs) or SPAN ports and forward it to monitoring tools such as packet sniffers, RMON probes, or intrusion detection systems. The TAP aggregation switch can filter and redirect traffic to multiple analysis devices using internal multicast groups .
- SPAN (Switched Port Analyzer) ports: These mirror traffic from one or more ports or VLANs to a monitoring port. Aggregated uplinks can be mirrored to a SPAN port for observation, but the aggregation itself is not the monitoring mechanism—it simply carries the mirrored traffic. In essence, while standard LAGs and uplinks improve bandwidth and redundancy, they are not used for monitoring by default. Monitoring requires additional configuration, such as TAPs, SPAN ports, or dedicated aggregation switches designed for traffic analysis .

Summary

- Standard aggregation/uplinks: Increase throughput and provide redundancy; not used for monitoring by default .
- Monitoring-specific aggregation: TAP aggregation or SPAN configurations allow multiple traffic sources to be observed by monitoring tools; aggregation here is part of the monitoring setup, not the standard LAG .
- Best practice: Use dedicated monitoring ports or TAP aggregation switches if the goal is to observe network traffic, while keeping standard LAGs for performance and reliability.

Article Content

Can I aggregate multiple uplink ports between Ethernet switches?

What you need is link aggregation (LAG), preferably LACP which is an IEEE, vendor-agnostic aggregation protocol. Put the desired

Interfaces User Guide for Switches

The topology used in this example consists of one switch with a LAG configured between two of its 10-Gigabit Ethernet interfaces.

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