

Access Layer Switch IRF



AI Overview

IRF (Intelligent Resilient Framework) allows multiple access layer switches to operate as a single virtual switch, simplifying management and enhancing scalability and redundancy.

Overview of IRF

IRF is a virtualization technology that combines multiple physical switches into a single logical device, known as an IRF fabric or IRF stack, which can be managed through a single IP address . This approach consolidates management, routing, and switching functions, allowing access layer switches to act as one unit while maintaining high availability and simplified configuration . IRF supports port aggregation, unified routing tables, and seamless expansion by adding new member switches without major reconfiguration .

Benefits for Access Layer Switches

- **Simplified Management:** One management IP and unified configuration for all member switches .
- **High Availability:** IRF provides redundancy; if one member fails, traffic is automatically rerouted through other members .
- **Scalability:** Additional switches can be added to increase port density and forwarding capacity without disrupting the network .
- **Optimized Traffic:** Network protocols operate on the logical IRF device, reducing unnecessary traffic between switches

Article Content

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Example: Configuring Layer 2 link aggregation in an IRF ...

The H3C S7500E-X is a high-performance Ethernet switch that provides a variety of features for enterprise networks, including Layer

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02 IRF Configuration Guide-Book | PDF | Network Switch

This document discusses Intelligent Resilient Framework (IRF) technology which allows multiple switches to be virtualized into a

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Access, Distribution, and Core Layers Explained

This tutorial provides an overview of the access, distribution, and core layers and explains

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Intelligent Redundant Framework (IRF) - Stacking as Usual

I selected a core switch (S12508) and an access-layer switch (S5820X-28S) from the HP IRF technology page 1,

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H3C S5130S-EI Series Enhanced Gigabit Access Switches

H3C S5130S-EI Series Switches - A simple (fixed power design), cost-effective and easy to deploy access switching solution with

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Access layer | FortiSwitch 7.4.0 | Fortinet Document Library

Switching Reference Architecture Guide Introduction Campus architectures Wired local area network basics Secured LAN Reference

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Huawei Technologies Co

With IRF enabled, multiple devices on the distribution layer form an IRF virtual device, to which the accessing devices are connected.

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Understanding Access Switches: Key Components of Your Network Switch ...

Explore the role of access switches in your LAN setup. Understand their key components, functions in the access layer,

Jun 17, 2026

Virtual Connect and HP A-Series switches IRF Integration Guide

A common misunderstanding people tend to have when connecting Virtual Connect with IRF or Cisco vPC/VSS switches is

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A Deep Dive Into HP Intelligent Resilient Framework (IRF)

IRF is essentially a virtual stacking technology that allows multiple switches to be managed and operate as a single

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Core Switch vs. Distribution Switch vs. Access Switch

The access layer consists of layer 3 switches, which take routed and switched data packets from the distribution switches and then

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Data Center Access Layer Design

Overview of Access Layer Design Options Access layer switches are primarily deployed in Layer 2 mode in the data center. A Layer

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Data Center Design: Basic 3 Layers, Core, Aggregation, and Access

Key Features of 3 layers design of Data Center: Data center network is divided into 3 standard three-layer structure.

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HPE IRF Technology

IRF Stack devices are usually deployed at the access layer, distribution layer and data center, therefore having a high reliability

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Access layer | FortiSwitch 7.6.0 | Fortinet Document Library

Both aggregation and access layers need to implement MCLAG to be able to use all links simultaneously. The switch ring in the floor

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HPE FlexNetwork 5520 HI Switch Series Data sheet

Highly Resilient and Scalable Access Layer Switches The HPE FlexNetwork 5520 HI Switch series uses Intelligent Resilient

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HPE FlexFabric 5900 Switch Series

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) Intelligent Resilient Fabric (IRF) technology simplifies the architecture of server access networks;

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Upgrading comware IRF stacks with no downtime (kind of)

Upgrading a stack of comware switches is easy. Upload the file and reboot. If you serve users who might notice 10-15

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HPE IRF Technology

The user can combine multiple distribution layer switches into one IRF stack. All of the switches have the same routing table and can

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H3C S5500-HI Switch Series IRF Configuration Guide | Manualzz

This guide instructs users on how to use multiple S5500-HI switches, such as S5500-28SC-HI and S5500-52SC-HI, to create an IRF

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How to build an IRF-Stack with HP Switches 5xxx

With IRF, you can virtualise all physical switches to one virtual-switch, so you have one management-ip, one switching- and routing

Dec 30, 2025

Data Center Access Layer Design

Some access layer designs permit a larger number of access layer switches per aggregation module than others. •

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://ntmmgroup.co.za>

Email: sales@ntmmgroup.co.za

Phone: +27 82 471 2596

Address: Unit 7, Optic Park, 24 High-Tech Lane, Century City, Cape Town, 7441, South Africa

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