

Choosing a PoE Switch Model



AI Overview

Selecting the right PoE switch depends on your devices' power needs, port count, PoE standard, and management preferences.

Key Factors to Consider

1. **PoE Standards and Power Delivery** PoE switches come in multiple standards: IEEE 802.3af (PoE), 802.3at (PoE+), and 802.3bt (PoE++). Each standard supports different power levels per port: PoE delivers up to 15.4W, PoE+ up to 30W, and PoE++ up to 60-90W per port. Choosing the correct standard is critical, as underpowered switches can cause devices like PTZ cameras or Wi-Fi 6 access points to reboot or malfunction . 2. **Total Power Budget** Calculate the total wattage required by all connected devices and add a 20-25% buffer to account for power spikes and cable losses. For example, if your devices collectively need 100W, select a switch with at least 120-130W total budget . Transmission losses over long cables (e.g., Cat6A over 100 meters) can reduce delivered power by a few watts per port . 3. **Port Count and Uplink Capacity** Determine the number of devices you plan to connect. Small networks may need 5-8 ports, while medium or enterprise networks may require 24-48 ports. Consider uplink ports (SFP/SFP+) for high-speed backbone connections, especially if multiple switches will be cascaded . 4. **Management Features** Managed switches offer advanced features like VLANs, QoS, port prioritization, and overload protection. Unmanaged switches are simpler and cheaper but lack these controls. Cloud-managed switches, such as the Aruba Instant On 1930, provide remote monitoring and configuration, which is useful for SMBs . 5. **Device Compatibility and Future Proofing** Ensure the switch supports the devices you plan to connect, including IP cameras, VoIP phones, and access points. PoE++ switches are...

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