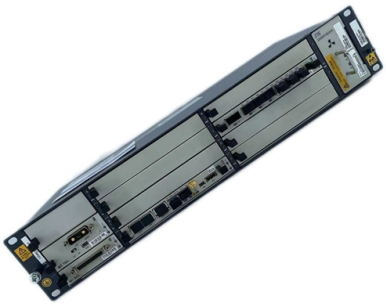
Monaco Installation of Core Switch OSFP



Overview

Learn how to install and remove OSFP transceiver modules safely using proper ESD and handling procedures.

Key Takeaways

Installing OSFP modules on a core switch requires careful attention to module type, thermal management, cabling, and OSPF configuration for optimal performance.OSFP Module Selection and Thermal Considerations

OSFP (Octal Small Form-factor Pluggable) modules support high-speed data center networking at 400G, 800G, and future 1.6T speeds, with eight electrical lanes per module . There are two main types:

• IHS (Integrated Heat Sink): Includes an embedded heat sink that connects directly to the switch cage's thermal system. It sits flush with the switch faceplate and is ideal for switches with external heat sink cages .

• RHS (Riding Heat Sink): Lacks an integrated heat sink and relies on the switch cage for cooling. RHS modules extend beyond the faceplate and require more space . Important: Verify the switch cage type before installation. Installing an IHS module in an RHS cage or vice versa can lead to improper thermal contact and potential equipment failure .
Installation Steps
• ESD Precautions: Attach an ESD wrist strap to yourself and the chassis to prevent electrostatic damage .

• Module Handling: Remove the OSFP module from packaging and verify the model label matches your network requirements .

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• Insertion: Align the module with the cage (identifier label at the bottom or top depending on platform) and slide it into the socket until it touches the electrical connector .

• Securing: Press the module firmly to ensure the latch engages fully. Do not remove the dust plug until ready to connect fiber .

• Fiber Connection: Clean fiber connectors before insertion to maintain signal integrity. Use dust caps when fibers are disconnected .

• Maintenance: Avoid unnecessary insertion/removal cycles to prolong module life. Follow ESD and overvoltage precautions .

Cabling Considerations

OSFP modules support multiple optical interfaces, including SR8, DR8, FR8, LR8, and 2FR4, for distances ranging from 100m to 10km . Use MPO-16/APC, Dual MPO-12/APC, or LC/UPC connectors depending on your fiber type and network design . Ensure cabling is compatible with your spine-leaf topology and switch port speeds .

OSPF Configuration on Core Switch

For core switches connecting access switches, OSPFv2 is recommended if only IPv4 is used. For a small deployment (e.g., two switches), a point-to-point OSPF configuration on the port-channel is sufficient . If future expansion is planned, consider broadcast OSPF to simplify adding additional switches later. OSPFv3 is only necessary if IPv6 routing is required .

Best Practices

• Confirm module and cage compatibility before purchase.

• Use a dedicated maintenance window for installation to avoid network disruption.

• Maintain clean fiber connections and proper ESD precautions.

• Monitor temperature and optical power via the module's CMIS interface to ensure stable operation .

• Document OSPF topology and interface assignments for future troubleshooting and expansion . By following these steps, you can ensure a stable, high-performance core switch deployment using OSFP modules in a Monaco or similar data center environment.

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