

Cisco Nexus 9372PX

Switch Configuration Guide for Dell EMC SC Series SANs

Dell EMC Engineering
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1 Introduction

This document illustrates how to configure a Cisco® Nexus 9372PX switch for use with Dell EMC™ SC Series storage using Dell EMC best practices.

Note: For more information on SC Series SAN design recommendations, see the [Dell EMC Storage Compatibility Matrix](#).

1.1 Document conventions

Table 1 lists the formatting conventions used in this document.

Table 1 Document conventions

Format	Description	Example
Bold	User input	Dell> enable
<i>Italic</i>	Placeholder or variable	<i>ip address</i>
<i>Bold italic</i>	User input (variable)	Dell> <i>my password</i>
< <i>Italic</i> > < <i>brackets</i> >	Separate variables	< <i>ip address</i> > < <i>mask</i> >

1.2 Audience

This switch configuration guide describes a verified configuration following Dell EMC best practices for a dedicated SC Series iSCSI SAN and is intended for storage or network administrators and deployment personnel.

1.3 Switch details

Table 2 provides an overview of the switch configuration.

Table 2 Switch specifications

Cisco Nexus 9372PX	
Switch vendor	Cisco
Switch model	Nexus 9372PX
Switch firmware	7.0(3)I5(2)

Note: For proper functionality, the switch must be at the firmware version shown in Table 2 before proceeding with this configuration. Using previous firmware versions may have unpredictable results.

Note: The latest firmware updates and documentation can be found at www.cisco.com. This site requires a login credential.

1.4 Cabling diagram

The cabling diagram shown in Figure 1 represents the method recommended by Dell EMC for deploying servers and SC Series arrays.

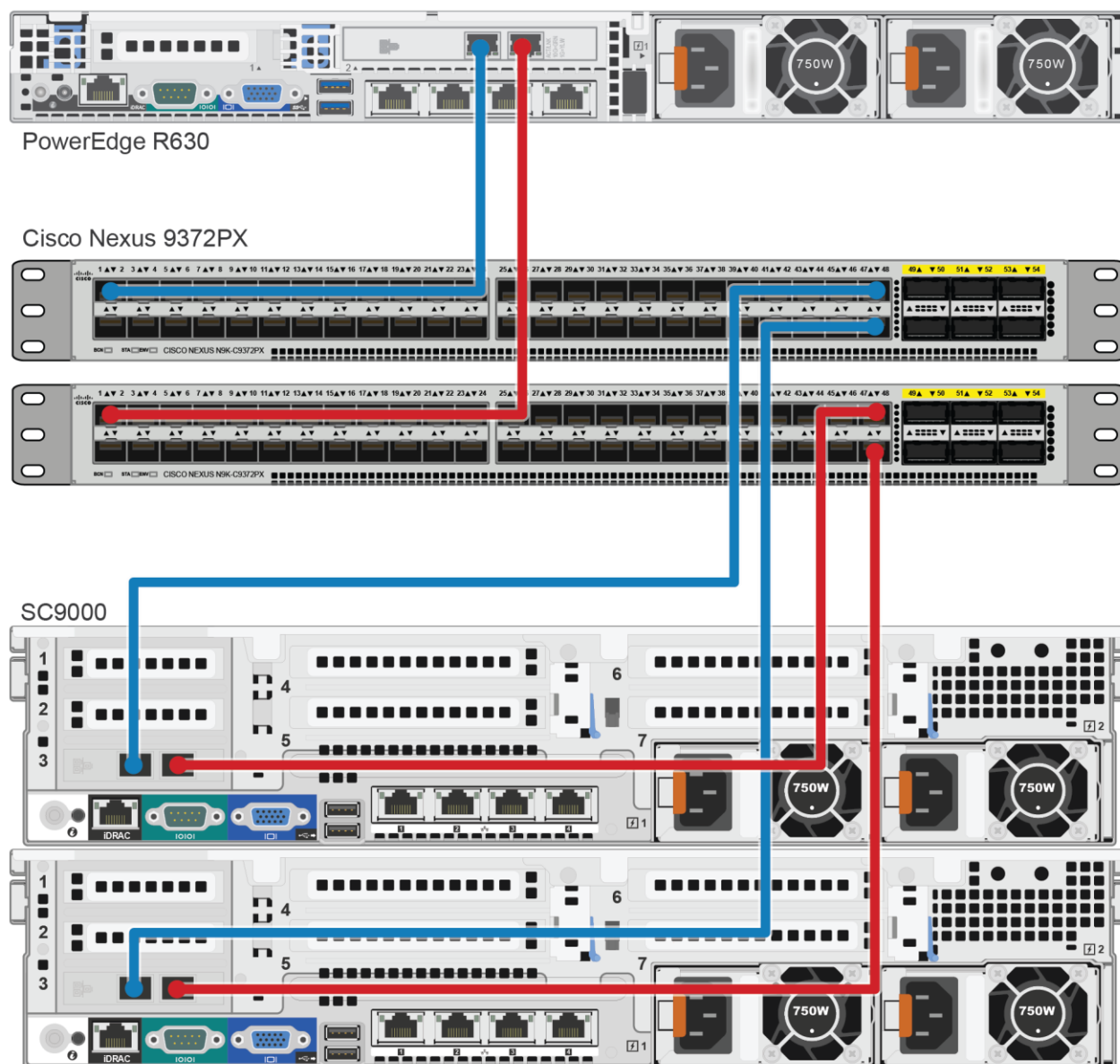


Figure 1 Cabling diagram

2 Dell EMC recommended switch configuration

Use the following steps to configure the Cisco Nexus 9372PX switch.

Note: The configuration steps in this section are only recommended when the switch is used as a dedicated SAN for iSCSI traffic (not shared with LAN traffic).

2.1 Hardware configuration

1. Power on the chassis.
2. Connect a serial cable to the active supervisor management port.
3. Using PuTTY or another terminal utility, open a serial connection session to the switch.
4. Open a terminal emulator and configure it to use the serial port (usually COM1 but this may vary depending on your system). Configure serial communications for 9600,N,8,1 and no flow control.

2.2 Delete startup configuration

Note: This example assumes a switch at its default configuration settings. Using the `write erase` command will set the startup configuration file to its default settings. Always back up the configuration settings prior to performing any configuration changes.

```
switch#write erase
Warning: This command will erase the startup-configuration
Do you wish to proceed anyway ? (y/n) [n]y
switch#reload
This command will reboot the system
Do you want to continue? (y/n) [n]y
```

Note: The switch will reboot.

2.3 Run the basic system configuration

The following steps use the setup utility to configure connectivity for basic management of the system.

After the switch fully reboots, the following prompts will appear:

```
Abort Power On Auto Provisioning and continue with normal setup ?(yes/no) [n]:y
---- System Admin Account Setup ----
Do you want to enforce secure password standard (yes/no):yes
Enter the password for "admin":my password
Confirm the password for "admin":my password
```

```
---- Basic System Configuration Dialog VDC: 1 ----
```

This setup utility will guide you through the basic configuration of the system. Setup configures only enough connectivity for management of the system.

Please register Cisco Nexus9000 Family devices promptly with your supplier. Failure to register may affect response times for initial service calls. Nexus9000 devices must be registered to receive entitled support services.

Press Enter at anytime to skip a dialog. Use ctrl-c at anytime to skip the remaining dialogs.

```
Would you like to enter the basic configuration dialog (yes/no):yes
Create another login account (yes/no) [n]:n
Configure read-only SNMP community string (yes/no) [n]:n
Configure read-write SNMP community string (yes/no) [n]:n
Enter the switch name :my switch name
Continue with Out-of-band (mgmt0) management configuration? (yes/no) [y]:y
Mgmt0 IPv4 address :my IP address
Mgmt0 IPv4 netmask :my netmask
Configure the default gateway? (yes/no) [y]:y
IPv4 address of the default gateway :my gateway
Configure advanced IP options? (yes/no) [n]:n
Enable the telnet service? (yes/no) [n]:y
Enable the ssh service? (yes/no) [y]:n
Configure the ntp server? (yes/no) [n]:n
Configure default interface layer (L3/L2) [L2]:L2
Configure default switchport interface state (shut/noshut) [shut]:shut
Configure CoPP system profile (strict/moderate/lenient/dense) [strict]:
```

The following configuration will be applied:

<Your settings will be displayed>

```
Would you like to edit the configuration? (yes/no) [n]: n
Use this configuration and save it? (yes/no) [y]: y
[#####] 100%
Copy complete.
```

Log into the switch using the credentials created previously.

2.4 Enable Jumbo Frames

```
switch#configure
switch(config)#system jumbomtu 9216
switch(config)#interface ethernet 1/1-48
switch(config-if-range)#mtu 9216
switch(config-if-range)#exit
```

Note: By default, Data Center Bridging (DCB) is enabled. This document provides steps to disable DCB (see section 2.6). Perform all operations during a maintenance window because a temporary loss of communication between host servers and storage arrays may occur.

2.5 Enable LLDP

```
switch(config)#feature lldp
switch(config)#interface ethernet 1/1-48
switch(config-if-range)#lldp receive
switch(config-if-range)#lldp transmit
switch(config-if-range)#exit
switch(config)#exit
```

2.6 Disable Data Center Bridging (DCB)

All steps in this section are required in order to properly disable DCB, which also applies when upgrading from previous versions to version 7.0(3)I1(2).

```
switch#configure
switch(config)#lldp tlv-select dcbxp
switch(config)#copy running-config startup-config
switch(config)#no lldp tlv-select dcbxp
switch(config)#exit
switch#copy running-config startup-config
```

Note: The prior steps are needed due to Cisco bug: CSCuo63486 LLDP - link err-disabled upon reload when dcbx tlv is disabled.

2.7 Enable link level flow control (802.3x)

Perform this step for each individual port that is connected to a storage controller or a host server interface port, or specify a range of ports to configure.

```
switch#configure
switch(config)#interface ethernet 1/1-48
switch(config-if-range)#flowcontrol send off
switch(config-if-range)#flowcontrol receive on
switch(config-if-range)#exit
```

Note: Optionally, to reduce egress port packet drops, use the following command to enable the **ultra-burst** feature mode.

```
switch(config)#hardware qos ns-buffer-profile ultra-burst
```

2.8 Configure portfast on edge ports

```
switch(config)#interface ethernet 1/1-48
switch(config-if-range)#spanning-tree port type edge
```

Warning: edge port type (portfast) should only be enabled on ports connected to a single host. Connecting hubs, concentrators, switches, bridges, etc... to this interface when edge port type (portfast) is enabled, can cause temporary bridging loops. Use with CAUTION.

Edge Port Type (Portfast) will be configured in 96 interfaces due to the range command but will only have effect when the interfaces are in a non-trunking mode.

```
switch(config-if-range)#exit
```

2.9 Enable switch ports

The following example enables a range of ports. If preferred, enable individual ports as needed.

```
switch(config)#interface ethernet 1/1-48  
switch(config-if-range)#shutdown  
switch(config-if-range)#no shutdown  
switch (config-if-range)#exit
```

2.10 Save configuration

```
switch#copy running-config startup-config  
  
switch#reload
```

2.11 Configure additional switch

Repeat the steps in sections 2.1 through 2.10 to configure the second switch.

A Technical support and resources

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