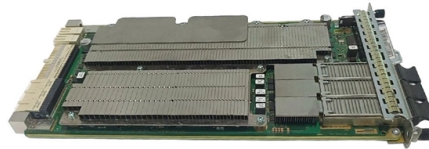


How to connect a server to a switch



Summary of Content

To connect a server to a switch, use a compatible network interface card (NIC) and cable to link the server to the switch port, then configure the switch port for proper speed, duplex, and VLAN settings.

Physical Connection

- **Install a Network Interface Card (NIC):** Servers typically use PCIe NICs that support the required speed (1G, 10G, 25G, 40G, or 100G) and may provide copper or optical ports .
- **Select the Appropriate Cable:** Use Ethernet cables (Cat5e/Cat6/Cat6a) for copper connections or optical fiber with SFP/SFP+/SFP28/QSFP modules for high-speed links .
- **Connect to the Switch:** Insert the NIC into the server, attach the cable to the NIC, and plug the other end into the switch port. For high-speed connections, ensure the switch port matches the NIC's speed and module type .

Switch Configuration

- **Set Port Speed and Duplex:** Configure the switch port to match the server NIC's speed and duplex to avoid mismatches .
- **VLAN Assignment:** If the server needs to communicate on a specific VLAN, configure the switch port as an access port for that VLAN or as a trunk if multiple VLANs are required .
- **Spanning Tree Considerations:** For servers in secure racks, enabling edge-port or port-fast mode can reduce STP delays, but avoid disabling STP if there is a risk of network loops .

Article Content

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To guarantee a successful and seamless setup, this guide will walk you step-by-step through the whole procedure.

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This chapter describes how to connect servers to switches. As shown in the following figure, switches can set up a stack or M-LAG

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I recently had a call out to a client on a Sunday morning because someone had set a switch port to port-fast and then

Contact Us

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