

VLANs, Sonos, and Best Practices for Your Network Switches

Webinar Q&A



Q: Why can't I see devices that have static IP address assigned in the router interface?

We are working on including this feature in the next router FW update. Stay tuned!

Q: Any recommendations for dealing with U-verse gateways which cannot be bridged? (IP passthrough seems to be spotty at best)

We are working on a document to guide you through such gateways. DMZ is an option, but sometimes the only thing you can do is double-NAT.

Q: What if you want the control systems to interact with the cameras? i.e. See them on touch panels

You can enable that on the router via inter-VLAN routing.

Q: Can you isolate VLAN communication between 1 and 20, but don't let 20 talk to 10?

You can control inter-VLAN communication via inter-VLAN routing. For more granular control, Access Control Lists (ACLs) are the next step. We can cover that in a future webinar.

Q: Does the STP rule only apply to Sonos, or is it a common rule to all music streamers, such as Denon HEOS, Autonomic Mirage, or AppleTV?

We haven't tested with Denon HEOS or Autonomic Mirage, but the same concept applies to any device that creates a network loop via Wi-Fi. AppleTVs don't mesh with each other, so there are no issues that we know of.

Q: Why are the rack ears offset instead of centered?

Because of the power LED design. We want to make sure the power LEDs are aligned once you stack 2+ switches in a rack, so left justification made sense. We are working on rack ear accessory that allows centralizing the switch in the rack (sold separately).

Q: How can I tell if I have a network loop?

Your network will be virtually unusable. All switch ports will blink at the same time.

Q: What is the benefit of STP?

STP is enabled by default and works in the background. It prevents network loops that bring your network to a crawl.

Q: What are overall backplane switch speeds?

Switch backplane is full 1Gbps bi-directional (even the SFP ports). You can review full specs on product item pages.

Q: What exactly is the Websmart switch feature, and how is it different than Unmanaged+ or Managed?

Websmart is basically L2 Lite. It has most of the features of L2, but some of the very advanced features are not available. Unmanaged+ is basically an Unmanaged switch that is OvrC-enabled. We are working on a firmware update for the 210 to make it L2 Managed.

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Q: I have applications where I need silent switches. Are there any tricks we can use?

Fans are there to protect the switch from overheating and damaging internal components. There is no way (as of today) that we can get rid of fans, especially for higher power budgets. PoE switches will come with fans, (except for the 210-8) and some level of noise should be expected. Our 210-24-POE switches have variable speed fans with a temperature sensor. So if the ambient temperature is cool enough in the rack, the fans should be at 25% of their speed.

Q: Since the 210 line is only Websmart and not Fully Managed, can we do VLAN?

Yes, the 210-series supports VLANs.

Q: What is link aggregation?

Please check the support tab on the item page for a video explaining Link Aggregation.

Q: Why do you suggest a static IP address instead of setting a reserved IP address through the router?

You can definitely use DHCP reservation. It all depends on what kind of IP scheme you want to implement. Static IPs make the settings more predictable and outside the DHCP range, but both approaches work.

Q: What happens to the DHCP when the VLANs are created?

We highly recommend using different subnets and DHCP servers for different VLANs. For example, VLAN10 is assigned 192.168.10.X subnet with 192.168.10.1 is the gateway address for that VLAN on the router and 192.168.10.100-192.168.10.200 as a DHCP range.

Q: What about DMZ? On our CenturyLink DSL modem, we can't do bridge mode.

DMZ is a valid option for going through the ISP gateway.

Q: When adjusting STP for Sonos, I have always been instructed by support (even SnapAV support), that I must also reduce STP cost for each port a Sonos device is connected to aside from bridge priority, is this no longer necessary?

Changing STP path cost for ports connected to Sonos devices adds assurance that these ports are not elected as Non-root ports and put in a blocking state. This would be a step-2 to assure the STP topology is working as expected.

Q: Are you still offering front and rear port versions of the switches?

Yes, front versions of the new line will be available summer 2016.

Q: Can the same VLAN go across several switches within the network? For example, VLAN20 has IP cameras, cameras are on several different switches throughout the campus.

Absolutely. Make sure the VLAN is assigned to all ports that will forward traffic of that VLAN. Follow the path of traffic.

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Q: SnapAV dealer site still shows 310 series as coming soon. When will it be available?

The 310 series will be available in June.

Q: If I have a large Sonos job, should I consider a VLAN for Sonos devices?

It depends how large. Audio streaming is low-size traffic and should not require a separate VLAN.

Q: With STP, does every switch in the topography have to support STP, or can I have the Sonos service switch as non-managed?

Unmanaged switches have STP enabled, but you can't access it or adjust any STP settings. Technically, you can use an unmanaged switch with Sonos, but make sure your core switch is managed with STP bridge priority settings lowered.

Q: According to Sonos, if you are setting it up on their mesh network instead of Wi-Fi, there is no Broadcast Storm because it is using its own network. Is that correct?

If they are still part of the same STP instance as the main network, then a loop can happen.

Q: Would you ever place a switch static IP address on a different VLAN?

You can put the all switch on a separate VLAN for management, called Management VLAN, but that depends on the size of the job. Such practice is common in big enterprise networks, but not necessary in smaller networks. A simple network documentation can do the trick.

Q: When stacking (layering) switches, should we use the uplink ports, or just use an unused port?

You can use any port for daisy chaining switches, since all ports are 1Gbps.