STP Configuration

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Chapter 1 Configuring STP

1.1 STP Introduction

The standard Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) is based on the IEEE 802.1D standard. A switch stack appears as a single spanning-tree node to the rest of the network, and all stack members use the same bridge ID. Unless otherwise noted, the term switch refers to a standalone switch and to a switch stack.

The STP uses a spanning-tree algorithm to select one switch of a redundantly connected network as the root of the spanning tree. The algorithm calculates the best loop-free path through a switched Layer 2 network by assigning a role to each port based on the role of the port in the active topology.

STP is a Layer 2 link management protocol that provides path redundancy while preventing loops in the network. For a Layer 2 Ethernet network to function properly, only one active path can exist between any two stations. Multiple active paths among end stations cause loops in the network. If a loop exists in the network, end stations might receive duplicate messages. Switches might also learn end-station MAC addresses on multiple Layer 2 interfaces. These conditions result in an unstable network. Spanning-tree operation is transparent to end stations, which cannot detect whether they are connected to a single LAN segment or a switched LAN of multiple segments.

The STP uses a spanning-tree algorithm to select one switch of a redundantly connected network as the root of the spanning tree. The algorithm calculates the best loop-free path through a switched Layer 2 network by assigning a role to each port based on the role of the port in the active topology:

The standard Spanning-Tree Protocol (STP) is defined in IEEE 802.1D. It simplifies the LAN topology comprising several bridges to a sole spinning tree, preventing network loop from occurring and ensuring stable work of the network.

The algorithm of STP and its protocol configure the random bridging LAN to an active topology with simple connections. In the active topology, some bridging ports can forward frames; some ports are in the congestion state and cannot transmit frames. Ports in the congestion state may be concluded in the active topology. When the device is ineffective, added to or removed from the network, the ports may be changed to the transmitting state.

In the STP topology, a bridge can be viewed as root. For every LAN section, a bridging port will forward data from the network section to the root. The port is viewed as the designated port of the network section. The bridge where the port is located is viewed as the designated bridge of the LAN. The root is the designated bridge of all network sections that the root connects. In ports of each bridge, the port which is nearest to the root is the root port of the bridge. Only the root port and the designated port (if available) is in the transmitting state. Ports of another type are not shut down but they are not the root port or the designated port. We call these ports are standby ports.

The following parameters decides the structure of the stabilized active topology:

(1) Identifier of each bridge

(2) Path cost of each port

(3) Port identifier for each port of the bridge

The bridge with highest priority (the identifier value is the smallest) is selected as the root. Ports of each bridge has the attribute **Root Path Cost**, that is, the minimum of path cost summation of all ports from the root to the bridge. The designated port of each network segment refers to the port connecting to the network segment and having the minimum path cost.

When two ports on a switch are part of a loop, the spanning-tree port priority and path cost settings control which port is put in the forwarding state and which is put in the blocking state. The spanning-tree port priority value represents the location of a port in the network topology and how well it is located to pass traffic. The path cost value represents the media speed.

Our switch standard supports two modes of spanning tree protocol 802.1D STP and 802.1w RSTP. Some models of the switch support distributing STP mode according to VLAN and MSTP spanning tree protocol. For more details, please refer to 'STP Mode and Model Table' in chapter 2.

This chapter describes how to configure the standard spanning tree protocol that switch supports.

Note:

802.1D STP and 802.1w RSTP are abbreviated to SSTP and RSTP in this article. SSTP means Single Spanning-tree.

1.2 SSTP Configuratiom Task List

- Selecting STP Mode
- Disabling/Enabling STP
- Configuring the Switch Priority
- Configuring the Hello Time
- Configuring the Max-Age Time
- Configuring the Forward Delay Time
- Configuring Port Priority
- Configuring Path Cost
- Configuring the Auto-Designated port
- Monitoring STP Status

1.3 SSTP Configuration Task

1.3.1 Selecting STP Mode

Run the following command to configure the STP mode:

Run…	To…
spanning-tree mode {sstp | rstp}	Select the STP configuration.

1.3.2 Disabling/Enabling STP

Spanning tree is enabled by default. Disable spanning tree only if you are sure there are no loops in the network topology.

Follow these steps to disable spanning-tree:

command	purpose
no spanning-tree	Disables STP.

To enable spanning-tree, use the following command:

command	purpose
spanning-tree	Enables default mode STP (SSTP).
spanning-tree mode {**sstp** | **rstp**}	Enables a certain mode STP.

1.3.3 Configuring the Switch Priority

You can configure the switch priority and make it more likely that a standalone switch or a switch in the stack will be chosen as the root switch.

Follow these steps to configure the switch priority：

command	purpose
spanning-tree sstp priority *value*	Modifies sstp priority value.
no spanning-tree sstp priority	Returns sstp priority to default value (32768).

1.3.4 Configuring the Hello Time

User can configure the interval between STP data units sent by the root switch through changing the hello time.

Use the following command to configure Hello Time of SSTP：

command	purpose
spanning-tree sstp hello-time *value*	Configures sstp Hello Time.
no spanning-tree sstp hello-time	Returns sstp Hello Time to default value (4s).

1.3.5 Configuring the Max-Age Time

Use the sstp max age to configure the number of seconds a switch waits without receiving spanning-tree configuration messages before attempting a reconfiguration.

Follow these steps to configure the maximum-aging time：

command	purpose
spanning-tree sstp max-age *value*	Configures the sstp max-age time.
no spanning-tree sstp max-age	Returns the max-age time to default value (20s).

1.3.6 Configuring the Forward Delay Time

Configure sstp forward delay to determine the number of seconds an interface waits before changing from its spanning-tree learning and listening states to the forwarding state.

Use the following command to configure sstp forward delay：

command	purpose
spanning-tree sstp *forward-time*	Configures sstp Forward time.
no spanning-tree sstp forward-time	Returns forward time to default value (15s).

1.3.7 Configuring the Port Priority

If a loop occurs, spanning tree uses the port priority when selecting an interface to put into the forwarding state. You can assign higher priority values (lower numerical values) to interfaces that you want selected first and lower priority values (higher numerical values) that you want selected last. If all interfaces have the same priority value, spanning tree puts the interface with the lowest interface number in the forwarding state and blocks the other interfaces.

Follow these steps to configure the port priority of an interface：

command	purpose
spanning-tree port-priority *value*	Configures the port priority for an interface.
spanning-tree sstp port-priority *value*	Modifies sstp port priority.
no spanning-tree sstp port-priority	Returns port priority to default value (128).

1.3.8 Configuring the Path Cost

Follow these steps to configure the cost of an interface：

command	purpose
spanning-tree cost *value*	Configures the cost for an interface.
spanning-tree sstp cost *value*	Modifies sstp path cost.
no spanning-tree sstp cost	Returns path cost to default value.

1.3.9 Monitoring STP State

To monitor the STP configuration and state, use the following command in management mode:

command	purpose
show spanning-tree	Displays spanning-tree information on active interfaces only.
show spanning-tree detail	Displays a detailed summary of interface information.
show spanning-tree interface	Displays spanning-tree information for the specified interface.

1.4 RSTP Configuration Task List

- Enabling/Disabling Switch RSTP
- Configuring the Switch Priority
- Configuring the Forward Delay Time
- Configuring the Hello time
- Configuring the Max-Age
- Configuring the Path Cost
- Configuring the Port Priority
- Enabling Protocol Conversation Check

1.5 RSTP Configuration Task

1.5.1 Enabling/Disabling Switch RSTP

Follow these configurations in the global configuration mode:

command	purpose
spanning-tree mode rstp	Enables RSTP
no spanning-tree mode	Returns STP to default mode (SSTP)

1.5.2 Configuring the Switch Priority

You can configure the switch priority and make it more likely that a standalone switch or a switch in the stack will be chosen as the root switch.

Follow these steps to configure the switch priority：

Follow these configurations in the global configuration mode:

command	purpose
spanning-tree rstp priority *value*	Modifies rstp priority value.
no spanning-tree rstp priority	Returns rstp priority to default value.

Note: If the priority of all bridges in the whole switch network uses the same value, then the bridge with the least MAC address will be chosen as the root bridge. In the situation when the RSTP protocol is enabled, if the bridge priority value is modified, it will cause the recalculation of spanning tree.

The bridge priority is configured to 32768 by default.

1.5.3 Configuring the Forward Delay Time

Link failures may cause network to recalculate the spanning tree structure. But the latest configuration message can no be conveyed to the whole network. If the newly selected root port and the specified port immediately start forwarding data, this may cause temporary path loop. Therefore the protocol adopts a kind of state migration mechanism. There is an intermediate state before root port and the specified port starting data forwarding, after the intermediate state passing the Forward Delay Time, the forward state begins. This delay time ensures the newly configured message has been conveyed to the whole network. The Forward Delay characteristic of the bridge is related to the network diameter of the switch network. Generally, the grater the network diameter, the longer the Forward Delay Time should be configured.

Follow these configurations in the global configuration mode:

Command	purpose
spanning-tree rstp forward-time *value*	Configures Forward Delay
no spanning-tree rstp forward-time	Returns Forward Delay Time to default value (15s).

Note: If you configure the Forward Delay Time to a relatively small value, it may leads to a temporary verbose path. If you configure the Forward Delay Time to a relatively big value, the system may not resume connecting for a long time. We recommend user to use the default value.

The Forward Delay Time of the bridge is 15 seconds.

1.5.4 Configuring the Hello Time

The proper hello time value can ensure that the bridge detect link failures in the network without occupying too much network resources.

Follow these configurations in the global configuration mode:

command	purpose
spanning-tree rstp hello-time *value*	Configures Hello Time
no spanning-tree rstp hello-time	Returns Hello Time to default value.

Note: We recommend user to use the default value.

The default Hello Time is 4 seconds.

1.5.5 Configuring the Max-Age

The ma-age is the number of seconds a switch waits without receiving spanning-tree configuration messages before attempting a reconfiguration.

Follow these configurations in the global configuration mode：

command	purpose
spanning-tree rstp max-age *value*	Configures the max-age value.
no spanning-tree rstp max-age	Returns the max-age time to default value (20s).

We recommend user to use the default value. Note: if you configure the Max Age to a relatively small value, then the calculation of the spanning tree will be relatively frequent, and the system may regard the network block as link failure. If you configure the Max Age to a relatively big value, then the link status will go unnoticed in time.

The Max Age of bridge is 20 seconds by default.

1.5.6 Configuring the Path Cost

The spanning-tree path cost default value is derived from the media speed of an interface. If a loop occurs, spanning tree uses cost when selecting an interface to put in the forwarding state. You can assign lower cost values to interfaces that you want selected first and higher cost values to interfaces that you want selected last. If all interfaces have the same cost value, spanning tree puts the interface with the lowest interface number in the forwarding state and blocks the other interfaces.

Beginning in interface configuration mode, follow these steps to configure the cost of an interface:

command	purpose
spanning-tree rstp cost *value*	Configures the cost for an interface.
no spanning-tree rstp cost	Returns path cost to default value.

Note: The modification of the priority of the Ethernet port will arise the recalculation of the spanning tree. We recommend user to use the default value and let RSTP protocol calculate the path cost of the current Ethernet interface.

When the port speed is 10Mbps, the path cost of the Ethernet interface is 2000000.

When the port speed is 100Mbps, the path cost of the Ethernet interface is 200000.

1.5.7 Configuring the Port Priority

If a loop occurs, spanning tree uses the port priority when selecting an interface to put into the forwarding state. You can assign higher priority values (lower numerical values) to interfaces that you want selected first, and lower priority values (higher numerical

values) that you want selected last. If all interfaces have the same priority value, spanning tree puts the interface with the lowest interface number in the forwarding state and blocks the other interfaces.

Follow these configurations in the interface configuration mode：

command	purpose
spanning-tree rstp port-priority *value*	Configures the port priority for an interface.
no spanning-tree rstp port-priority	Returns the port priority to the default value.

Note: The modification of the priority of the Ethernet interface will arise the recalculation of the spanning tree.

The default Ethernet interface priority is 128.