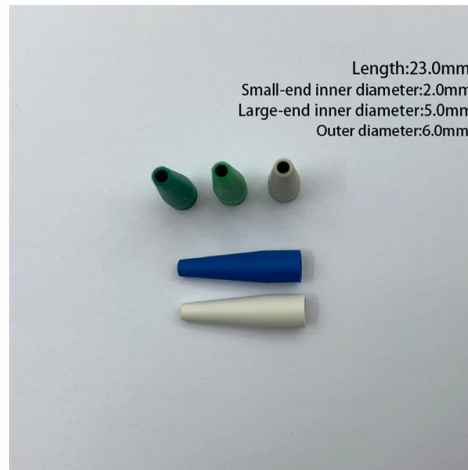


What are the monitoring methods used for core switches



AI Overview

Core switches can be monitored using SNMP, NetFlow, sFlow, packet analysis, and network performance monitoring tools to track health, traffic, and performance. Key Monitoring Methods

1. **SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol)** SNMP is widely used for device-level monitoring, providing metrics on CPU utilization, memory usage, interface errors, fan status, and temperature. It allows administrators to track switch health, detect hardware issues, and perform preventive maintenance through standardized queries to the switch's Management Information Base (MIB).
2. **Flow-Based Monitoring (NetFlow and sFlow)** Flow technologies capture detailed traffic patterns, including source and destination addresses, ports, protocols, and timing. NetFlow and sFlow help administrators understand bandwidth usage, identify heavy users, detect anomalies, and optimize network performance.
3. **Packet Analysis** Packet analysis inspects actual network traffic at a granular level, providing deep insights into protocols, applications, and communication patterns. This method offers comprehensive visibility but requires infrastructure to capture traffic from switches.
4. **Network Performance Monitoring (NPM) Tools** NPM platforms aggregate data from SNMP, flow records, and packet captures to provide real-time dashboards, historical trend analysis, and alerts. They help detect congestion, packet loss, and port-level issues, enabling proactive troubleshooting and capacity planning.
5. **Ping and Basic Connectivity Checks** For simpler monitoring, switches can be pinged to check availability and round-trip time. This method is often combined with SNMP for a more complete view of switch status.

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Website: <https://araziyahsafety.co.za>

Email: info@araziyahsafety.co.za

Phone: +27 72 418 3692

Address: 123 Rivonia Road, Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196, South Africa

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