

# Access layer directly connected to core switch



## Overview

The distribution layer connects the access layer to the core layer. When designing a campus LAN, you may. At present, we're using L2 VLAN trunks between the core and access. Some concerns I have with his argument are: \* We're used to using L2 VLAN trunks \* The L2 design is fairly simple \* The end users are not "sensitive" enough to feel a failover of links from one core switch to another when a trunk. Each layer is served by specialized switches, with the access switch connecting end-user devices, the distribution switch aggregating traffic and enforcing policies, and the core switch acting as the high-speed backbone. The core switch is highly scalable, meaning it can be expanded as needed by simply adding more ports or modules.



## Article Content

Nov 30, 2025

### Core vs Distribution vs Access Switch: Architecture Guide

The access switches connect directly to these collapsed core switches. The collapsed core switch performs inter-VLAN routing, enforces ACL security policies, and provides high-speed

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### Understanding the Role of an Access Switch in Your

Explore the crucial role of an access switch in your network. Learn how it connects end-users and devices via Ethernet, enhancing overall performance.

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### Switching Design with Access, Distribution and Core Level

Hi Support, I read that in the Campus architecture, we have 3 levels, Access (connected and users and desktops), Distribution (Connected access

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### Core Switch vs Access Switch | Definitions and Key Differences

While the core switch may only be connected with a few distribution switches, the majority of access switches are required to connect a variety of end-user devices, including IP phones, PCs,

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### Core, Aggregation, or Access Switches? Choose the

Discover the crucial differences between core, aggregation, and access switches. Find out which type can best transform your network's

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### Access Switch vs. Core Switch

Access Switch vs. Core Switch What's the Difference? Access switches are typically used to connect end devices such as computers, printers, and IP phones to the network. They are responsible for

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In a three tier network architecture, where should the servers ...

Picture a three tier network architecture: two core switches, two distribution layer switches, and a couple of access layer switches. When I mean servers, I'm mostly talking about servers used internally

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Understanding the Hierarchical Switch Layers: Access

The three-tier switch hierarchy — Access, Distribution, and Core — is not just a technical blueprint, but a strategic decision-making framework for IT

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Cisco Core vs Access Switches: Key Differences

First, fiber optic connections are more expensive, so cutting the number of ports can lower the cost of a core switch. But, that's only possible because core switches

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ISP Hooked Up to Core Switch First... Instead of Straight

Room A has Circuit A on Switch 1 with firewall 1. Room B has circuit B on Switch 2 with firewall 2. Two separate fiber connections connect both switches, each using

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Best practices when configuring an Access switch stack to Core

Currently, the access switches physically connect to each other via fiber and only a few switches are directly connected to the Core stack. The firewall acts as the router. Only a few access switches

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Access, Distribution, and Core Layers Explained

If the network includes a separate core layer, the distribution layer connects the access layer to the core. The following image shows how the

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Core Switch vs. Distribution Switch vs. Access Switch

The data routed and switched by the core switch is carried forward to the bottom layers of the network such as the distribution and access layer. This means the

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Use Core Switch as an L2 Access Switch

Can I use a CORE switch as an ACCESS Layer 2 switch? The end goal is to connect all servers through at least a 10Gb network. The servers each

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Access vs. Distribution vs. Core Switch Comparison Guide

Each layer is served by specialized switches, with the access switch connecting end-user devices, the distribution switch aggregating traffic and enforcing policies, and the core switch acting as the high

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Core to Access Layers

You would presumably connect your access-layer switches with redundant links to your core/distro layer. As such OSPF/EIGRP should see 2 equal cost paths to the core.

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Understanding the Core Switch: Key Differences and Uses

Alternatively, Access layer switches connect end devices like computers, printers, and wireless access points to the network, making them

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SMB Network Design: Core vs. Distribution vs. Access Switches

Core Layer: The high-speed backbone, often connecting multiple distribution switches. Distribution Layer: The middle ground that aggregates access layer traffic, applying routing and

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Understanding Core Switch: What It Is and How to

In the realm of system networking, three key types of switches are frequently mentioned: access switches, aggregation switches, and core switches.

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SMB Network Design: Core vs. Distribution vs. Access Switches

The access layer switch sits at the edge of the network, acting as the direct on-ramp for all end-user devices. This is where your laptops, VoIP phones, printers, and wireless access points

Feb 11, 2026

### Access layer | FortiSwitch 7.6.0 | Fortinet Document Library

Access layer Access layer The access layer is where endpoints (such as phones, laptops, video-conferencing sets, printers, IoT sensors, IP cameras, and servers) are primarily connecting to the

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### Core Switch vs Access Switch | Definitions and Key Differences

Access switches typically have high-density ports because they are located at the access layer and are used to connect the majority of devices to the network. The majority of offices, small server rooms,

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### Connecting Core & Access switches

Hey, I'm currently planning on setting up a new network with 2x HP 5500 EI as Core layer, and 2x HP 2530 as Access layer. The core switches will be in a IRF stack, and we are

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### Core Switch Vs Distribution Switch Vs Access

Different types of Ethernet switches perform different roles in the layers of high-capacity networks. Core switches, distribution switches, and access switches are

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### What Is an Access Layer Switch? Guide complet

Common deployment scenarios include: Enterprise Offices: Connecting workstations, VoIP phones, printers, and wireless APs. Campus Networks: Each building or floor typically has its own access

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### Cisco Core vs Access Switches: Key Differences

Compare Cisco core switches and access switches. Learn key differences for network design and performance.

## Contact Us

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