

## Understanding Ethernet OAM Link Fault Management for an EX-series Switch

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JUNOS software for EX-series switches allows the Ethernet interfaces on these switches to support the IEEE 802.3ah standard for the Operation, Administration, and Maintenance (OAM) of Ethernet in access networks. The standard defines OAM link fault management (LFM). You can configure IEEE 802.3ah OAM LFM on point-to-point Ethernet links that are connected either directly or through Ethernet repeaters. The IEEE 802.3ah standard meets the requirement for OAM capabilities even as Ethernet moves from being solely an enterprise technology to a WAN and access technology, and the standard remains backward-compatible with existing Ethernet technology.

Ethernet OAM provides the tools that network management software and network managers can use to determine how a network of Ethernet links is functioning. Ethernet OAM should:

- Rely only on the media access control (MAC) address or virtual LAN identifier for troubleshooting.
- Work independently of the actual Ethernet transport and function over physical Ethernet ports or a virtual service such as pseudowire.
- Isolate faults over a flat (or single operator) network architecture or nested or hierarchical (or multiprovider) networks.

The following OAM LFM features are supported on EX-series switches:

- Discovery and Link Monitoring

The discovery process is triggered automatically when OAM is enabled on the interface. The discovery process permits Ethernet interfaces to discover and monitor the peer on the link if it also supports the IEEE 802.3ah standard. You can specify the discovery mode used for IEEE 802.3ah OAM support. In active mode, the interface discovers and monitors the peer on the link if the peer also supports IEEE 802.3ah OAM functionality. In passive mode, the peer initiates the discovery process. After the discovery process has been initiated, both sides participate in discovery. The switch performs link monitoring by sending periodic OAM protocol data units (PDUs) to advertise OAM mode, configuration, and capabilities.

You can specify the number of OAM PDUs that an interface can miss before the link between peers is considered down.

- Remote Fault Detection

Remote fault detection uses flags and events. Flags are used to convey the following: Link Fault means a loss of signal, Dying Gasp means an unrecoverable condition such as a power failure, and Critical Event means an unspecified vendor-specific critical event. You can specify the periodic OAM PDU sending interval for fault detection. The EX-series switch uses the Event Notification OAM PDU to notify the remote OAM device when a problem is detected. You can specify the action to be taken by the system when the configured link-fault event occurs.

- Remote Loopback Mode

Remote loopback mode ensures link quality between the switch and a remote peer during installation or troubleshooting. In this mode, when the interface receives a frame that is not an OAM PDU or a pause frame, it sends it back on the same interface on which it was received. The link appears to be in the active state. You can use the returned loopback acknowledgement to test delay, jitter, and throughput.

JUNOS software can place a remote DTE into loopback mode (if remote loopback mode is supported by the remote DTE). When you place a remote DTE into loopback mode, the interface receives the remote loopback request and puts the interface into remote loopback mode. When the interface is in remote loopback mode, all frames except OAM PDUs are looped back without any changes made to the frames. OAM PDUs continue to be sent and processed.

- Related Topics**
- Configuring Ethernet OAM Link Fault Management (CLI Procedure)
  - Example: Configuring Ethernet OAM Link Fault Management on EX-series Switches