

Understanding Virtual Chassis Configurations and Link Aggregation

You can combine physical Ethernet ports belonging to different member switches of a Virtual Chassis configuration to form a logical point-to-point link, known as a *link aggregation group (LAG)* or *bundle*. A LAG provides more bandwidth than a single Ethernet link can provide. Additionally, link aggregation provides network redundancy by load-balancing traffic across all available links. If one of the links fails, the system automatically load-balances traffic across all remaining links.

You can select up to 8 Ethernet interfaces from the different member switches of the Virtual Chassis configuration and include them within a link aggregation group. A full Virtual Chassis configuration can support up to 64 LAGs.



NOTE: The interfaces that are included within a LAG are sometimes referred to as *member interfaces*. Do not confuse member interfaces and member switches. The member switches are individual EX 4200 switches that have been interconnected with their Virtual Chassis ports (VCPs) to operate as a single network entity. In a Virtual Chassis configuration, you can create a LAG formed of member interfaces that represent ports belonging to different member switches.

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- Related Topics**
- Virtual Chassis Overview
 - Understanding Aggregated Ethernet Interfaces and LACP
 - Example: Configuring Aggregated Ethernet High-Speed Uplinks Between a Virtual Chassis Access Switch and a Virtual Chassis Distribution Switch
 - Example: Configuring Aggregated Ethernet High-Speed Uplinks with LACP Between a Virtual Chassis Access Switch and a Virtual Chassis Distribution Switch

