

Adding an Interface Description to the Configuration

You can include a text description of each physical interface in the configuration file. Any descriptive text you include is displayed in the output of the **show interfaces** commands, and is also exposed in the **ifAlias** Management Information Base (MIB) object. It has no impact on the interface's configuration. To add a text description, include the **description** statement at the **[edit interfaces *interface-name*]** hierarchy level:

```
[edit interfaces interface-name]  
description text;
```

The description can be a single line of text. If the text contains spaces, enclose it in quotation marks.

For information about describing logical units, see [Adding a Logical Unit Description to the Configuration](#).

Example: Adding an Interface Description to the Configuration

Add a description to a Fast Ethernet interface:

```
[edit interfaces]  
user@host#  
set fe-0/0/1 description "Backbone connection to PHL01"  
[edit interfaces]  
user@host#  
show  
fe-0/0/1 {  
  description "Backbone connection to PHL01";  
  unit 0 {  
    family inet {  
      address 192.168.0.1/30;  
    }  
  }  
}
```

To display the description from the router CLI, use the **show interfaces** command:

```
user@host>  
show interfaces fe-0/0/1  
Physical interface: fe-0/0/1, Enabled, Physical link is Up  
Interface index: 129, SNMP ifIndex: 23  
Description: Backbone connection to PHL01  
...
```

To display the interface description from the interfaces MIB, use the **snmpwalk** command from a server. To isolate information for a specific interface, search for the interface index shown in the **SNMP ifIndex** field of the **show interfaces** command output. The **ifAlias** object is in **ifXTable**.

```
user-server>snmpwalk host-fxp0.mylab public ifXTable | grep -e '\.23'  
snmpwalk host-fxp0.mylab public ifXTable | grep -e '\.23'  
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifName.23 = fe-0/0/1
```

```

ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifInMulticastPkts.23 = Counter32: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifInBroadcastPkts.23 = Counter32: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifOutMulticastPkts.23 = Counter32: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifOutBroadcastPkts.23 = Counter32: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCInOctets.23 = Counter64: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCInUcastPkts.23 = Counter64: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCInMulticastPkts.23 = Counter64: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCInBroadcastPkts.23 = Counter64: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCOctets.23 = Counter64: 42
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCOUcastPkts.23 = Counter64: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCOMulticastPkts.23 = Counter64: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHCOBroadcastPkts.23 = Counter64: 0
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifLinkUpDownTrapEnable.23 = enabled(1)
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifHighSpeed.23 = Gauge32: 100
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifPromiscuousMode.23 = false(2)
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifConnectorPresent.23 = true(1)
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifAlias.23 = Backbone connection to PHL01
ifMIB.ifMIBObjects.ifXTable.ifXEntry.ifCounterDiscontinuityTime.23 = Timeticks:
(0) 0:00:00.00

```