

Understanding Unknown Unicast Forwarding on EX Series Switches

Unknown unicast traffic consists of unicast packets with unknown destination MAC addresses. By default, the switch floods these unicast packets that are traveling in a VLAN to all interfaces that are members of the VLAN. Forwarding this type of traffic to interfaces on the switch can trigger a security issue. The LAN is suddenly flooded with packets, creating unnecessary traffic that leads to poor network performance or even a complete loss of network service. This is known as a traffic storm.

To prevent a storm, you can disable the flooding of unknown unicast packets to all interfaces by configuring one VLAN or all VLANs to forward unknown unicast traffic to a specific trunk interface. This channels the unknown unicast traffic to a single interface.

- Related Topics**
- Understanding Storm Control on EX Series Switches
 - Example: Configuring Storm Control to Prevent Network Outages on EX Series Switches
 - Configuring Unknown Unicast Forwarding (CLI Procedure)

Published: 2009-07-22