Can the monitoring and access points use the same aggregation switch



Overview

It works by designating a device to allow the aggregation of multiple test access points and to connect to multiple monitoring systems.

Key Takeaways

Yes, an aggregation switch can serve both monitoring (TAP aggregation) and access point connectivity, but careful configuration and port allocation are required to avoid conflicts.

Dual-

Purpose Aggregation Switches

An aggregation switch can provide layer 2 access for wired devices and access points while simultaneously aggregating traffic from monitoring tools or TAPs. This setup can simplify network design and reduce hardware costs, but it requires careful planning to ensure that monitoring traffic does not interfere with normal network operations.

Considerations for Monitoring Traffic

When using a switch for TAP aggregation: Dedicated TAP ports are typically configured to receive mirrored traffic from network elements. Tool ports are used to forward the copied traffic to monitoring devices such as packet analyzers, IPS, or RMON probes. A switch cannot use the same set of interfaces for both TAP aggregation and regular switching tasks simultaneously; each interface must be assigned to either monitoring or standard network traffic.

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Internal multicast groups or ACL-based redirection may be used to distribute mirrored traffic to multiple monitoring tools.

Considerations for Access Points

For access points connected to the aggregation switch: APs may use link aggregation (LACP) to increase bandwidth and redundancy. Ports connecting APs should be configured for trunking or VLAN assignment to maintain proper network segmentation. Power over Ethernet (PoE) may be required for APs, which must be supported by the switch.

Best Practices

Segregate ports logically: Assign separate physical or logical interfaces for TAP aggregation and AP connectivity to prevent conflicts. Monitor switch performance: High-volume mirrored traffic can consume switch resources, potentially affecting AP traffic if not properly managed.

Use VLA

Ns or dedicated switch modules: This can help isolate monitoring traffic from production traffic. Check hardware capabilities: Some switches may allow partial dedication to TAP aggregation, but not all interfaces can handle both roles simultaneously.

Conclusion

While it is technically feasible for a single aggregation switch to handle both monitoring and access point traffic, each interface must be carefully allocated to either monitoring or standard network functions. Proper configuration, VLAN segmentation, and awareness of switch resource limits are essential to maintain network performance and monitoring accuracy.

Article Content

Test Access Points Aggregation and Multiprotocol Label Switch

It works by designating a device to allow the aggregation of multiple test access points and to connect to multiple monitoring systems. TAP aggregation switches link all of the monitoring devices to specific

MR Link Aggregation Configuration Guide

Some Meraki Access Points with dual Ethernet ports may be configured for link aggregation/bonding. Below is a list of MR access points that support link bonding.

Medium Branch Switch Configuration | Validated Solution Guide

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this section of the guide will demonstrate how to configure a Aggregation switch with dual purposes, providing power and layer 2 access to wired devices and access points, while also

TAP Aggregation for Network Monitoring

Ability to dedicate a switch or switches partly or entirely to the TAP aggregation task, allowing capture and analysis of different types of network data in real time.

TAP Aggregation for Network Observability

Port mirroring offers numerous advantages over sFlow, even though these two techniques are not meant for the same use cases and can coexist concurrently on the same switch

TAP Aggregation

Next generation TAP aggregation using DANZ makes it possible to cost-effectively and losslessly monitor all datacenter network traffic while capturing and analyzing only the traffic that is important.

Large Campus Switching Best Practices

This can be configured across many switches in the dashboard via Switching > Monitor > Switch ports or for each individual switch, by clicking on the ports. In the switch port configuration window, select

What Is an Aggregation Switch and How to Choose?

Distribution switches and aggregation switches are terms often used interchangeably, as they serve similar roles in network architecture—acting as an intermediary between access switches

GWN76xx – Link Aggregation Guide

Make sure both devices involved in the link aggregation (e.g., an access point and a switch) use the same aggregation mode either LACP or Static. Mixed configurations may prevent the

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What Is an Aggregation Switch and How to Choose?

An aggregation switch is a network device that consolidates traffic from multiple access switches, wireless access points, or other edge devices and forwards it to core switches or routers.

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