

Understanding Software Installation on EX-series Switches

An EX-series switch is delivered with the JUNOS software preinstalled. As new features and software fixes become available, you must upgrade your software to use them. You can also downgrade a newly purchased system to a previous JUNOS software release if you want to maintain consistent versions in your network.

This topic covers:

- Overview of the Software Installation Process on page 1
- Installing Software on a Virtual Chassis on page 1
- Software Package Security on page 1
- Troubleshooting Software Installation on page 2
- Related Topics on page 2

Overview of the Software Installation Process

An EX-series switch is delivered with the JUNOS software preinstalled. When you connect power to the switch, it starts (boots) up from the installed software.

You upgrade the JUNOS software on an EX-series switch by copying a software package to your switch or another system on your local network, then use either the J-Web interface or the CLI to install the new software package on the switch. Finally, you reboot the switch, at which time it boots from the upgraded software.

During a successful upgrade, the upgrade package removes all files from /var and /var/tmp and completely reinstalls the existing software. It retains configuration files, and similar information, such as secure shell and host keys, from the previous version. The previous software package is preserved in a separate disk partition, and you can manually revert back to it if necessary. If the software installation fails for any reason, such as loss of power during the installation process, the system returns to the originally active installation when you reboot.

Installing Software on a Virtual Chassis

You can connect individual EX 4200 switches together to form one unit and manage the unit as a single chassis, called a virtual chassis. The virtual chassis operates as a single network entity comprised of members. Each member of a virtual chassis runs JUNOS software packages.

For ease of management, the virtual chassis provides flexible methods to upgrade software releases. You can deploy a new software release to all of the members of a virtual chassis or to only a particular member.

Software Package Security

All JUNOS software is delivered in signed packages that contain digital signatures to ensure official Juniper Networks software. For more information about signed software packages, see the *JUNOS Software Installation and Upgrade Guide*.

Troubleshooting Software Installation

If the JUNOS software loads but the CLI is not working for any reason, or if the switch has no software installed, EX-series switches provide a recovery installation procedure to install the JUNOS software.



NOTE: You can also use this procedure to load two versions of JUNOS in separate partitions on the switch.

Related Topics

- Downloading Software Packages from Juniper Networks
- Installing Software on EX-series Switches with the J-Web Interface
- Installing Software on EX-series Switches with the CLI
- Recovering from a Failed Software Upgrade on an EX-series Switch