

Read Me First

This READ ME applies to the HP ProCurve Switch 4000M (HP J4121A) and 2400M (HP J4122A). These topics are covered:

- New switch features not covered in the *HP ProCurve Switch 2400M and 4000M Management and Configuration Guide*
- Switch 4000M Power Supply Requirements
- Free Software Updates

New Switch Features

The following new information applies to both the Switch 2400M and 4000M that have software (OS) version C.06.01 or later installed on them. This READ ME is included with those switches that have OS version C.06.01 or later. These features are not covered in the *HP ProCurve Switch 2400M and 4000M Management and Configuration Guide* shipped with your switch, but the following page references indicate where in that manual this information would go.

Page 6-36. With switch OS version C.06.01 code installed on the switch, a new feature has been added to the Spanning Tree (STP) operation: Fast Mode. Replace the screen image in figure 6-20 with the following image.

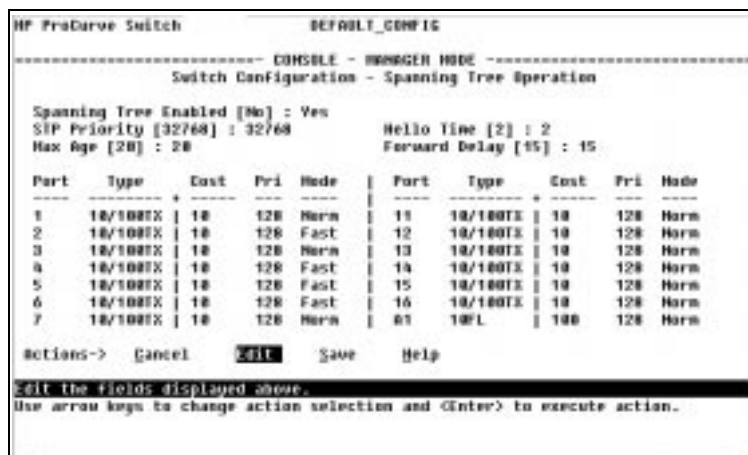


Figure 6-20. Example of the STP Configuration Screen

Page 6-37: To the description on How STP Operates, add the following text on STP Fast Mode:

STP Fast Mode

For standard STP operation, when a network connection is established on a device that is running STP, the port used for the connection goes through a sequence of states (Listening and Learning) before getting to its final state (Forwarding or Blocking, as determined by the STP negotiation). This sequence takes two times the forward delay value configured for the switch. The default forward delay is 15 seconds on HP switches, per the IEEE 802.1D standard recommendation, resulting in a total STP negotiation time of 30 seconds. Each switch port goes through this start-up sequence whenever the network connection is established on the port. This includes, for example, when the switch or connected device is powered up, or the network cable is connected between the two.

A problem can arise from this long STP start-up sequence because some end nodes are configured to automatically try to access a network server whenever the end node detects a network connection. Typical server access includes to Novell servers, DHCP servers, and X terminal servers. If the server access is attempted during the time that the switch port is negotiating its STP state, the switch port cannot process the server access request and the server access attempt will fail.

To provide support for this end node behavior, the Switch 4000M and 2424M offer a configuration mode, called “Fast Mode”, that causes the switch port to bypass the standard STP start-up sequence and to go directly into the “Forwarding” state. This allows the server access request to be forwarded when the end node needs it.

If you encounter end nodes that repeatedly indicate server access failure when attempting to bring up their network connection, and you have enabled STP on the switch, try changing the configuration of the switch ports associated with those end nodes to STP Fast Mode.

Caution

The Fast Mode configuration should be used only on switch ports connected to end nodes. Changing the Mode to Fast on ports connected to hubs, switches, or routers may cause loops in your network that STP may not be able to immediately detect, in all cases. This will cause temporary loops in your network.

After the fast start-up sequence, though, the switch ports operate according to the STP standard, and will adjust their state to eliminate continuing network loops.

To Configure Fast Mode for a Switch Port. From the switch console configuration screen for Spanning Tree Operation, shown on page 6-36:

1. Select the **Edit** action.
2. Scroll or Tab to the Mode column for the port you want to change.
3. Press the Space Bar to display **Fast**.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for all the switch ports you want to change that are connected to end nodes.
5. When you have finished the configuration changes, press **Enter** to return to the Actions line and press **S** to save the new configuration.

Pages 6-44, 6-47, 6-48, and 6-60: The manual states that the maximum number of VLANs that can be configured on the switch is eight (8). With switch OS version C.06.01 and later code installed on the switch, the maximum number of VLANs is increased to thirty (30). *Note that with version C.06.01 code, the console online help still indicates a limit of 8 VLANs. This error will be corrected in subsequent code releases.*

Switch 4000M Power Supply Requirements

If you plan to install six or more HP ProCurve Switch 100Base-FX modules (HP J4112A) in the Switch 4000M, you *must* first install a second Switch 4000M/8000M Power Supply (HP J4119A) in the switch. Note that if a redundant power supply is installed and one of the switch's power supplies subsequently fails, you can replace the failed power supply without disrupting switch operation.

Free Software Updates on the World Wide Web

Hewlett-Packard periodically provides free operating system (OS) updates for your switch and other HP networking products. For instructions on how to load a new OS into your switch, see the *Management and Configuration Guide* you received with the switch.

To access the OS updates and switch documentation, go to HP's ProCurve website, click on Support, then click on the **Switch 4000** or **Switch 2400** line. The URL is:

www.hp.com/go/procurve

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