Read Me First

for the HP ProCurve Switch 100/1000Base-T Module

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Software Updates Are *Free*!

Hewlett-Packard provides free software updates for *all* managed ProCurve networking products. To access the software updates, go to the ProCurve website at **http://www.hp.com/go/procurve,** then click on **Free Software Updates**.

Register for Automatic Notification of Updates. From the Free Software Updates page you can also register yourself to automatically receive email notice of new updates for your managed ProCurve networking products. Just follow the instructions on that page for how to receive the update notices.

To determine whether you have the latest software, you can compare the software version that is available on the website with the version that is currently installed on your switch. Follow the instructions below to determine the current software version in your switch.

To Verify the Current Software Version in Your Switch. The switch displays its current software version as a *Firmware revision* number. (For example, **Firmware revision C.07.01**.) Use any of the following methods to view this number:

- Start a Console session. In the Console login screen (the first screen displayed), the **Firmware revision** line under the switch name shows the software version.

- If you are already displaying a Console menu, go to the Console Main menu and select

    1. Status and Counters
        1. General System Information

    In the resulting display, the current software version is listed as the **Firmware revision** number.

- In the web browser interface, click on the Identity tab. The current software version is listed as the **revision** number in the **Version** line.

Your *Free* Ticket to Proactive Networking!

HP TopTools for Hubs & Switches is a breakthrough in network management software that gives you more network with less work. The TopTools for Hubs & Switches CD is included at no extra charge with your HP ProCurve Switch 1600M, 2424M, 4000M, and 8000M. See the system requirements printed on the sleeve containing the HP TopTools CD.

If You Receive a Disk with an HP ProCurve Switch Module

Switch modules introduced after the initial introduction of a switch chassis usually require a later version of software than the original software version introduced with the switch. For this reason, a disk containing the minimum switch software version required for the module is included with the module.

However, because HP periodically releases switch software updates that you may have downloaded, your switch may already have either the same or a more recent version of the software than the version on the disk that accompanied your new module. Therefore, you should check the software version currently in the switch before downloading software from a disk. (See "To Verify the Current Software Version in Your Switch" on page 1.) If the software version in your switch is earlier than the version on the disk, then you should download the disk version. But if the software version in your switch is later than the disk version (for example, if software version C.07.23 is in the switch and version C.07.22 is on the disk), then you can discard the disk.

The code version that must be running on the switch to support each of the available switch modules is listed in the file RELNOTES.TXT that is included on the disk that came with the module.

Additional Information for the 100/1000Base-T Module

1000Base-T Cable Requirements

The Category 5 networking cables that work for 100Base-TX connections should also work for 1000Base-T, but for the most robust connections, you should use cabling that complies with the new Category 5E specifications as described in Addendum 5 to the TIA-568-A standard (ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-A-5).

Because of the increased speed provided by 1000Base-T (Gigabit-T), network cable quality is more important than for either 10Base-T or 100Base-TX. Cabling plants being used to carry 1000Base-T networking must comply with the IEEE 802.3ab standards. In particular, the cabling must pass tests for Attenuation, Near End Crosstalk (NEXT), and Far End Crosstalk (FEXT). Additionally, unlike the cables for 100Base-TX, the 1000Base-T cables must pass tests for Equal Level Far End Crosstalk (ELFEXT) and Return Loss.

When testing your cabling, be sure to include the patch cables that connect the switch and other end devices to the patch panels on your site. The patch cables are frequently overlooked when testing cable and they must also comply with the cabling standards.

Additions to the Manual

Because of the more stringent requirements for cables used with 1000Base-T, these changes should be made to the *HP ProCurve Switch Modules Installation Guide* (5969-2316):

■ page 11 — in the table entry for the 100/1000Base-T Module, the Cable Type should indicate the following:

> 100 Mbps Operation: Category 5, 100-ohm UTP
> 1000 Mbps (Gigabit) operation: Category 5E, 100-ohm UTP

■ page 19 — in troubleshooting tip ❸, add this bulleted item:

- Verify that the network cabling complies with the IEEE 802.3ab standard. The cable should be installed according to the ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-A-5 specifications. Cable testing should comply with the stated limitations for Attenuation, Near-End Crosstalk, Far-End Crosstalk, Equal-Level Far-End Crosstalk, and Return Loss.

  The cable verification must include all patch cables from any end devices, including the switch, to any patch panels in the cabling path.