Read Me First

for the HP ProCurve Switches 212M and 224M

Contents:

Software Updates Are *Free*!

Hewlett-Packard provides free software updates for *all* managed HP ProCurve networking products. To access the software updates, go to the HP 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 notification of new updates for your managed HP ProCurve networking products. Just follow the instructions on that page for how to receive the update information.

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 Determine the Current Software Version in Your Switch. The switch displays its current software version as a *Firmware revision* number. (For example, **Firmware revision D.05.07**.) 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 212M and 224M. See the system requirements printed on the sleeve containing the HP TopTools CD.

Errata and Updates for the *HP ProCurve Switch 212M and 224M Management and Configuration Guide*

New HP Networking Web Site

The name of the web site for HP ProCurve networking products has changed since your switch manual was printed. The new URL for this web site is:

http://www.hp.com/go/procurve

This change affects the following pages in your switch's *Management and Configuration Guide*:

Page ii. Change the web address at the bottom of the page.

Page 3-2. Change the web address at the bottom of the table.

Page 3-11. The default Support URL shown in the screen image is incorrect. It should be the URL shown above.

Page 3-23. The reference to "Hewlett-Packard's Network City web page" under the "Support Tab" section should instead be "Hewlett-Packard's ProCurve web site".

Page 6-3. The Support URL shown in the screen image is incorrect. It should be the URL shown above.

New Features for Your Switch with Software Release D.05.12

The following new information applies to both the ProCurve Switch 212M and Switch 224M that have software (OS) version D.05.12 or later installed on them. These features are not covered in the *HP ProCurve Switch 212M and 224M Management and Configuration Guide* shipped with your switch, but the following page references indicate where in that manual this information would go.

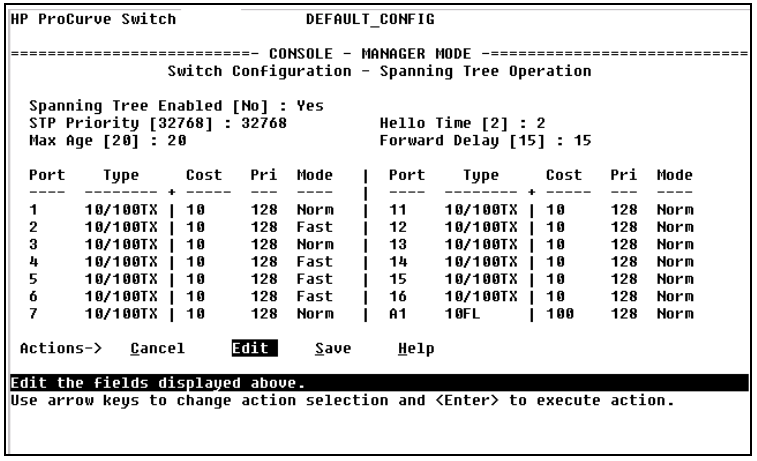
Page 3-18. The Web browser interface Alert Log strings and descriptions have changed. The new values are shown in the following table:

Alert String	Alert Description
First Time Install	Important installation information for your switch.
Too many undersized/ giant packets	A device connected to this port is transmitting packets shorter than 64 bytes or longer than 1518 bytes (longer than 1522 bytes if tagged), with valid CRCs (unlike runts, which have invalid CRCs).
Excessive jabbering	A device connected to this port is incessantly transmitting packets ("jabbering"), detected as oversized packets with CRC errors.
Excessive CRC/alignment errors	A high percentage of data errors has been detected on this port. Possible causes include: • Faulty cabling or invalid topology. • Duplex mismatch (full-duplex configured on one end of the link, half-duplex configured on the other) • A malfunctioning NIC, NIC driver, or transceiver

Excessive late collisions	Late collisions (collisions detected after transmitting 64 bytes) have been detected on this port. Possible causes include: • An overextended LAN topology • Duplex mismatch (full-duplex configured on one end of the link, half-duplex configured on the other) • A misconfigured or faulty device connected to the port
High collision or drop rate	A large number of collisions or packet drops have occurred on the port. Possible causes include: • A extremely high level of traffic on the port • Duplex mismatch • A misconfigured or malfunctioning NIC or transceiver on a device connected to this port • A topology loop in the network
Excessive broadcasts	An extremely high percentage of broadcasts was received on this port. This degrades the performance of all devices connected to the port. Possible causes include: • A network topology loop—this is the usual cause • A malfunctioning device, NIC, NIC driver, or software package

Page 8-7. In the table at the top of the page, replace the **fault** event type with **FFI** (Find, Fix, and Inform). FFI events are the same as the Alert Log strings shown in the table above. These events are displayed in both the console event log and the browser interface Alert Log.

Page 6-32. With switch OS version D.05.07 (and included in version D.05.12), a new feature was added to the Spanning Tree (STP) operation: **Fast Mode**. Replace the screen image in figure 6-15 with the following image, which shows the Mode configuration option.



To Configure Fast Mode for a Switch Port.

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.

Page 6-33: 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 212M and 224M 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.

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