Selecting a Management Interface

Contents

Overview

Management interfaces enable you to reconfigure the switch and to monitor switch status and performance. Interface types include:

- **Menu interface**—a menu-driven interface offering a subset of switch commands through the built-in VT-100/ANSI console—**page 2-3**
- **CLI**—a command line interface offering the full set of switch commands through the VT-100/ANSI console built into the switch—**page 2-4**
- **Web browser interface** --a switch interface offering status information and a subset of switch commands through a standard web browser (such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer)—**page 2-5**
- **ProCurve Manager (PCM)—**a windows-based network management solution included in-box with all manageable ProCurve devices. Features include automatic device discovery, network status summary, topology and mapping, and device management.
- **ProCurve Manager Plus (PCM+)—**a complete windows-based network management solution that provides both the basic features offered with PCM, as well as more advanced management features, including in-depth traffic analysis, group and policy management, configuration management, device software updates, and advanced VLAN management. (ProCurve includes a copy of PCM+ in-box for a free 30-day trial.)

This manual describes how to use the menu interface (chapter 3), the CLI (chapter 4), the web browser interface (chapter 5), and how to use these interfaces to configure and monitor the switch.

For information on how to access the web browser interface Help, refer to "Online Help for the Web Browser Interface" on page 5-11.

To use ProCurve Manager or ProCurve Manager Plus, refer to the *Getting Started Guide* and the *Administrator's Guide*, which are available electronically with the software for these applications. For more information, visit the ProCurve web site at **http://www.procurve.com**.

Advantages of Using the Menu Interface

```
=========================- CONSOLE - MANAGER MODE -==========================
                             Main Menu

    1. Status and Counters...
    2. Switch Configuration...
    3. Console Passwords...
    4. Event Log
    5. Command Line (CLI)
    6. Reboot Switch
    7. Download OS
    8. Run Setup
    9. Stacking...
    0. Logout

Provides the menu to display configuration, status, and counters.
To select menu item, press item number, or highlight item and press <Enter>.
```

Figure 2-1.   Example of the Console Interface Display

■ **Provides quick, easy management access** to a menu-driven subset of switch configuration and performance features:

  - IP addressing
  - VLANs and GVRP
  - Port Security
  - Port and Static Trunk Group
  - Stack Management

  - Spanning Tree
  - System information
  - Passwords
  - SNMP communities
  - Time protocols

  The menu interface also provides access for:

  - Setup screen
  - Event Log display
  - Switch and port status displays

  - Switch and port statistic and counter displays
  - Reboots
  - Software downloads

■ **Offers out-of-band access** (through the RS-232 connection) to the switch, so network bottlenecks, crashes, lack of configured or correct IP address, and network downtime do not slow or prevent access

■ **Enables Telnet (in-band) access** to the menu functionality.

■ **Allows faster navigation**, avoiding delays that occur with slower display of graphical objects over a web browser interface.

■ **Provides more security**; configuration information and passwords are not seen on the network.

Advantages of Using the CLI

`ProCurve>`	Operator Level
`ProCurve#`	Manager Level
`ProCurve(config)#`	Global Configuration Level
`ProCurve(<context>)#`	Context Configuration Levels (port, VLAN)

Figure 2-2. Command Prompt Examples

- Provides access to the complete set of the switch configuration, performance, and diagnostic features.

- Offers out-of-band access (through the RS-232 connection) or Telnet (in-band) access.

- Enables quick, detailed system configuration and management access to system operators and administrators experienced in command prompt interfaces.

- Provides help at each level for determining available options and variables.

CLI Usage

- For information on how to use the CLI, refer to chapter 3. "Using the Menu Interface".

- To perform specific procedures (such as configuring IP addressing or VLANs), use the Contents listing at the front of the manual to locate the information you need.

- For monitoring and analyzing switch operation, refer to appendix B.

- For information on individual CLI commands, refer to the Index or to the online Help provided in the CLI interface.
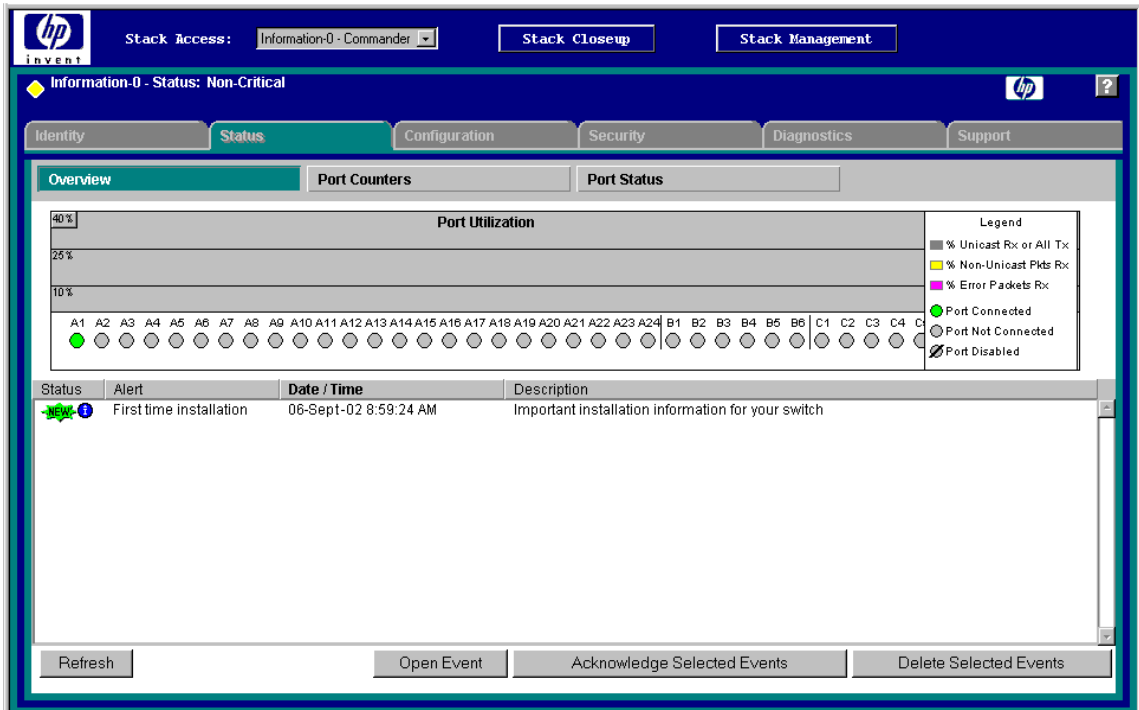
Advantages of Using the Web Browser Interface

Figure 2-3.   Example of the Web Browser Interface

- **Easy access** to the switch from anywhere on the network

- **Familiar browser interface**--locations of window objects consistent with commonly used browsers, uses mouse clicking for navigation, no terminal setup

- **Many features have all their fields in one scree**n so you can view all values at once

- **More visual cues**, using colors, status bars, device icons, and other graphical objects instead of relying solely on alphanumeric values

- **Display of acceptable ranges of values available** in configuration list boxes

Advantages of Using ProCurve Manager or ProCurve Manager Plus

You can operate ProCurve Manager and ProCurve Manager Plus (PCM and PCM+) from a PC on the network to monitor traffic, manage your hubs and switches, and proactively recommend network changes to increase network uptime and optimize performance. Easy to install and use, PCM and PCM+ are the answers to your management challenges.
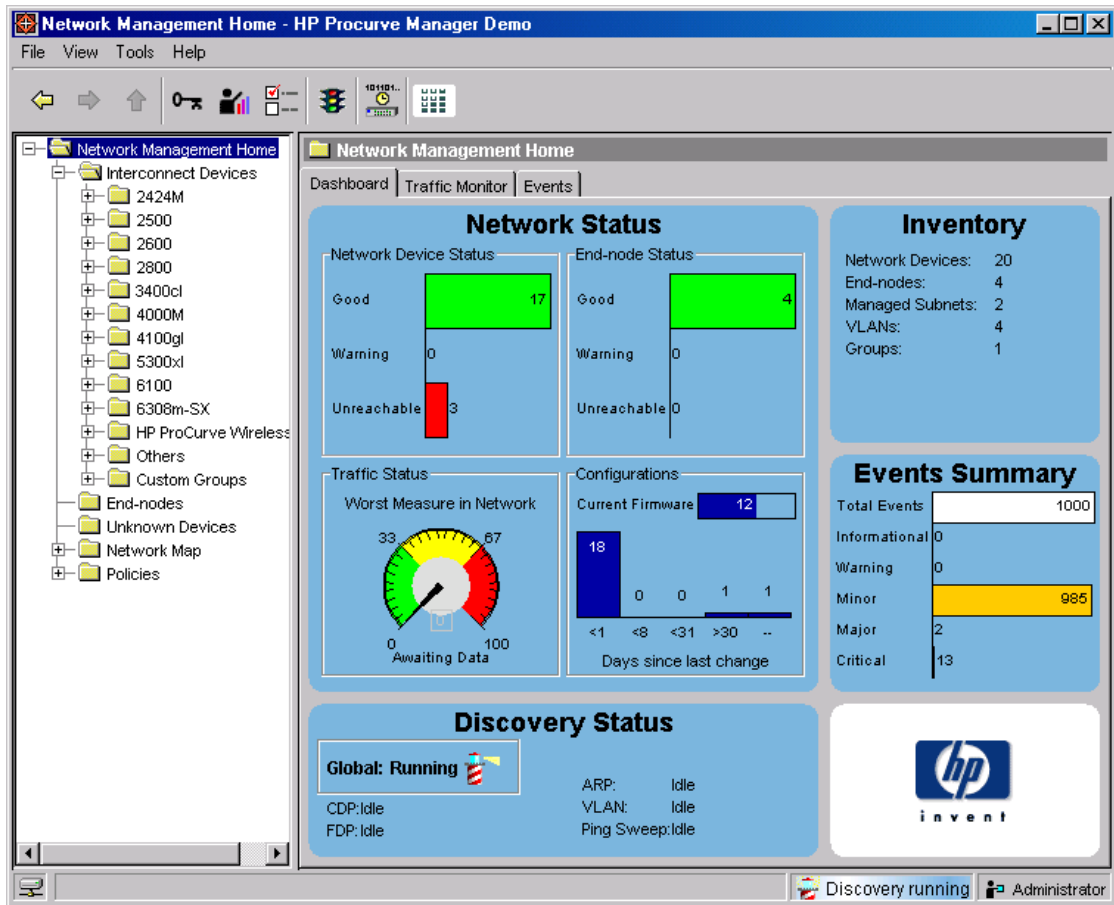

Figure 2-4. Example of the Home Page for ProCurve Manager Plus

PCM and PCM+ enable greater control, uptime, and performance in your network:

- Features and benefits of ProCurve Manager:

  - **Network Status Summary:** Upon boot-up, a network status screen displays high-level information on network devices, end nodes, events, and traffic levels. From here, users can research any one of these areas to get more details.

  - **Alerts and Troubleshooting:** An events summary screen displays alerts to the user and categorizes them by severity, making it easier to track where bottlenecks and issues exist in the network. Alerts present detailed information on the problem, even down to the specific port.

  - **Automatic Device Discovery:** This feature is customized for fast discovery of all ProCurve manageable network devices. The user can define which IP subnets to discover.

  - **Topology and Mapping:** This feature automatically creates a map of discovered network devices. Maps are color-coded to reflect device status and can be viewed at multiple levels (physical view, subnet view, or VLAN view).

  - **Device Management:** Many device-focused tasks can be performed directly by the software, or the user can access web-browser and command-line interfaces with the click of a button to manage individual devices from inside the tool.

- Features and benefits of ProCurve Manager Plus:

  - **All of the Features of ProCurve Manager:** Refer to the above listing.

  - **In-Depth Traffic Analysis:** An integrated, low-overhead traffic monitor interface shows detailed information on traffic throughout the network. Using enhanced traffic analysis protocols such as Extended RMON and sFlow, users can monitor overall traffic levels, segments with the highest traffic, or even the top users within a network segment.

  - **Group and Policy Management:** Changes in configuration are tracked and logged, and archived configurations can be applied to one or many devices. Configurations can be compared over time or between two devices, with the differences highlighted for users.

  - **Advanced VLAN Management:** A new, easy-to-use VLAN management interface allows users to create and assign VLANs across the entire network, without having to access each network device individually.

- **Device Software Updates:** This feature automatically obtains new device software images from ProCurve and updates devices, allowing users to download the latest version or choose the desired version. Updates can be scheduled easily across large groups of devices, all at user-specified times.

- **Investment Protection:** The modular software architecture of ProCurve Manager Plus enables ProCurve to offer network administrators add-on software solutions that complement their needs.