

SUMMARY: Apparent flow control problem between Gigaswift cards and Cisco Catalyst 6500 switch

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SunManagers/2004-09/0030.html>

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Date: 09/02/04

To: "'sunmanagers@sunmanagers.org'" <sunmanagers@sunmanagers.org>

Date: Thu, 2 Sep 2004 11:18:48 -0500

Ok, thanks to everyone for responses. No solutions and also no-one who is successfully using this particular configuration...no-one reported my exact problem, either. A few people reported trouble with the gigaswift card as well, but those problems are related to autonegotiation and can happen with the older gig cards as well. Sun has a workaround for autonegotiation problems: info doc 41728.

My problem, as described below, is still not solved as such, but I replaced the gigaswift card, which uses the ce driver, with an older card, X1141A, and the problem cleared right up. This isn't the greatest solution, as the older card is fiber only, and it leaves me with 6 gigaswift cards to replace before I can get my farm up and running...sigh. But it's better than no gig at all.

I get the X1141a cards from www.solarsystems.com - I'm pretty sure they're obsolete and can't be got from sun any more.

A lot of folks sent me ndd commands for turning on/off autonegotiation from the command line and emphasised doing the commands in the right order. Probably an easier solution in the long run is to set up the driver to do all that for you: info doc 72033 has instructions, in case anyone wants them.

Thanks,
Mary Dell
Server Administrator
Mesirow Financial

-----Original Message-----

From: Dell, Mary

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2004 1:17 PM

To: 'sunmanagers@sunmanagers.org'

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Hi,

I have an E220R running Solaris 9 with a fiber gig card with the ce driver. When I hook it to one of our Cisco Catalyst 6500 switches, I get link but there are a lot of errors on the port. Specifically, FCS-Err and Runts are incrementing. There are no collisions and no errors of any kind on my machine, but I experience icky, herky-jerky telnet and gui behavior. Plus my nightly legato backups, which is what I use this machine for, are hanging up more than they did when I had it on a cat 5 connection.

Everything points to a duplexing mismatch, except that I don't seem to have a duplexing mismatch – according to my networking guys the switch can only do full duplex, while my server says it's set to 1000fdx and the fdx light on the NIC is on.

My networking guys found doc at Cisco about various switches not autonegotiating properly with "some" Sun, IBM, and HP gig nics, so we turned off autoneg on both ends and diddled around with flow control settings for a day and a half without any improvement, although by turning off flow control entirely we were able to make it a lot worse.

I would suspect a pinched cable or something like that, but I have the same problem on another E220R that has a copper-based gig nic, also with the ce driver, also with a catalyst 6500 switch (but not the same one, which rules out a busted switch) I never got that resolved.

I have another machine on the same switch, an E3000 with a gigabit fiber card, that works fine, but this is a little older, not "gigaswift" -- it uses the ge driver.

So, my questions are

- (1) has anyone else had a problem like this, where symptoms point to a duplexing mismatch but actual settings are correct?
- (2) is anyone using the x1141 gigabit card with an E220R – that would be the older, non-gigaswift one – and if so, does it behave ok with Cisco switches? Any reason I should avoid buying it to use instead of the X3151?
- (3) is anyone successfully using the X3151(fiber) or X3150 (copper) with a cisco catalyst 6500 switch? Can you send me your driver settings? If you don't know how to capture them, email me and I'll send instructions.

Thanks in advance for advice – hunches and wild ideas are also welcome, I'm supposed to get this running within a week! Please email me with anything and I'll summarize.

thanks,
Mary Dell

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