Layer 3 Routing User's Manual

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Introduction to Layer 3 Switches

Moxa offers Layer-3 switches that perform data switching on the Network Layer (Layer 3) of the ISO's OSI layer model. Unlike Layer-2 switching, which uses the MAC address for exchanging data, a Layer-3 switch uses the IP address to represent the destination of a data packet.

The Layer 3 Switching Concept

IP (Internet Protocol) is a protocol defined on layer 3 of the 7-layer OSI model. The IP address is used to address data packets on the Network Layer, and is not tied to the hardware of a device or PC. The IP address can be assigned by the system operator or network administrator.

Since Layer 2 switches use the MAC address to determine the destination of transmitted data packets, and Layer 3 switches use the IP address, some mechanism is needed to associate MAC addresses with IP addresses. This is done by ARP (Address Resolution Protocol), which creates a table that matches MAC addresses to IP addresses.

When a PC sends out an ARP request, which is just a broadcast packet requiring the IP address owner to send back his MAC address, two situations could occur:

- If your PC and the IP address owner are on the same subnet, the IP address owner will use a unicast packet, which contains his MAC address, to reply to your PC. Thereafter your PC will use this MAC address to transmit to the IP address owner directly.
- If your PC and the IP address owner are not on the same subnet, your PC will not receive a reply, so it will ask for the MAC address of the Layer-3 switch (gateway/ router). To transmit data packets to the IP address owner, your PC packs the data packet with the IP address, and sends the packet to the Layer-3 switch (gateway/router) using its MAC address. The Layer-3 switch (gateway/router) receives the data packet, re-packs it, and then forwards it to the next hop according to the routing rules.

Static Routing and Dynamic Routing

The Moxa Layer 3 switch supports two routing methods: static routing and dynamic routing. Dynamic routing makes use of RIP V1/V1c/V2, and OSPF. You can either choose one routing method, or combine the two methods to establish your routing table.

A routing entry includes the following items: the destination address, the next hop address (which is the next router along the path to the destination address), and a metric that represents the cost we need to pay to access a different network.

Static Routing

You can define the routes yourself by specifying what is the next hop (or router) that the Layer 3 switch forwards data for a specific subnet. The settings of the Static Route will be added to the routing table and stored in the Layer 3 switch.

Dynamic Routing with RIP (Routing Information Protocol)

RIP is a distance vector-based routing protocol that can be used to automatically build up a routing table in the Moxa Layer 3 switch.

The Moxa Layer 3 switch can efficiently update and maintain the routing table, and optimize the routing by identifying the smallest metric and most matched mask prefix.

Dynamic Routing with OSPF (Open Shortest Path First)

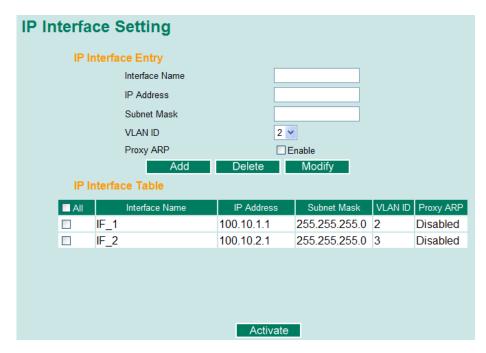
The Moxa Layer 3 switch also supports OSPF (open shortest path first), which uses "Link State" instead of "hop count" to determine the network route. OSPF is more complicated than RIP. However, compared to RIP, OSPF has faster network convergence and results in less network traffic. Both RIP and OSPF are usually referred to as Interior Gateway Protocols (IGP).

IP Interface

Before configuring the routing protocols, we first need to set the correct IP interfaces for the network.

IP Interface Setting

The IP Interface Setting page is used to assign the interface.



Interface Name

Used to describe this interface (max. of 30 characters.)

IP Address

This option is used to specify the IP address of this interface.

Subnet Mask

This option is used to specify the subnet mask for this IP address.

VLAN ID

Setting	Description	Factory Default
ID numbers	Display all available VLAN IDs that you have set in the Virtual	None (if no VLAN ID
	LAN. To establish an interface, you must first assign an	is available)
	available ID to this interface. If a VLAN ID is assigned twice, a	
	warning message will appear.	

Proxy ARP

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Enable/Disable	This option is used to enable or disable the Proxy ARP.	Disabled

Layer 3 Routing IP Interface

There are three action buttons for setting up the **IP Interface Table**:

Add

To add a entry into the IP Interface Table

Delete

To remove the selected entries from the IP Interface Table

Modify

To modify the content of a selected entry in the IP Interface Table

NOTE The entries in the IP Interface Table will not be added to the Moxa Layer 3 switch's interface table until you click the Activate button.

Routing Protocols

The Moxa Layer 3 switch supports two routing methods: static routing and dynamic routing. Dynamic routing makes use of RIP V1/V1c/V2, or OSPF. You can either choose static routing only, or combine static routing and one of the dynamic routing methods to establish your routing table.

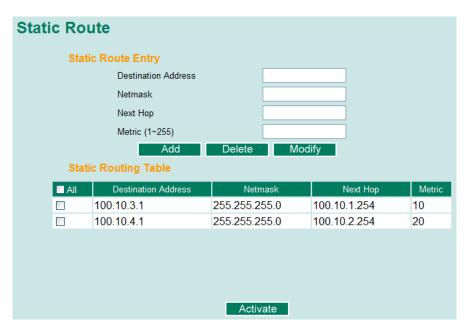
A routing entry includes the following items: the destination address, the next hop address (which is the next router along the path to the destination address), and a metric that represents the cost we need to pay to access a different network.

Static Routing

You can define the routes yourself by specifying what is the next hop (or router) that the Layer 3 switch forwards data for a specific subnet. The settings of the Static Route will be added to the routing table and stored in the Layer 3 switch.

Static Route Settings

The **Static Route** page is used to set up the static routing table for the Moxa Layer 3 switch.



Static Route Entry

Destination Address

You can specify the destination's IP address.

Netmask

This option is used to specify the subnet mask for this IP address.

Next Hop

This option is used to specify the next router along the path to the destination.

Metric

This option is a value assigned to an IP route for a particular network interface. The value identifies the cost associated with using that route to access the neighboring network.

NOTE

After inputting all of the information for a static routing configuration, click the **Add** button to add it to the static routing table.

Static Routing Table

There are two action buttons for setting up the **Static Routing Table**:

Delete

To remove the selected entries from the Static Routing Table

Modify

To modify the contents of a selected entry in the Static Routing Table

NOTE

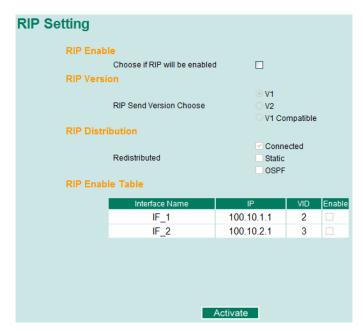
The entries in the Static Routing Table will not be added to the Moxa Layer 3 switch's routing table until you click the Activate button.

Dynamic Routing with RIP (Routing Information Protocol)

RIP is a distance vector-based routing protocol that can be used to automatically build up a routing table in the Moxa Layer 3 switch. The Moxa Layer 3 switch can efficiently update and maintain the routing table, and optimize the routing by identifying the smallest metric and most matched mask prefix.

RIP Settings

RIP is a distance-vector routing protocol that employs the hop count as a routing metric. RIP prevents routing loops by implementing a limit on the number of hops allowed in a path from the source to a destination. The RIP page is used to set up the RIP parameters.



RIP Enable

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Enable/Disable	This option is used to enable or disable the RIP function	Disabled
	globally.	

RIP Version

You can specify which version the RIP should follow. You can also select V1 Compatibility to make sure the RIP packet of Version 1 can be received as well.

RIP Distribution

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Connected	The entries that are learned from the directly connected	Unchecked
	interfaces will be re-distributed if this option is enabled.	(disabled)
Static	The entries that are set in a static route will be re-distributed if	Unchecked
	this option is enabled.	(disabled)
OSPF	The entries that are learned from the OSPF will be	Unchecked
	re-distributed if this option is enabled.	(disabled)

RIP Enable Table

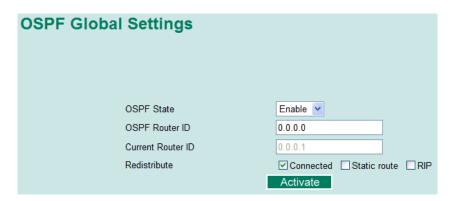
This is a table showing the entries learned from RIP.

NOTE The RIP settings will not function until you click the Activate button.

Dynamic Routing with OSPF (Open Shortest Path First)

OSPF (Open Shortest Path First) is a dynamic routing protocol for use in Internet Protocol (IP) networks. Specifically, it is a link-state routing protocol and falls into the group of interior gateway protocols, operating within a single autonomous system. As a link-state routing protocol, OSPF establishes and maintains neighbor relationships in order to exchange routing updates with other routers. The neighbor relationship table is called an adjacency database in OSPF. OSPF forms neighbor relationships only with the routers directly connected to it. In order to form a neighbor relationship between two routers, the interfaces used to form the relationship must be in the same area. An interface can only belong to a single area. With OSPF enabled, the Moxa Layer 3 switch is able to exchange routing information with other L3 switches or routers more efficiently in a large system. The OSPF Settings page is used to set up OSPF configurations.

OSPF Settings

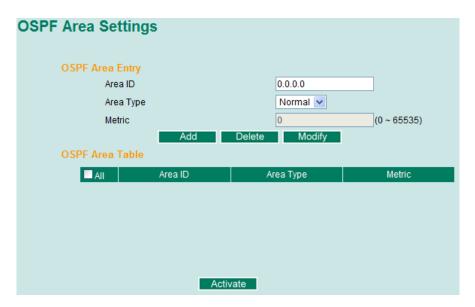


Each L3 switch/router has an OSPF router ID, customarily written in the dotted decimal format (e.g., 1.2.3.4) of an IP address. This ID must be established in every OSPF instance. If not explicitly configured, the default ID (0.0.0.0) will be regarded as the router ID. Since the router ID is an IP address, it does not have to be a part of any routable subnet in the network.

OSPF State, OSPF Router ID, Current Router ID, Redistribute

Setting	Description	Factory Default
OSPF State	Select the option to enable/disable the OSPF	Disable
	Function.	
OSPF Router ID	Set the L3 switch's Router ID.	0.0.0.0
Current Router ID	Show the current L3 switch's Router ID.	0.0.0.0
Redistribute	Redistribute routing information to other protocols	Connected

OSPF Area Settings



An OSPF domain is divided into areas that are labeled with 32-bit area identifiers which are commonly written in the dot-decimal notation of an IPv4 address. Areas are used to divide a large network into smaller network areas. They are logical groupings of hosts and networks, including their routers having interfaces connected to any of the included networks. Each area maintains a separate link state database whose information may be summarized towards the rest of the network by the connecting router. Thus, the topology of an area is unknown outside of the area. This reduces the amount of routing traffic between parts of an autonomous system.

OSPF Area Entry

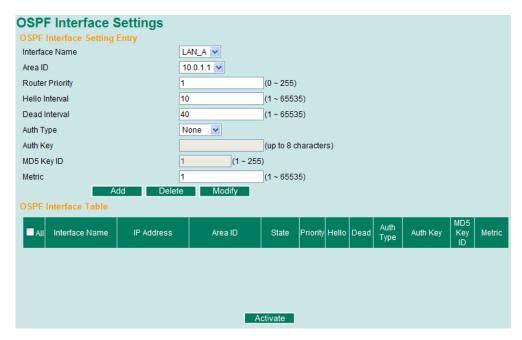
Area ID, Area Type, Metric

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Area ID	Define the areas that this L3 switch/router connects to.	0.0.0.0
Area Type	Define the area type, Stub Area or NSSA.	Normal
Metric	Define the metric value.	0

OSPF Area Table

Shows the current OSPF area table in the L3 switch/router.

OSPF Interface Settings



Before using OSPF, we have to assign an interface for each area. Also the detailed information of the interface can be defined in this section. See the details in the following descriptions:

OSPF Interface Setting Entry

Configuration details

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Interface Name	Define the interface name.	N/A
Area ID	Define the Area ID.	N/A
Router Priority	Define the L3 switch/router's priority.	1
Hello Interval	Hello packets are packets that an OSPF process sends to its OSPF	10
	neighbors to maintain connectivity with those neighbors. The hello	
	packets are sent at a configurable interval (in seconds). The value of	
	all hello intervals must be the same within a network.	
Dead Interval	The dead interval is also a configurable interval (in seconds), and	40
	defaults to four times the value of the hello interval.	
Auth Type	OSPF authentication allows the flexibility to authenticate OSPF	None
	neighbors. Users can enable authentication to exchange routing	
	update information in a secure manner. OSPF authentication can	
	either be none, simple, or MD5. However, authentication is not	
	necessary to be set. If it is set, all L3 switches / routers on the same	
	segment must have the same password and authentication method.	
Auth Key	Authentication key means the clear-text password when using	N/A
	"Simple" method of the authentication type or MD5 encrypted	
	password when using MD5 of authentication type.	
MD5 Key ID	MD5 authentication provides higher security than plain text	1
	authentication. This method uses the MD5 to calculate a hash value	
	from the contents of the OSPF packet and the authentication key. This	
	hash value is transmitted in the packet, along with a key ID.	
Metric	Manually set Metric / Cost of OSPF.	1

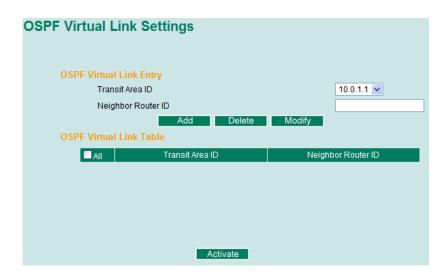
OSPF Interface Table

Shows the current OSPF interface table in a list.

Area ID, Area Type, Metric

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Area ID	Define the areas that this L3 switch/router connects to.	0.0.0.0
Area Type	Define the area type, Stub Area or NSSA.	Normal
Metric	Define the metric value.	0

OSPF Virtual Link Settings



All areas in an OSPF autonomous system must be physically connected to the backbone area (Area 0.0.0.0). However, this is impossible in some cases. For those cases, users can create a virtual link to connect to the backbone through a non-backbone area and also use virtual links to connect two parts of a partitioned backbone through a non-backbone area.

OSPF Virtual Link Entry

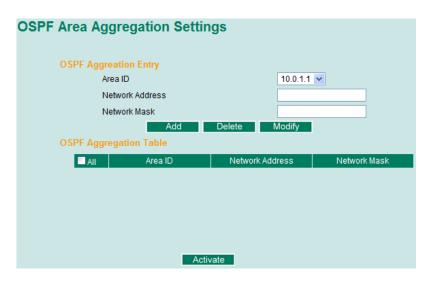
Configuration details

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Transit Area ID	Define the areas that this L3 switch/router connects to.	N/A
Neighbor Router ID	Define the neighbor L3 switch/route's ID.	N/A

OSPF Virtual Link Table

Shows the current OSPF virtual link table.

OSPF Area Aggregation Settings



Each of OSPF areas which consist of a set of interconnected subnets and traffic across areas is handled by routers attached to two or more areas, known as Area Border Routers (ABRs). With OSPF aggregation function, users can combine groups of routes with common addresses into a single routing table entry. The function is used to reduce the size of routing tables.

OSPF Aggregation Entry

Configuration details

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Area ID	Select the Area ID that you want to configure.	N/A
Network Address	Fill in the network address in the area.	N/A
Network Mask	Fill in the network mask.	N/A

OSPF Aggregation Table

Shows the current OSPF aggregation table.

OSPF Neighbor Table



Shows the current OSPF neighbor table.

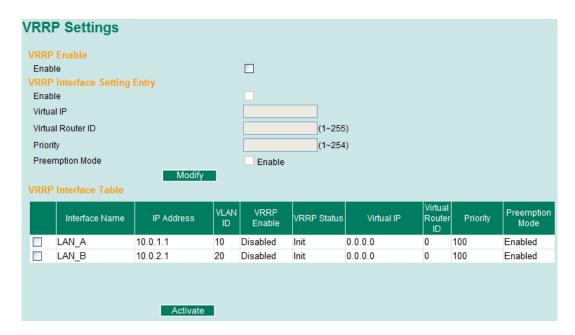
OSPF Database Table



Shows the current OSPF database table.

Gateway Redundancy

VRRP Settings



The Virtual Router Redundancy Protocol (VRRP) feature can solve the static configuration problem. VRRP enables a group of routers to form a single virtual router with a virtual IP address. The LAN clients can then be configured with the virtual router's virtual IP address as their default gateway. The virtual router is the combination of a group of routers, and also known as a VRRP group.

Enable

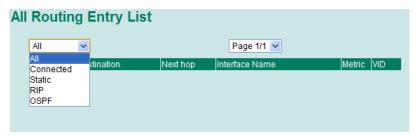
Setting	Description	Factory Default
Enable	Checkmark the checkbox to enable the VRRP.	N/A

VRRP Interface Setting Entry

Setting	Description	Factory Default
Enable	Determines to enable the VRRP entry or not.	Disabled
Virtual IP	L3 switches / routers in the same VRRP group must have the	0.0.0.0
	identical virtual IP address like VRRP ID. This virtual IP	
	address must belong to the same address range as the real IP	
	address of the interface.	
Virtual Router ID	Virtual Router ID is used to assign a VRRP group. The L3	0
	switches / routers, which operate as master / backup, should	
	have the same	
	ID. Moxa L3 switches / routers support one virtual router ID for	
	each interface. The usable range of ID is 1 to 255.	
Priority	Determines priority in a VRRP group. The priority value range is	100
	1 to 255 and the 255 is the highest priority. If several L3	
	switches / routers have the same priority, the router with	
	higher IP address has the higher priority. The usable range is "1	
	to 255".	
Preemption Mode	Determines whether a backup L3 switch / router will take the	Enabled
	authority of master or not.	

Routing Table

The **Routing Table** page shows all routing entries used by the Moxa Layer 3 switch.



All Routing Entry List

Setting	Description	Factory Default
All	Show all routing rules	N/A
Connected	Show connected routing rules	N/A
Static	Show static routing rules	N/A
RIP	Show RIP exchanged routing rules	N/A
OSPF	Show OSPF exchanged routing rules	N/A