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Reset a Cisco 2960 Switch To Factory Default Settings

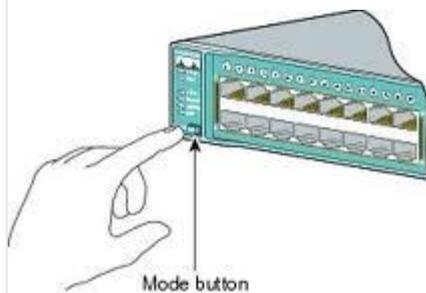
By Rich Bibby | May 28, 2013

66 Comments

Flattening a switch before re-deployment is one of those simple tasks that I always find myself having lookup on the web, so I thought I'd save myself some time in future and document it here.

Step 1.

Connect up your console cable and power on the switch, whilst holding down the "mode" button:



This interrupts the boot process before the Flash file system can initialize, and after a short while (continue holding the "mode" button) you will see the following prompt:

```
Using driver version 1 for media type 1
Base ethernet MAC Address: 4c:30:2d:81:ef:80
Xmodem file system is available.
The password-recovery mechanism is enabled.
The system has been interrupted prior to initializing the
```

```
flash filesystem. The following commands will initialize
the flash filesystem, and finish loading the operating
system software:
flash_init
boot
switch:
```

Step 2.

Initialize the flash file system with the command: **flash_init**

```
switch: flash_init
Initializing Flash...
mifs[2]: 10 files, 1 directories
mifs[2]: Total bytes : 1806336
mifs[2]: Bytes used : 612352
mifs[2]: Bytes available : 1193984
mifs[2]: mifs fsck took 1 seconds.
mifs[3]: 0 files, 1 directories
mifs[3]: Total bytes : 3870720
mifs[3]: Bytes used : 1024
mifs[3]: Bytes available : 3869696
mifs[3]: mifs fsck took 0 seconds.
mifs[4]: 5 files, 1 directories
mifs[4]: Total bytes : 258048
mifs[4]: Bytes used : 9216
mifs[4]: Bytes available : 248832
mifs[4]: mifs fsck took 0 seconds.
mifs[5]: 5 files, 1 directories
mifs[5]: Total bytes : 258048
mifs[5]: Bytes used : 9216
mifs[5]: Bytes available : 248832
mifs[5]: mifs fsck took 1 seconds.
-- MORE --
mifs[6]: 566 files, 19 directories
mifs[6]: Total bytes : 57931776
mifs[6]: Bytes used : 28429312
mifs[6]: Bytes available : 29502464
mifs[6]: mifs fsck took 21 seconds.
...done Initializing Flash.
```

Step 3.

Delete the **config.text** file from the flash directory:

```
switch: del flash:config.text
Are you sure you want to delete "flash:config.text" (y/n)?y
File "flash:config.text" deleted
```

Step 4.

Delete the **vlan.dat** file from the flash directory:

```
switch: del flash:vlan.dat
Are you sure you want to delete "vlan.dat" (y/n)?y
File "flash:vlan.dat" deleted
```

Step 5.

Reboot the switch and you're done:

```
switch: boot
Loading "flash:c2960s-universalk9-mz.122-58.SE2.bin"...
--- System Configuration Dialog ---
Enable secret warning
-----
In order to access the device manager, an enable secret is required
If you enter the initial configuration dialog, you will be prompted for the enable secret
If you choose not to enter the intial configuration dialog, or if you exit setup without settin
please set an enable secret using the following CLI in configuration mode-
enable secret 0 <cleartext password>
-----
Would you like to enter the initial configuration dialog? [yes/no]:
% Please answer 'yes' or 'no'.
```

Thanks for reading.

Rich

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