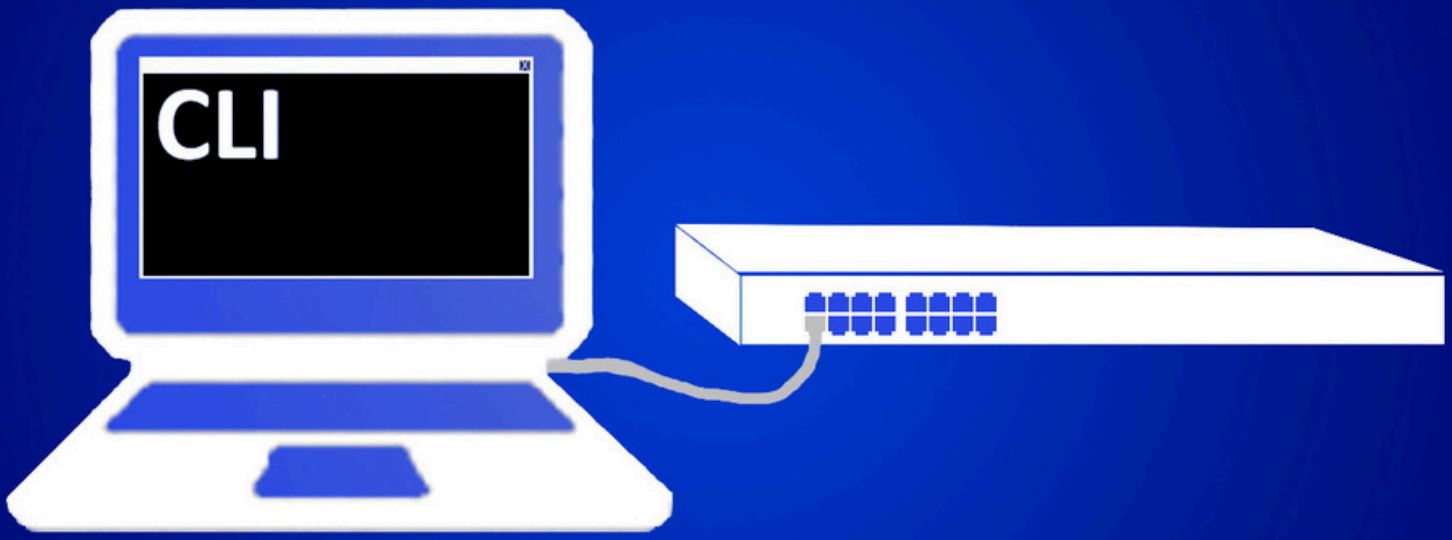
THE TOP 10 COMMANDS

Used On a Layer 2 Switch



The TOP 10 COMMANDS Used On a Layer 2 Switch

Ever wonder what the Top 10 Commands are used on a network switch?

After tons of reviews and feedback and after careful examination...the following commands have been determined to be the most vital and important, as they are the most significant and important commands as well as the most often used.

Be sure to watch the video(s) showing how to connect to a Layer 2 Switch **initially** to allow you to use these commands.

Once you've assigned an IP address for managing the switch remotely over the network, you can then use the same command line interface program

(like PuTTy, Teraterm, Hyperterminal, RealTerm, MobaXTerm) to run these exact same commands on the switch (but remotely).

1. enable
Gets you into privileged EXEC mode.
Switch> enable
Switch#

If you don’t know this, you’re basically locked outside the house.

2. configure terminal
Enter global configuration mode.
Switch# configure terminal
Switch(config)#

This is where real configuration begins.

3. interface
Used to configure a specific port.
Switch(config)# interface fastEthernet 0/1

You'll live inside interface mode when:

- Assigning VLANs
- Enabling/disabling ports
- Setting speed/duplex

4. show mac address-table
🔥 One of the most important troubleshooting commands.
Switch# show mac address-table

Shows:

- Learned MAC addresses
- Which port they're on (or were learned on) on the switch
- Which VLAN they belong to

This tells you if the switch is actually learning devices or what devices it sees connected to it.

5. show vlan brief
Used constantly when working with VLANs.
Switch# show vlan brief

Shows:

- VLANs configured
- Which ports are assigned to each VLAN

If a device can’t communicate, this is one of the first places you check.

6. vlan <number>
Creates a VLAN.
Switch(config)# vlan 10
Switch(config-vlan)# name SALES

This is how you start segmenting your network.

7. switchport mode access / switchport mode trunk

Defines port type.

Access port:

Switch(config-if)# switchport mode access

Trunk port:

Switch(config-if)# switchport mode trunk

If you mix these up, VLAN traffic won't behave correctly. This is a classic beginner mistake.

8. switchport access vlan <number>

Assigns a port to a VLAN.

Switch(config-if)# switchport access vlan 10

Without this, your VLAN setup does nothing useful.

9. show running-config
Shows the active configuration.
Switch# show running-config

Use this to:

- Verify what's configured
- Catch mistakes
- Review someone else's setup

This command saves careers.

10. copy running-config startup-config
The "don't lose your work" command.
Switch# copy running-config startup-config

If you forget this and reboot?
Everything you did is *gone*.
Every network student learns this lesson once.

Bonus (Because Real Life Is Messy)
These commands are just as important:

- show interfaces status
- show interfaces
- show spanning-tree
- no shutdown
- interface range
- show ip interface brief (even on L2 switches for management SVI)

If I Were Just Starting Out...
I'd practice the following exercises:

1. Create a VLAN on the switch
2. Assign that created VLAN to a specific port/interface on the switch
3. Configure a trunk
4. Verify your configuration settings with show commands
5. Save the config

Because configuration without verification is guessing.