

Starting a Switch

When a Catalyst switch is started for the first time, a default configuration is loaded. Three main operations are performed during normal startup:

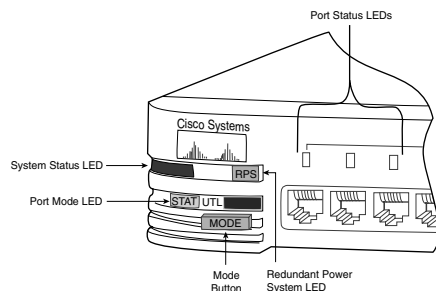
- A power-on self-test (POST) checks the hardware.
- A startup routine initiates the operating system.
- Software configuration settings are loaded.

Initial Startup Procedure

1. Before you start the switch, verify the following:
 - All network cable connections are secure.
 - A terminal is connected to the console port.
 - A terminal application is selected.
2. Attach the switch to the power source to start the switch (there is no on/off switch).
3. Observe the boot sequence.

LEDs on the front panel of the switch provide information on switch status during startup, normal operation, and fault conditions. Pressing the mode button (shown in the figure) toggles through the LED display modes, which include the following:

- Port status
- BW utilization
- Full-duplex support



The following table details switch LED status indicators.

Catalyst Switch LED Keys

LED	Status
System LED	Green —System is powered and operational. Amber —System malfunction.
Redundant power supply	Green —Redundant power supply is operational. Amber —Redundant power supply is installed but not operational. Flashing amber —The internal power supply and redundant power supply have power, and the internal power supply is powering the switch.
Port status (STAT LED on)	Green —Link is present. Flashing green —Activity. Alternating green and amber —Link fault. Amber —Port is not forwarding.
Bandwidth utilization (UTL LED on)	One to eight LEDs on —0.1 to less than 6 Mbps. Nine to 16 LEDs on —6 to less than 120 Mbps. 17 to 24 LEDs on —120 to 280 Mbps.
Full-duplex (FDUP LED on)	Green —Ports are configured in full-duplex mode. Off —Ports are half-duplex.

Getting Help

Several commands built into the IOS software provide help when you're entering configuration commands:

- **?**—Displays a list of commonly used commands.
- **More**—Appears at the bottom of the screen when more information exists. Display the next screen by pressing the Spacebar. Display the next line by pressing the Return key. Press any other key to return to the user-mode prompt.
- **s?**—Lists all commands that start with s.
- **show ?**—Lists all variants of the **show** command.
- **show running-configuration**—Displays the currently active configuration in memory, including any changes made in the session that have not yet been saved.