

Cisco Fiber Optic Switches aliases



Article Overview

Cisco Fiber Optic Switches, such as the MDS series, support device aliases for WWPNs and CLI command aliases to simplify SAN management and operational tasks.

Cisco Fiber Optic Switches

Cisco offers a range of Fibre Channel (FC) switches designed for high-performance Storage Area Networks (SANs). For example, the Cisco MDS 9124V is a 64-Gbps, 24-port Fibre Channel switch that provides low-latency connectivity for all-flash arrays and high-performance hosts. It supports advanced features such as automatic zoning, nonblocking forwarding, NVMe/FC readiness, and enhanced diagnostics like Inter-Switch Link (ISL) and Host-Bus-Adapter (HBA) diagnostics. These switches can operate in switch mode or Network Port Virtualization (NPV) mode, allowing flexible SAN architectures for small to large enterprises.

Device Aliases for WWPNs

In Cisco MDS switches, device aliases are used to assign friendly names to World Wide Port Names (WWPNs), simplifying SAN management. Unlike the older `fcalias` command, device aliases are defined once per WWPN and apply across all VSANs, reducing configuration complexity. To create a device alias:

- Enter device-alias database mode: `mds(config)# device-alias database`
 - Define the alias: `mds(config-device-alias-db)# device-alias name pwwn`
 - Exit and commit changes: `mds(config-device-alias-db)# exit` and `mds(config)# commit`
- Device aliases are automatically distributed to other Cisco-attached switches, ensuring consistent naming across the SAN fabric

Article Content

Feb 27, 2026

Fabric Configuration Guide, Cisco DCNM for SAN, Release 6.x

All switches in the Cisco MDS 9000 Family support Distributed Device Alias Services (device alias) on a per-VSAN

Feb 19, 2026

ddas.mif

All switches in the Cisco MDS 9000 Family support Distributed Device Alias Services (device alias) on a per VSAN basis and on a

Feb 27, 2026

Solved: device-alias change

OK, first timer here, so be nice ☺ I have a nexus 5548 (2 actually) on which we're using both ethernet and fibre channel

Dec 18, 2025

Cisco DCNM SAN Client Online Help

When device alias runs in the basic mode, all applications function like the applications on the Cisco SAN-OS

Nov 25, 2025

How to configure fiber optics on a Cisco switch

This tutorial will explain the steps required to configure fiber optics on a Cisco switch and ensure proper connectivity

Jan 13, 2026

Cisco Nexus 9000 Series NX-OS SAN Switching Configuration Guide ...

Cisco SAN switches support Distributed Device Alias Services (device aliases) on a fabric-wide basis. When the port

Jul 23, 2026

Distributing Device Alias Services

Distributing Device Alias Services All switches in the Cisco MDS 9000 Family support Distributed Device Alias Services (device alias)

Apr 02, 2026

Cisco CLI Switch Command Cheat Sheet for 2025

Here's the Cisco CLI Switch Command cheat sheet you need for configuring and managing Cisco switches The Cisco

Jul 09, 2026

CISCO-FC-DEVICE-ALIAS-MIB MIB - Observium MIB Browser

Once configured, the Device Alias can be used in place of the WWN. On the switch, this MIB assists in defining the Device Aliases

Mar 18, 2026

Cisco Systems MDS 9000 Using Device Aliases or FC Aliases, Saving ...

Step 1 Select Switches > Hosts or Switches > Storage. You see the end devices in the Information pane. and select Save Selected

May 18, 2026

USING ALIASES FOR CISCO COMMAND SHORTCUTS

In an endeavour to make life easy for Cisco device implementors and, Cisco uses the concept of "Aliases" - to save

Dec 12, 2025

Cisco Systems MDS 9000 Using Device Aliases or FC Aliases, Saving ...

Cisco Systems MDS 9000 Using Device Aliases or FC Aliases, Saving Device Aliases to the Switch . Using Device Aliases or FC

Dec 03, 2025

Configuring Fibre Channel Interfaces

In Cisco Nexus 5000 Series switches, the BB_credit mechanism is used on Fibre Channel interfaces but not on virtual Fibre Channel

Dec 20, 2025

Cisco MDS Fibre Channel (FC) switch show commands

Here's a list of commonly used Cisco MDS Fibre Channel (FC) switch show commands along with their explanations

Feb 08, 2026

Managing FC Alias

Note For creating a FC Alias for Cisco Nexus 7000 Series switches, expand the pod and choose the network device. Click the VDC

Oct 06, 2025

Cisco Optical. Cisco icons, shapes, stencils and symbols

Cisco optical - Vector stencils library The vector stencils library "Cisco optical" contains 19 symbols of optical devices for drawing

Aug 06, 2025

Catalyst 6500 Series 10

This data sheet describes the benefits, specifications, and ordering information for the Catalyst 6500 Series 10- and

Apr 16, 2026

Cisco MDS 9000 Series Fabric Configuration Guide, Release 9.x

All the switches in the Cisco MDS 9000 Series support Distributed Device Alias Services (device alias) on a fabric-wide

Apr 21, 2026

Solved: Choosing a Fibre Switch

I'm planning a large network deployment and I need a 10Gb-Fibre switch to connect the distribution switches in a

Aug 17, 2025

Using Device Aliases or FC Aliases, Saving Device Aliases to the

For each fabric that you are monitoring with Fabric Manager Server, check the Device Alias check box to use global device aliases,

Jul 13, 2026

Device-alias replace MDS Switch

Hi, I would like to know: How can I replace device-alias pWWN using command line? How can I add a new pWWN to

Sep 25, 2025

Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference

To create a command alias, use the alias command in global configuration mode. To delete all aliases in a command mode or to

May 09, 2026

Cisco DCNM SAN Client Online Help

All switches in the Cisco MDS 9000 Family support Distributed Device Alias Services (device alias) on a per-VSAN

Nov 25, 2025

Cisco Nexus 5000 Series NX-OS Software Configuration Guide

Switches in the Cisco Nexus 5000 Series support Distributed Device Alias Services (device aliases) on a fabric-wide

Mar 21, 2026

IOS Command Shortcuts; aka alias

Preparing for CCIE Lab ? you may find creating command shortcuts may save you time spent on typing. Here is a brief list I found;

May 15, 2026

Essential Cisco Command Aliases for Network Engineers

In this post, I'll share some clever and useful Cisco CLI aliases that you can configure on your switches and routers,

Aug 31, 2025

What is the difference between "FCAlias" & "Device-Alias"?

FCalias will interoperate with some non-Cisco fibre channel switches. FCaliases are propagated via a zoneset activate

Mar 06, 2026

D Commands

D Commands This chapter describes the Cisco NX-OS Fibre Channel, virtual Fibre Channel, and Fibre Channel over Ethernet

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://greatpremiersolutions.co.za>

Email: sales@greatpremiersolutions.co.za

Phone: +27 82 914 3675

Address: Unit 5, Silicon Heights, 22 Electron Avenue, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa

This document is for informational purposes only. Specifications subject to change without notice.

