



Alteon OS[™]

Release Notes

Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module for IBM BladeCenter[®]
Version 1.0

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Solutions by
NORTEL

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Release Notes

The Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module (GbESM) is one of up to four GbESMs that can be installed in the IBM BladeCenter chassis.

These release notes provide the latest information regarding Alteon OS for Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module version 1.0. This supplement modifies information found in the complete documentation:

- *Alteon OS Application Guide for the Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module for IBM BladeCenter*
- *Alteon OS Command Reference for the Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module for IBM BladeCenter*
- *Alteon OS ISCLI Reference for the Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module for IBM BladeCenter*
- *Alteon OS Browser-Based Interface for the Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module for IBM BladeCenter*
- *Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module for IBM BladeCenter, Installation Guide*

The publications listed above are available from the IBM support website:

<http://www.ibm.com/systems/support>

Please keep these release notes with your product manuals.

Hardware support

This Alteon OS software is supported only on the IBM BladeCenter's 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module (GbESM). The Nortel GbESM is a high performance Layer 2/3 embedded network switch that features tight integration with the IBM BladeCenter H or BladeCenter HT management module. The GbESM has six 10Gbps external ports (see [Figure 1](#)). The number and type of ports are as follows:

- Six 10Gbps XFP (LC connector)
- Fourteen 10Gb internal ports
- One 10/100/1000Mb external copper management (RJ-45)
- Two 100Mb internal management ports
- One RS-232 serial port

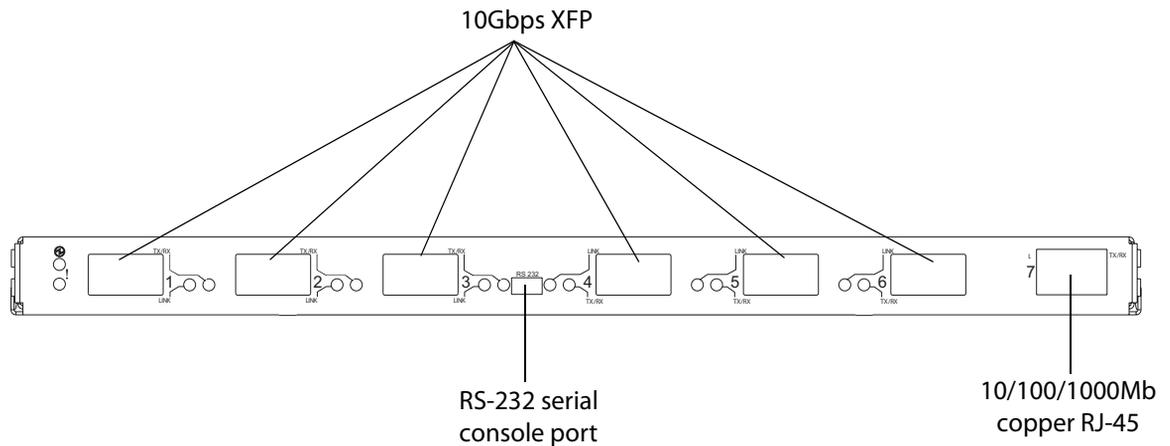


Figure 1 GbESM Faceplate

Updating the Switch Software Image

The switch software image is the executable code running on the GbE Switch Module. A version of the image ships with the switch, and comes pre-installed on the device. As new versions of the image are released, you can upgrade the software running on your switch. To get the latest version of software available for your GbE Switch Module, go to:

<http://www.ibm.com/systems/support>

From the AOS CLI, use the `/boot/cur` command to determine the current software version.

The typical upgrade process for the software image consists of the following steps:

- Place the new image onto a FTP or TFTP server on your network, or on a local computer.
- Transfer the new image to your switch.
- Select the new software image to be loaded into switch memory the next time the switch is reset.

Loading New Software to Your Switch

The switch can store up to two different software images, called `image1` and `image2`, as well as boot software, called `boot`. When you load new software, you must specify where it should be placed: either into `image1`, `image2`, or `boot`.

For example, if your active image is currently loaded into `image1`, you would probably load the new image software into `image2`. This lets you test the new software and reload the original active image (stored in `image1`), if needed.

To download a new software image to your switch, you will need the following:

- The image or boot software loaded on a FTP or TFTP server on your network
- The hostname or IP address of the FTP or TFTP server
- The name of the new software image or boot file

NOTE – The DNS parameters must be configured if specifying hostnames.

Image names:

- Image file: GbESM-10G-AOS-1.0.1.1_OS.img
- Boot file: GbESM-10G-AOS-1.0.1.1_Boot.img

When the above requirements are met, use one of the following procedures to download the new software to your switch. You can use the AOS CLI, the ISCLI, or the BBI to download and activate new software.

NOTE – When performing this update, make sure you download the new boot file and the new image file.

Using the AOS CLI:

1. **At the Boot Options# prompt, enter:**

```
Boot Options# gting
```

2. **Enter the name of the switch software to be replaced:**

```
Enter name of switch software image to be replaced  
["image1"/"image2"/"boot"]: <image>
```

3. **Enter the hostname or IP address of the FTP or TFTP server.**

```
Enter hostname or IP address of FTP/TFTP server: <name or IP address>
```

4. **Enter the name of the new software file on the server.**

```
Enter name of file on FTP/TFTP server: <filename>
```

The exact form of the name will vary by server. However, the file location is normally relative to the FTP or TFTP directory (usually /tftpboot).

5. **Enter your username for the server, if applicable.**

```
Enter username for FTP server or hit return for TFTP server: <user-  
name> or <Enter>
```

6. **Enter the switch port to use for the file transfer. The default option is mgt.**

```
Enter the port to use for downloading the image
["mgt" | "ext7" | "data"]:
```

7. **The system prompts you to confirm your request.**

After loading software to the switch, select a software image to run, as described below.

Use the following procedure to select which OS software image (image1 or image2) you want to run in switch memory for the next reboot.

8. **At the `Boot Options#` prompt, enter:**

```
Boot Options# image
```

9. **Enter the name of the image you want the switch to use upon the next boot.**

The system informs you of which image is currently set to be loaded at the next reset, and prompts you to enter a new choice:

```
Currently set to use switch software "image1" on next reset.
Specify new image to use on next reset ["image1"/"image2"]:
```

Using the ISCLI:

1. **In Privileged EXEC mode, enter the following command:**

```
Router# copy tftp {<image1|image2|boot-image>} [ext7-port|mgt-port|
data-port]
```

or

```
Router# copy ftp {<image1|image2|boot-image>} [ext7-port|mgt-port|
data-port]
```

Select a port, or press **Enter** to use the default (management port).

2. **Enter the hostname or IP address of the FTP or TFTP server.**

```
Address or name of remote host: <name or IP address>
```

3. Enter the name of the new software file on the server.

```
Source file name: <filename>
```

The exact form of the name will vary by server. However, the file location is normally relative to the FTP or TFTP directory (usually `tftpboot`).

4. Enter your username and password for the server, if applicable.

```
User name: <username>|<Enter>
```

5. The system prompts you to confirm your request.

After loading software to the switch, select a software image to run, as described below.

Use the following procedure to select which OS software image (`image1` or `image2`) you want to run in switch memory for the next reboot.

6. In Global Configuration mode, enter:

```
Router(config)# boot image {image1|image2}
```

7. Enter the name of the image you want the switch to use upon the next boot.

The system informs you of which image set to be loaded at the next reset:

```
Next boot will use switch software image1 instead of image2.
```

Using the BBI:

You can use the Browser-Based Interface to load software onto the GbESM. The software image to load can reside in one of the following locations:

- FTP server
- TFTP server
- Local computer

After you log onto the BBI, perform the following steps to load a software image:

1. **Click the Configure context tab in the toolbar.**
2. **In the Navigation Window, select System > Config/Image Control.**

The Switch Image and Configuration Management page appears.

Switch Image and Configuration Management			
Image 1 Version	version 1.0.0, downloaded 16:51:09 Sun Jan 8, 2006		
Image 2 Version	version 1.0.1, downloaded 14:08:11 Fri Jan 6, 2006		
Boot Version	version 1.0.0		
Active Image Version	1.0.0		
Next Boot Image Selection	image 1 ▾		
Active Configuration Block	active config		
Next Boot Configuration Block Selection	active config ▾		
Next CLI Boot Mode Selection	AOS CLI ▾		
Prompt for selectable boot mode	DISABLE ▾		
<u>FTP/TFTP Settings</u>			
Hostname or IP Address of FTP/TFTP server	100.10.20.1		
Username for FTP Server or Blank for TFTP Server			
Password for FTP Server			
Port for Transfer	mgt ▾		
<u>Image Settings</u>			
Image for Transfer	image 1 ▾		
Image Filename (on server)	1.0.1_05.img	Get Image	Put Image
Image Filename (on HTTP Client)		Browse...	Download via Browser

3. **Select the port to use for the image transfer:**
 - mgt: Selects the internal management port (MGT1 or MGT2).
 - ext7: Selects the external management port (EXT7).
 - data: Selects a data port (INT1-INT14, EXT1 - EXT6).
4. **If you are loading software from your computer (HTTP client), go to step 5. If you are loading software from a FTP/TFTP server, enter the server's information in the FTP/TFTP Settings section.**

5. **In the Image Settings section, select the image version you want to replace (Image for Transfer).**
 - **If you are loading software from a FTP/TFTP server, enter the file name and click Get Image.**
 - **If you are loading software from your computer, click Browse. In the File Upload Dialog, select the file and click OK. Click Download via Browser.**

Once the image has loaded, the page refreshes to show the new software.

Software features

The list of features below briefly summarizes the functionality of the 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module (GbESM) in Alteon OS version 1.0.

For more detailed information about configuring GbESM features and capabilities, refer to the *Alteon OS Application Guide for the Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module for IBM BladeCenter* (part number 42C4911).

Switch Management

- IBM management module integration
- BladeCenter Enterprise (BCH) and Telco (BCHT) chassis support
- Browser-Based Interface (HTTP and HTTPS)
- Telnet support
- SSH/SCP support (version 1 and version 2)
- RADIUS authentication and authorization
- TACACS+ authentication and authorization
- LDAP authentication
- SNMP support (version 1 and version 3)
- FTP/TFTP image and configuration management
- Scriptable configuration management

Layer 2

- 1024 Virtual LANs (VLANs)
- VLAN Tagging
- Protocol-based VLANs
- Spanning Tree Protocol
- Rapid Spanning Tree Protocol and Multiple Spanning Tree Protocol
- Trunking (port aggregation)
- Link Aggregation Control Protocol (LACP)
- Layer 2 Trunk Failover

- 802.1x Port Authentication (EAPOL)
- QoS/ACL Layer 2 Filtering
- 802.1p/Class Of Service support
- Fast Uplink Convergence

Layer 3

- 250 IP Interfaces
- IP Routing
- Inter-VLAN routing
- 128 static routes
- RIP v1 and v2
- OSPFv2
- BGPv4
- Differentiated Services
- IGMP v1 and v2 Snooping
- IGMP v1 and v2 Relay

High Availability

- Virtual Router Redundancy Protocol (VRRP)
- Active-Active support

Security

- Broadcast Storm Control
- Secure switch administration

Supplemental Information

This section provides additional information about configuring and operating the GbESM and Alteon OS.

Management Module

- The “Fast POST=Disabled/Enabled” inside the IBM management module Web interface “I/O Module Admin Power/Restart” does not apply to the GbESM.

Solution: To boot with Fast or Extended POST, go to the “I/O Module Admin/Power/Restart” window. Select the GbESM, and then choose “Restart Module and Run Standard Diagnostics” or “Restart Module and Run Extended Diagnostics.”

- The following table correlates the Firmware Type listed in the IBM management module’s Web interface “Firmware VPD” window to the GbESM software version:

Table 1 Firmware Type list

Firmware Type	Description
Boot ROM	GbESM Boot code version
Main Application 1	Image 1 GbESM Alteon OS version
Main Application 2	Image 2 GbESM Alteon OS version

- Within the IBM management module Web interface, the Java applets of “Start Telnet Session” and “Start Web Session” do not support changing of default known ports 23 and 80 respectively.

Solution: If the Telnet or HTTP port on the GbESM is changed to something other than the default port number, the user must use a separate Telnet client or Web browser that supports specifying a non-default port to start a session to the GbESM user interface.

Management Module-GbE Switch Module Connectivity

Currently, the IBM management module is designed to provide one-way control of the GbESM. As a result, the GbESM may lose connectivity to the management module via the management port under the following conditions:

- If new IP attributes are pushed from the management module to the GbESM while the IP Routing table is full, the new attributes will not be applied.

Solution: Enable “External Management over all ports,” connect to the switch using other interface and then clear the routing table. Then push the IP address from the management module. If this does not work, use Solution 2 below.

- If you execute the /boot/reset CLI command on the GbESM or the GbESM resets itself, the management module might not push the IP attributes to the switch, and connectivity may be lost.

Solution 1: If you should experience any connectivity issues between the switch module and the management module, go to the **I/O Module Configuration** window on the management module’s Web interface. Under the **New Static IP Configuration** section, click Save to trigger the management module to push the stored IP attributes to the switch module.

Solution 2: If Solution 1 does not resolve your connectivity issue, then go to the **I/O Module Admin/Power/Restart** window on the management module’s Web interface. Restart the switch module in question.

Solution 3: If this still does not resolve the issue, enable **Preserve new IP configuration on all resets** setting on the management module and restart the switch module via the **I/O Module Admin/Power/Restart** window on the management module’s Web interface.

NOTE – As a rule, always use the management module Web interface to change the GbESM management IP attributes (IP address, mask and gateway), and then click Save to push the IP attributes to the switch module. Use of the command-line interface to change the switch module management IP attributes may result in duplicated IP Interface 250 entries in the switch route table and/or loss of connectivity via the management module.

Secure Management Network

The following GbESM attributes are reserved to provide secure management access to and from the IBM management module:

- Internal management
 - MGT1 (port 15) and MGT2 (port 16)
 - VLAN 4095
 - IP interface 250
 - Gateway 254

- External management
 - EXT7 (port 23)
 - VLAN 4094
 - IP interface 249
 - Gateway 253

For more information about remotely managing the GbESM through the external ports, see “Accessing the Switch” in the *Application Guide*.

NOTE – The external uplink ports (EXT1-EXT6) cannot be members of the management VLANs (4094 and 4095).

Ping and Telnet port options

Some commands offer an option to specify the port to use for transferring data. The following global commands support the port option, as follows:

Use the **ping** command to verify station-to-station connectivity across the network, as follows:

```
ping <host name> | <IP address> [tries (1-32)] [msec delay] [-m | -mgt | -e | -ext7 | -d | -data]
```

Where *IP address* is the hostname or IP address of the device, *tries* (optional) is the number of attempts (1-32), *msec delay* (optional) is the number of milliseconds between attempts. By default, the **-m** or **-mgt** option for internal management ports is used. To use the external management port, specify the **-e** or **-ext7** option; to use data ports, specify the **-d** or **-data** option.

Use the **telnet** command to telnet out of the switch, as follows:

```
telnet <hostname> | <IP address> [port] [-m | -mgt | -e | -ext7 | -d | -data]
```

Where *IP address* is the hostname or IP address of the device. By default, the **-m** or **-mgt** option for internal management ports is used. To use the external management port, specify the **-e** or **-ext7** option; to use data ports, specify the **-d** or **-data** option.

Secure Shell (SSH)

Because SSH key generation is CPU intensive, the GbESM attempts to avoid unnecessary key generation. The process generates three server keys:

- 1. One key is generated to replace the current server key, if used.**
- 2. A second key is generated as a spare, in case the current server key is used and the specified interval expires.**
- 3. A third key is generated for use at the next reboot.**

Therefore, if you never login via SSH, you will only see two key generation events. You may see all three events directly following a reboot. If you want to witness the key generation after the specified interval has expired, then you must login via SSH at least once during each expiration interval.

Port Mirroring tags BPDU packets

When you perform port mirroring, Spanning Tree BPDU packets are VLAN tagged at the monitoring port. This is standard behavior of port mirroring on the GbESM. All mirrored egress traffic is tagged.

Trunk Group Configuration Tips

Please be aware of the following information when you configure trunk groups:

- Always configure trunk groups first on both ends, before you physically connect the links.
- Configure all ports in a trunk group to the same speed.

Spanning Tree Configuration Tips

To ensure proper operation with switches that use Cisco Per VLAN Spanning Tree (PVST+), you must do one of the following:

- Create a separate Spanning Tree Group for each VLAN.
- Manually add all associated VLANs into a single Spanning Tree Group.

Syslog Configuration Tip

The *facility* parameter traditionally is used to correlate services (e.g. IP, CLI, etc.) to messages. This is done to distinguish between the different services that are running in the network/device. However, for the GbESM, there is a single configured facility value (0-7) used on all messages. By configuring a unique facility value for each switch, a single SYSLOG server can distinguish between the various GbESMs in the network. Refer to “System Host Log Configuration” in the Alteon OS *Command Reference*.

Known issues

This section describes known issues for Alteon OS on the Nortel 10Gb Ethernet Switch Module version 1.0.

Port EXT7 Behavior

- EXT7 LEDs:

While port EXT7 is disabled, the Link and Tx/Rx LEDs continue to respond to an active connection. This behavior does not affect the functionality of the port.

To verify the status of port EXT7, check the link information display (`/info/link`).

- EXT7 Displays

When you configure port EXT7 as disabled (`/cfg/port ext7/dis`), the `/oper/port ext7/cur` command displays the port status as enabled.

To verify the status of port EXT7, check the link information display (`/info/link`).

Jumbo Frames

Some ingress jumbo frames (for example, ICMP) are not routed from one VLAN to another VLAN. Jumbo frames are routed across data VLANs.

ACL Filtering

- When an ACL is installed on two different ports, only one statistics counter will be available. The GbESM does not support two different statistics counter for one ACL installed on two different ports.
- When setting up an ACL to set 802.1p priority for in-profile packets, and updating DSCP field using TOS bits for out-of-profile packets, the out-of-profile packets will have also the 802.1p priority set based on the in-profile setting.

IGMP Relay

- If an IGMP v2 joins an IGMP group on the same port where an IGMP v1 join has already been issued, the software will default to the IGMP v1 timeout value.

Link Aggregation Control Protocol

If a static trunk on a GbESM is connected to another GbESM with LACP configured (but no active LACP trunk), the command `/info/12/trunk` might erroneously report the static trunk as forwarding.

If you configure LACP (active/passive) on one port, also configure LACP on the partner switch, at the end of the link. If you connect LACP with a static trunk, there will be no connectivity on that link.

Static Mrouter

If a port has a static multicast router (Mrouter) configured, and you move the port to a different VLAN, the static Mrouter appears in the `/info/13/igmp/mrouter/dump` output for the original VLAN.

Solution: When you move the port to a new VLAN, remove the static Mrouter from the port, and add it again.

ACL Filters

The ACL filters for TCP/UDP work properly only on packets that do not have IP options.

QoS Metering

Traffic may exceed the configured maximum burst size of the ACL meter (`/cfg/port x/aclqos/meter/mbsize`) by one packet, with that packet remaining In-Profile. Once the ACL meter has been exceeded, additional burst packets fall Out-of-Profile.

QoS and Trunking

When you assign an ACL (or ACL Group) to one port in a trunk, Alteon OS does not automatically assign the ACL to other ports in the trunk, and it does not prompt you to assign the ACL to other ports in the trunk.

Solution: Manually assign each ACL or ACL Group to all ports in a trunk.

RIP MIBs

Due to backward-compatibility issues, two Routing Information Protocol (RIP) MIBs are available in Alteon OS : `ripCfg` and `rip2Cfg`. Use the `rip2Cfg` MIB to configure RIPv1 and RIPv2 through SNMP.

Alteon OS does not support the standard RIPv2 MIB, as described in RFC 1724. Use the `rip2Cfg` MIB to configure RIPv1 and RIPv2 through SNMP.

Trunk and Link Loop

When you create a trunk or link loop between the GbESM and another switch, packets might loop infinitely at line rate within the related links. When this problem occurs, the GbESM continuously displays the following messages at the console:

```
WARNING: packet_sent u: 0, dv_active: tx ring full  
packet_sent dcnt=114, public1=110, vcnt=1025
```

Solution: Remove the loop to resolve this misconfiguration.

Trunk Traffic

Multicast, broadcast and DLF (Destination Lookup Failed, which are unknown destination MAC packets) traffic is sent to the lowest numbered port in the trunk. If this port is down, then the traffic is sent to the next lowest-numbered port. If the port that was down comes up again, the traffic is not re-hashed back to the recovered port.

Browser Based Interface

- Some versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.x do not perform HTTP download efficiently. If you have one of these versions, HTTP software download might take much longer than expected (up to several minutes).
- The Mozilla Firefox browser is recommended for the BBI.