Configuring promiscuous mode on a virtual switch or portgroup (1004099)

Document Id

1004099

Purpose

By default, a guest operating system's virtual network adapter only receives frames that are meant for it. Placing the guest adapter in promiscuous mode causes it to detect all frames passed on the virtual switch that are allowed under the VLAN policy for the associated portgroup. This can be useful for intrusion detection monitoring or if a sniffer needs to be run to analyze all traffic on the wire.

Promiscuous mode is disabled by default, and should not be turned on unless specifically required. Software running inside a virtual machine may be able to monitor any and all traffic moving across a vSwitch if it is allowed to enter promiscuous mode.

Resolution

To configure a portgroup or virtual switch to allow promiscuous mode:

1. Log into the ESXi/ESX host or vCenter Server using the vSphere Client.
2. Select the ESXi/ESX host in the inventory.
3. Click the **Configuration** tab.
4. In the Hardware section, click **Networking.**
5. Click **Properties** of the virtual switch for which you want to enable promiscuous mode.
6. Select the virtual switch or portgroup you wish to modify and click **Edit.**
7. Click the **Security** tab.
8. From the Promiscuous Mode dropdown menu, click **Accept.**

Note: The setting on the portgroup overrides the virtual switch setting. For more information, see
How promiscuous mode works at the virtual switch and portgroup levels (1002934) (/s/article/1002934?
r=2&other.KM_Utility.getArticle=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleData=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleLanguage=1&other.KM_Utility.getGl
comm-runtime-components-aura-components-siteforce-qb.Quarterback.validateRoute=1)
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You likely need to set the VLAN 4095 at the port group level, which allows the port group to see the traffic on any VLAN while leaving the VLAN tags intact.

Related Information

How promiscuous mode works at the virtual switch and portgroup levels (/s/article/1002934?
r=2&other.KM_Utility.getArticle=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleData=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleLanguage=1&other.KM_Utility.getGl
comm-runtime-components-aura-components-siteforce-qb.Quarterback.validateRoute=1)
在虚拟交换机或端口组上配置混杂模式 (/s/article/2062204?
r=2&other.KM_Utility.getArticle=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleData=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleLanguage=1&other.KM_Utility.getGl
comm-runtime-components-aura-components-siteforce-qb.Quarterback.validateRoute=1)
仮想スイッチまたはポート グループ上で無差別モードを構成する (/s/article/2078928?
r=2&other.KM_Utility.getArticle=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleData=1&other.KM_Utility.getArticleLanguage=1&other.KM_Utility.getGl
comm-runtime-components-aura-components-siteforce-qb.Quarterback.validateRoute=1)

Update History

03/17/2011 - Updated Products list
09/06/2012 - Added ESXi 5.0 to products list
10/11/2014 - Added VMware ESXi 5.5.x and VMware vCenter Server 5.5.x under Product versions.

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