CHAPTER 10

Monitoring Port Activity with SwitchProbe

This chapter explains how to monitor a port on the Catalyst 3000 using SwitchProbe.

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Uses of the SwitchProbe Port
- Connecting the Probe Device
- Selecting the Port to Analyze

Uses of the SwitchProbe Port

The SwitchProbe port, located on the Catalyst 3000 back panel, connects to probe devices such as protocol analyzers, RMON probes, and other Ethernet-compliant devices. This enables you to decode packet contents for troubleshooting or to analyze network characteristics. Using the SwitchProbe port, you can monitor any one of the 10Base-T ports on the Catalyst 3000.

The SwitchProbe port can not monitor the 100Base-TX ports.

The SwitchProbe port is used for monitoring only; it cannot be used to transmit data. Therefore, monitoring the Catalyst 3000 with an RMON probe requires the use of two ports: one to listen through the SwitchProbe port and one to communicate with the SNMP station.

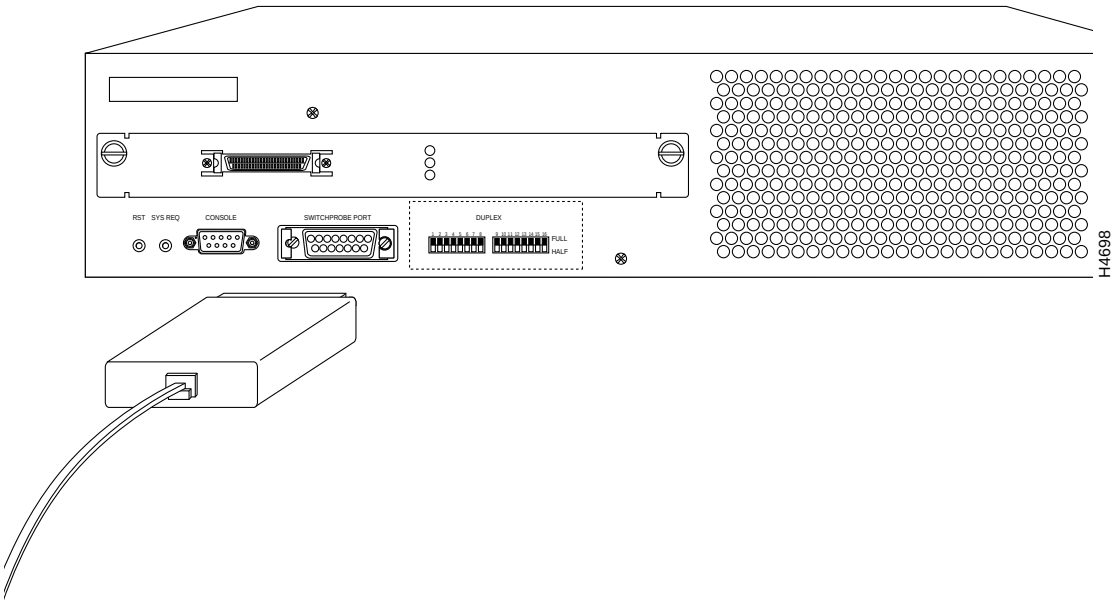
To monitor several Catalyst 3000 devices using a single monitoring device, connect each SwitchProbe port to a hub, then connect the monitoring device to the hub. Do not connect any ports other than SwitchProbe ports. Only one SwitchProbe may be active at once; disable all other SwitchProbe ports by entering 0 in the *SwitchProbe Port* field of the SwitchProbe Configuration menu (see the section, Selecting the Port to Analyze, later in this chapter).

When traffic at a port that is being monitored by the SwitchProbe is very heavy (above 80 to 90%), the SwitchProbe (not the port) may drop some packets.

Connecting the Probe Device

Use a standard Ethernet transceiver to connect the probe device to the SwitchProbe AUI port located on the back of the Catalyst 3000.

Figure 10-1 Connecting a Probe Device to the SwitchProbe Port



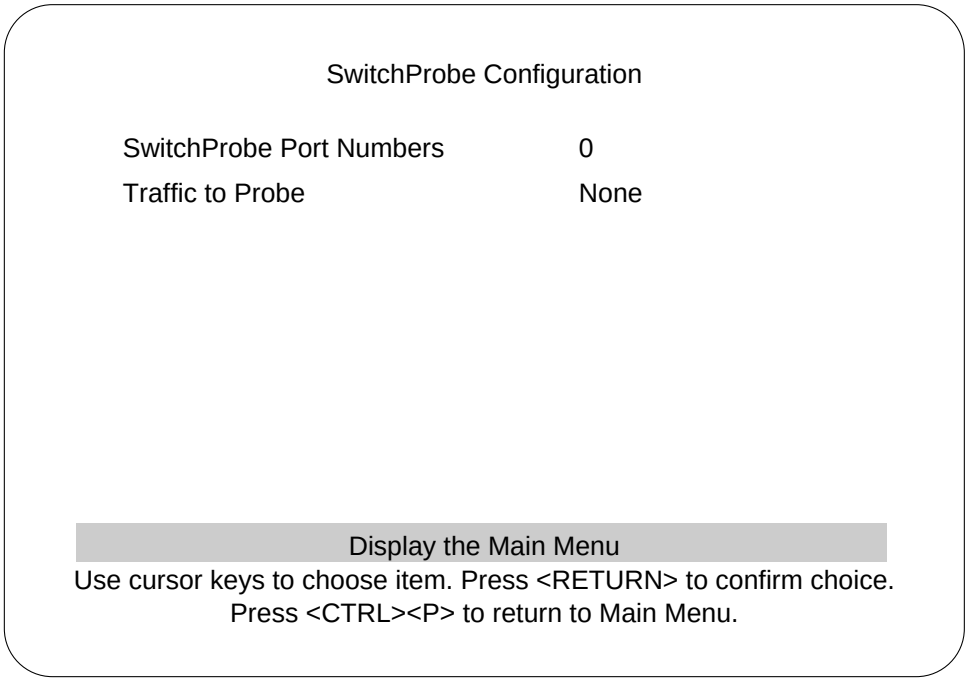
Selecting the Port to Analyze

You can select which port you want to analyze using either the network management console connected to the EIA RS-232 port of the Catalyst 3000, or using an SNMP network management application such as the Cisco SwitchVision application or a Telnet session.

SwitchProbe Configuration Screen

Follow these steps to select the port to analyze:

Step 1 From the Main menu, select the Configuration menu, then select the SwitchProbe (Configuration) menu. The following screen appears:



Step 2 Complete the field for the port number on the screen as follows:

- SwitchProbe Port Number

  Use the arrow keys to highlight the *SwitchProbe Port Number* field and press RETURN. At the *New Value:* prompt, enter the number of the port you wish to monitor.

  Select 0 to disable the SwitchProbe function.

- Traffic to Probe

  The type of traffic that will be monitored. If the selected port is set for Half-Duplex communication, both Receive and Transmit traffic is monitored. If the selected port is set for Full-Duplex communication, you can monitor either Receive or Transmit traffic. To toggle between Receive or Transmit, select the field and press RETURN.

Step 3 Select *Return to Previous Menu* to accept the new settings.

Step 4 Begin monitoring port traffic using the probe equipment.