Dual network port panel with fiber optic cable



Overview

Cisco is introducing a family of fiber management solutions with a debut of SMF and MMF patch panels.

Key Takeaways

Yes, a dual-network (combo) port panel can be combined with fiber optic cables using SFP ports or media converters, allowing either copper or fiber connections on the same port pair.

Understanding Dual-

Network (Combo) PortsA dual-network or combo port is a network port that provides two physical interfaces—typically an RJ45 copper port and an SFP (fiber) port—on the same logical connection. Only one interface can be active at a time, and the active port is usually determined automatically when a valid link is detected, though some switches allow manual configuration. This design allows flexibility: you can use copper for short runs and fiber for longer distances without changing the switch hardware.

Using Fiber with Combo PortsTo connect fiber optic cables to a dual-network port panel: SFP Modules: Insert an SFP transceiver into the SFP slot of the combo port.

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The SF

P module converts the electrical Ethernet signal to an optical signal compatible with your fiber cable (single-mode or multi-mode) and vice versa. Media Converters: If your device lacks SFP ports, a fiber media converter can bridge copper Ethernet ports to fiber optic cables. The converter has an RJ45 port for copper and a fiber port for optical connections, effectively extending your network over fiber.

Duplex vs Simplex: Fiber connections may use duplex cables (two fibers: one for transmit, one for receive) or single-fiber BiDi (wavelength-division multiplexing for bidirectional communication on one strand).

Ensure the SF

P or converter matches the fiber type and wavelength.

Practical Setup

Insert the SFP module into the combo port if using fiber directly. Connect the fiber optic cable to the SFP module or media converter, ensuring TX→RX and RX→TX alignment for duplex cables. Connect the copper Ethernet to the RJ45 port if using a media converter.

Power the device and verify link/activity LEDs to confirm connectivity. Configure speed/duplex settings if required, ensuring both ends of the fiber link match in mode and speed.

Key Considerations

Only one port in a combo pair can be active at a time. Fiber type (single-mode or multi-mode) and SFP compatibility must match across devices. Media converters can be used to integrate fiber into existing copper networks without replacing switches.

Fiber connections provide longer distance, EMI immunity, and higher bandwidth compared to copper. By following these guidelines, a dual-network port panel can effectively support fiber optic connections, either directly via SFP modules or indirectly through media converters, enabling flexible and scalable network designs.

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Article Content

Cisco High-Density Fiber Patch Panel, Simplex, MPO

Cisco is introducing a family of fiber management solutions with a debut of SMF and MMF patch panels. The panels will enable Cisco''s customers

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Optical fiber connector

An optical fiber connector is a device used to link optical fibers, facilitating the efficient transmission of light signals. An optical fiber connector enables quicker

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Single-mode optical fiber

In fiber optics, a quadruply clad fiber is a single-mode optical fiber that has four claddings. Each cladding has a refractive index lower than that of the core.

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FibrePlus Optical Patch Panel

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APPLICATION FibrePlus 1RU 19-inch fiber optic patch panels have been designed to optimize both the internal fiber management and add greater fiber density, constructed from mild steel with a black

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