

Configuration Wizard

The QLogic configuration wizard simplifies SAN configuration and promotes best practices for stable environments. Featured here for the SANbox 5200 Fibre Channel stackable switch

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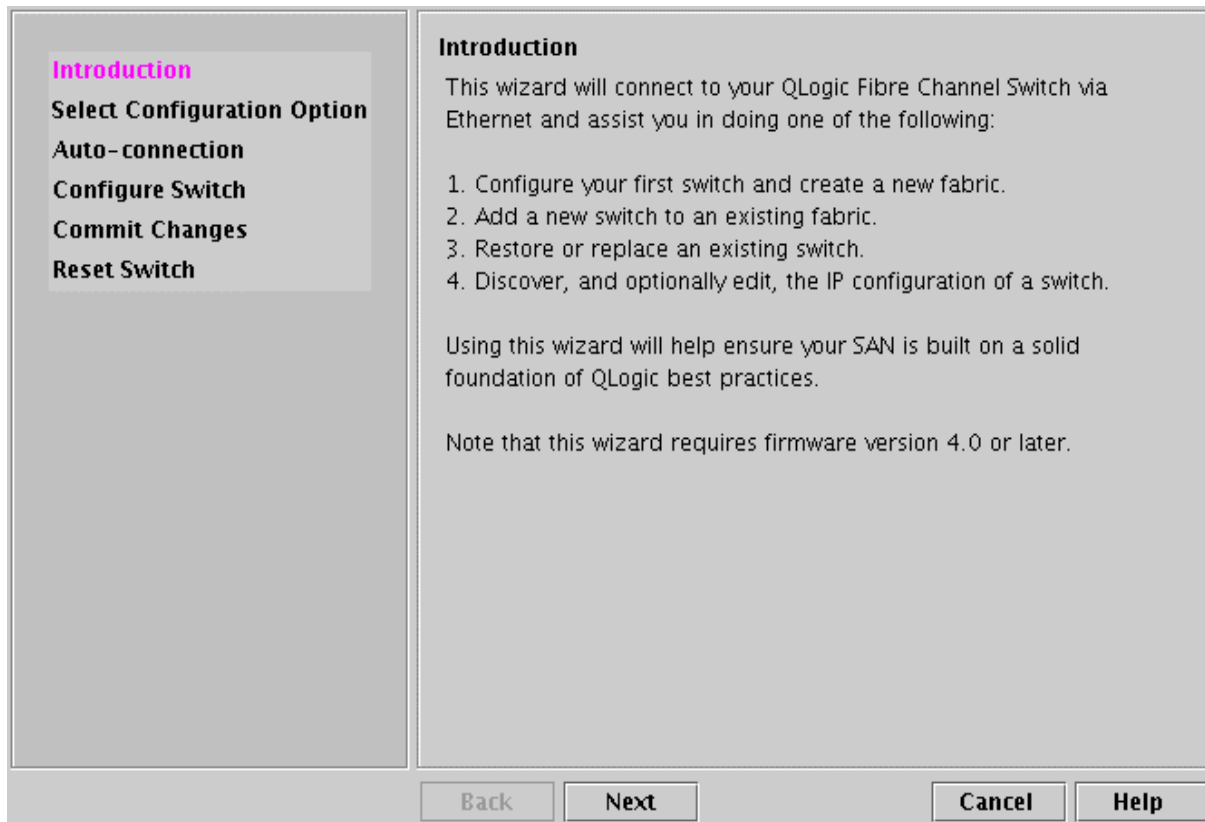
Overview

The configuration wizard is another example of QLogic's efforts to simplify storage area networks (SANs). The complexity of SANs can be overwhelming and contain an infinite number of configuration possibilities. The QLogic Configuration Wizard is the first product in a family of tools that will help guide users through switch configuration and help promote the use of best practices, creating stable SAN environments with a solid base and a known working configuration.

Configuration wizard features and value

When configuring devices to be installed into a SAN, there are many options and settings that need to be adjusted before implementation, which are often strewn about in rows of contexts menus or buried deep in hidden configuration windows. With this plethora of options and settings come choices that are not always obvious or set in stone. QLogic provides best practices for setting these values and creating stable SANs that become easier to use, as well as trouble shooting technical issues as they arise in the SAN environment.

There are four basic sections that will assist users in the configuration of QLogic switches, and will provide unique value.



Configuration Wizard

- 1) Configuring the first switch and creating a new fabric.
 - Users will be presented with several wizard screens with information representing the minimum-recommended configuration of the new switch. The defaults are QLogic best practice settings.
 - Simplifies an initial switch install.
- 2) Adding a new switch to an existing fabric.
 - Allows seamless addition of new switch to an existing fabric.
 - Users will be prompted for an optional switch archive file to use as a template for configuration of the new switch. They will then be presented with several screens of information representing minimum recommended configuration of the switch. Defaults for most settings will be provided, either from the switch archive or from QLogic best practices.
- 3) Restore or replace an existing switch.
 - Quickly recover or replace a switch with a known working configuration.
 - Users will take an archive file from an existing switch and be guided through the recovery or replacement of an existing switch, which eliminates the guesswork.
- 4) Discover IP configuration of an existing switch.
 - Provides access to a switch with an unknown IP configuration.
 - Users will be guided through the recovery of an unknown IP configuration and given the choice of keeping the current IP configuration or changing to a new IP configuration.

Example: Configure an initial switch and create a new fabric

This example shows how the wizard guides a user to install and activate an initial switch.

The screenshot shows a wizard window with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains a list of steps: Introduction, Select Configuration Option (highlighted in pink), Auto-connect to Switch, Configure Switch, Commit Changes, and Reset Switch. The main content area is titled 'Select Configuration Option' and contains four radio button options: 'Configure a stand-alone switch.' (selected), 'Add a new switch to an existing fabric.', 'Restore or replace an existing switch.', and 'Recover IP configuration of an existing switch.'. Below the options is a text box with instructions: 'You want to configure a switch to stand alone or be the first switch in a fabric. You will be presented with several screens of information representing minimum recommended configuration of your switch. In most cases default values will be supplied. These defaults are settings that QLogic considers to be best-practice; you should not change them unless you are sure it is necessary.' At the bottom of the window are four buttons: Back, Next, Cancel, and Help.

After starting the configuration wizard, the user will be guided to connect a crossover Ethernet cable or Ethernet hub between the QLogic switch and management PC. The next step is to enter a temporary IP address that will be assigned to the switch during this initial configuration (Note: this temporary IP address will not affect the current saved/configured address if one exists).

The screenshot shows the next step in the wizard, titled 'Auto-connect to Switch'. The sidebar on the left now highlights 'Auto-connect to Switch' in pink. The main content area contains instructions: 'Connect the switch and this management machine using either an Ethernet crossover cable or an Ethernet hub. Both the switch and this computer must be on the same Ethernet segment, so an Ethernet switch may not be used. After verifying your physical network connections, enter a temporary IP address to assign to the switch. This will not affect the switch's configured address. The address you choose should be one not already assigned on your network and the Subnet Mask should be the same as the one in use on your workstation. If you are not sure of a safe address to use, consult your network administrator.' Below the text are two input fields: 'IP Address:' and 'Subnet Mask:'. At the bottom of the window are four buttons: Back, Next, Cancel, and Help.

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Next the user will be guided through the basic configuration of the switch. These items include: Switch Name, which helps identify the switch in a fabric; IP Address for future connectivity and configuration; Date and Time for ensuring accuracy in log files; and Enabling Login Security and setting a custom administrative password.

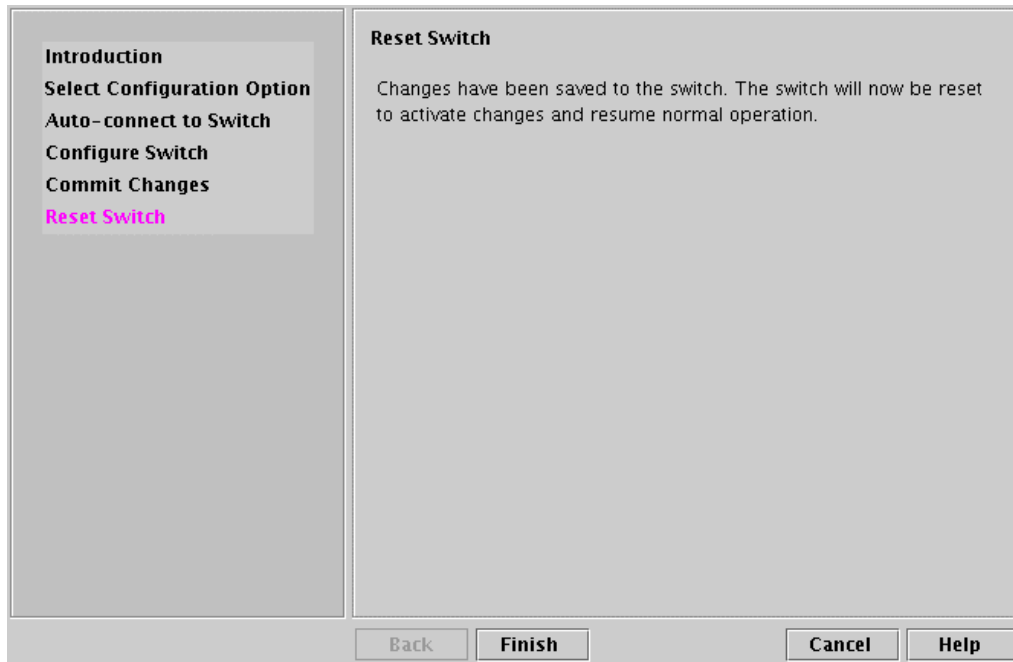
The screenshot shows a configuration wizard window with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains a list of steps: Introduction, Select Configuration Option, Auto-connection, Configure Switch (highlighted in pink), Commit Changes, and Reset Switch. The main content area is titled 'Switch Name' and contains the following text: 'A unique switch name is important. In a multi-switch fabric, the reasons for this are clear. However, even if this is your only Fibre Channel switch, a unique switch name reduces confusion if you ever need to send support information to QLogic for technical support.' Below this is another paragraph: 'A common naming convention is to start with a short descriptive name and append either the switch's Domain ID or the last octet of its IP address.' A third paragraph states: 'The switch name may be between 1 and 32 characters long and must not contain any of the following characters: ,;#'. At the bottom of the main area is a text input field labeled 'Switch Name:' with the value 'SANbox_63'. At the bottom of the window are four buttons: Back, Next, Cancel, and Help.

Then, the user will be encouraged to save the switch configuration to an archive file, which allows easier recovery in case of configuration errors, switch failure or lost configuration. This archive file can also be used as a template when adding a new switch to an existing fabric.

The screenshot shows the 'Commit Changes' step of the configuration wizard. The sidebar on the left has the same list of steps as the previous screenshot, with 'Commit Changes' highlighted in pink. The main content area is titled 'Commit Changes' and contains the following text: 'We're now ready to commit changes to your switch. Once changes have been saved to the switch it will be reset to activate the changes.' Below this is another paragraph: 'Before resetting the switch we can save your switch configuration to an archive file. Doing so will allow easier recovery in case of configuration errors or switch failure.' A checkbox labeled 'Save switch archive after committing changes.' is checked. Below the checkbox is a text input field labeled 'File Name:' with the value 'SANbox2_1.xml' and a 'Browse ...' button. At the bottom of the window are four buttons: Back, Next, Cancel, and Help.

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After all configuration settings have been set, they will be saved to the switch; and servers and storage will be ready to connect!



Conclusion

The QLogic configuration wizard, a first in a family of tools, guides users through common SAN tasks demonstrating the QLogic commitment to simplify storage area networks. By promoting QLogic best practices, these tools enable users to build stable and secure SAN fabrics for their storage solutions.