

ARUBAOS-CX OVA NETWORK SETUP IN ESXI

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REQUIREMENTS

- ESXI 6.0 and above (Deployed on a device with 32 gigs of RAM or more)
- PC
- ArubaOS-CX OVA
- Client OS (Windows 10, Fedora)
- Server (Win 2012, Ubuntu)

PREREQUISITES

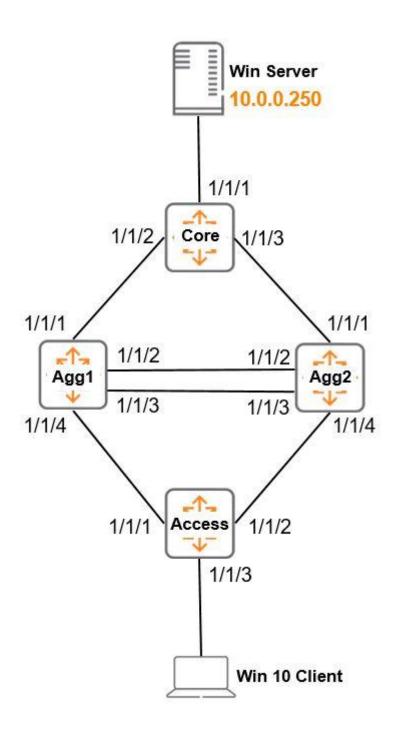
- Existing knowledge of Creating VMs
- Basic vSwitch knowledge

GUIDE SCOPE

This guide will walk thorough how to set up the ArubaOS-CX OVA in an ESXI environment. This guide will also cover how to connect the ArubaOS-CX OVA to other devices in the ESXI environment. To demonstrate this a diamond topology the OVA will represent 1 core Switch, 2 Distribution switches and one access switch (In this guide the OVA will be used as an access switch this does not reflect where it would be placed in the real world). This guide will not cover the CLI configuration of the ArubaOS-CX OVA nor the implementation of the client and server, it will cover only verification of connectivity. Below is a diagram of what will be setup in this guide.



TOPOLOGY





DEPLOYING THE OVA

Description

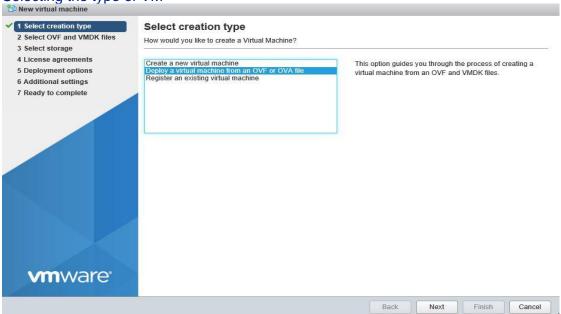
This setup will be a 4 switch diamond topology. This means that this process needs to be repeated three additional times in order to have 4 switches in your environment.

Loading the Ova

• Log into ESXI Web management console and click "create / Register VM"



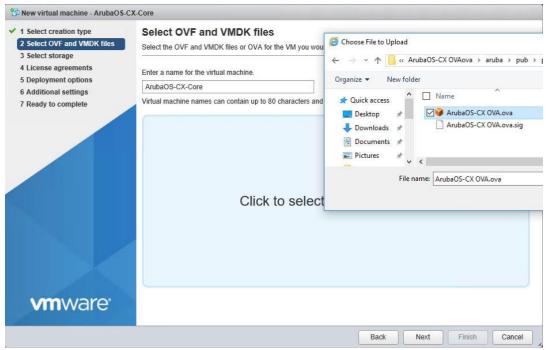
Selecting the type of VM



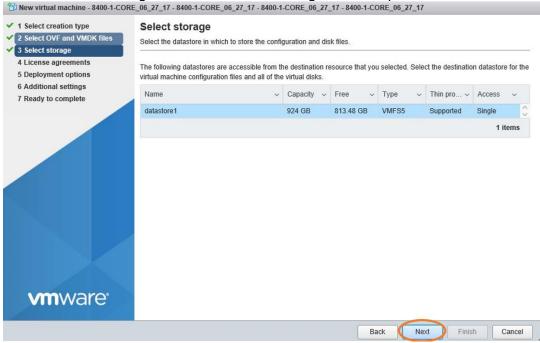


Selecting the ArubaOS-CX OVA

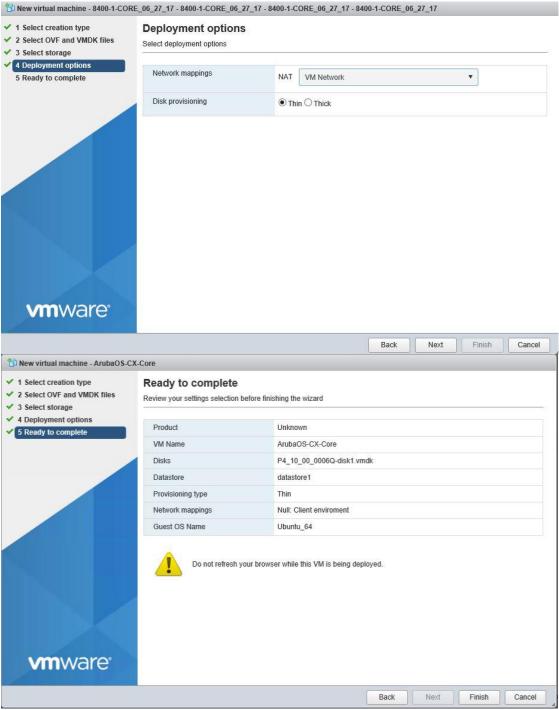
Note: the Ova download name can be changed to a friendly name



- At this point in the prompt click the blue area "Click to select Files Or drag/Drop". After clicking
 this area it will bring up File explorer where you have to navigate to the OVA in our case the
 ArubaOS-CX Ova.
- After Selecting the OVA click next through the Prompt In this scenario we will use the defaults.







After selecting Finish the OVA will be imported.

This step will have to be Repeated 3 more times to have 4 switches in total.

This environment already has a client and a server deployed. Their deploying these will not be covered here.



This is what the environment should look like after everything is all imported



Note: the windows server and client were pre-installed

MAPPING SERIAL CONNECTIONS TO ARUBAOS-CX OVA (OPTIONAL)

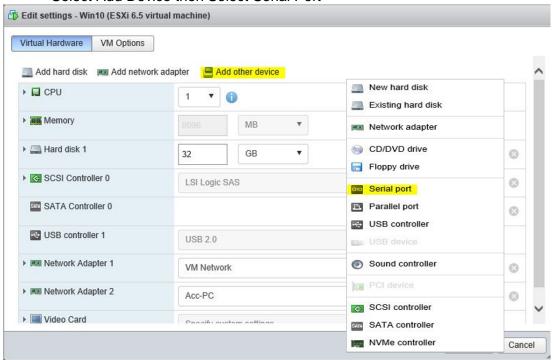
Description

This step is optional. It is possible to configure the switches using the console connection on the ESXI server. This allows the Windows 10 client to have a putty session connected to the Switches.



First shut everything down. This should be the end result. Configure the Windows 10 Client

- First Right Click Edit Settings
- Select Add Device then Select Serial Port



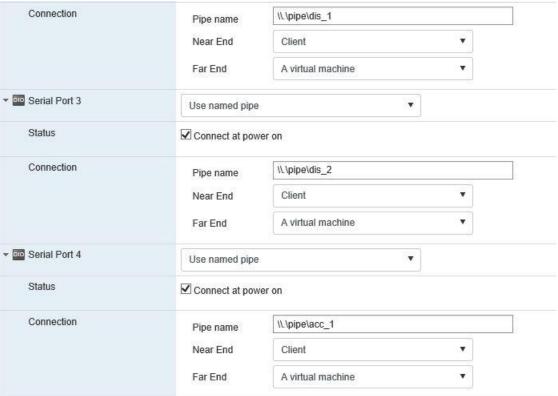
Now Click the Drop Down and select "Use Name Pipe"



- Edit the name in "pipe name".using this format to identify each device uniquly "\\.\pipe\(Name)".

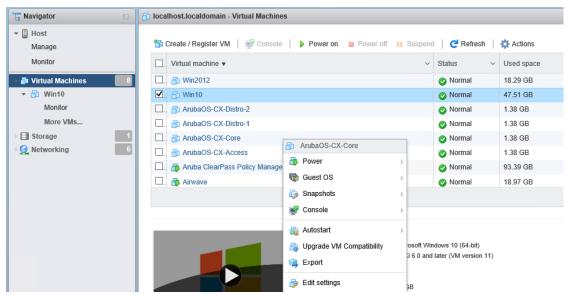


 Repeat this 4 more times with a unique name for each switch the end result should look similar to this

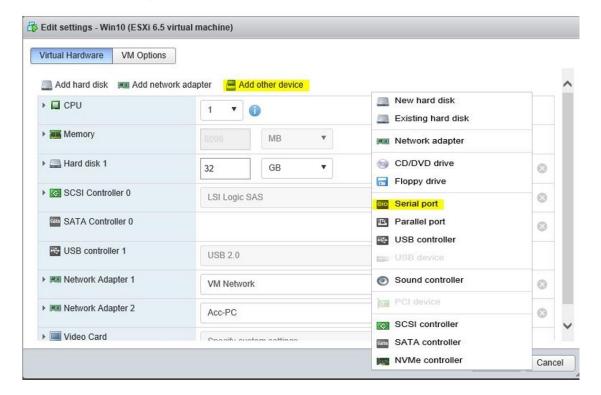


- Now we will have to add a serial port to each switch.
- The Switch will be configured as a server going to a process. The reason this setting is a process
 is because putty will be used to access the switch. This name should correlate to the names
 used before
 - In this case "\.\pipe\core" was used. So Re-Use the same name and change the "Near End" to Server and "Far end" to a process First: Right Click Edit the Setting for one of the instances

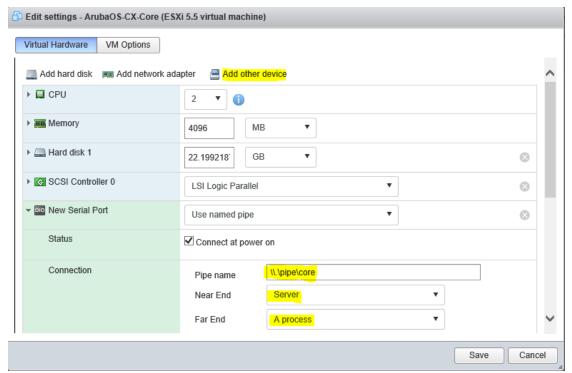




To add another Device, select Serial Port, after that enter the matching named piped.







• Now this has to be repeated for each device (adding the correlating name just like and changing the "Near End" to server and "Far End" to A process).

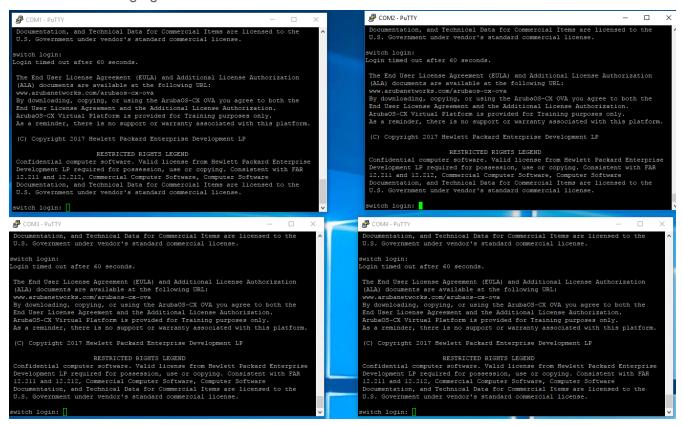
Ones that's done Power on all the machines



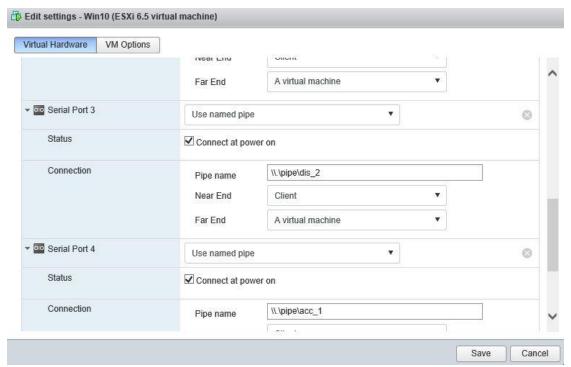


Once the same process that was done for the Core Device has been done to all the switches Log into the Windows 10 Client and connect to the COM ports using putty, ones that's done it should look like this

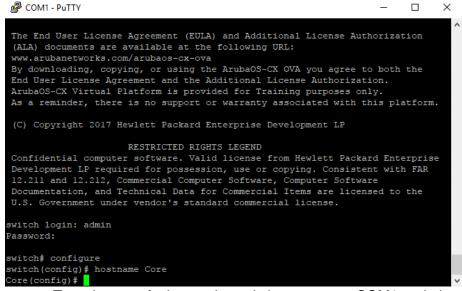
Note: Sometimes the console port hangs for a minute then loads if it doesn't load rebooting the switch will fix hanging.







 Now renaming the Switches to the correct names using the console Connections port number and name. Here on the Windows 10 client it shows that serial port 1 mapped to Core which means COM1 is Core a Switch.



• To reduce confusion on the switch, connect to COM1 and give it the host name of Core to log into the switch use "admin" with no password.

Don't Forget to Save

In Configuration mode "copy running configuration Startup-Configuration" will save the configuration



NETWORK INTERFACES

Each Switch has 8 network interfaces

Note: Two of the network Interfaces are reserved, one is for the services the second interfaces is reserved for the management interface which leaves 6 Usable Interfaces.

ESXI Network interface	OVA Equivalent
Network adapter 1	MGMT Interface
Network adapter 2	1/1/1
Network adapter 3	1/1/2
Network adapter 4	1/1/3
Network adapter 5	1/1/4
Network adapter 6	1/1/5
Network adapter 7	1/1/6
Network adapter 8	Service interface (Not Usable)



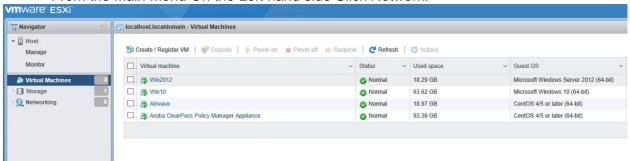
CONNECTING TO OTHER DEVICES

Description

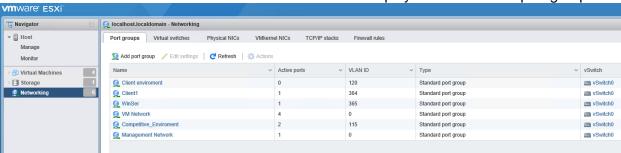
- Before connecting to other devices in ESXI it is recommended to create a second vSwitch that
 has no connections to the outside network because other devices from the external network can
 interfere with the OVA and cause unexpected behavior.
- In addition to creating a second vSwitch, port groups will needed to be created these port groups will act as links from one OVA to another.

Navigating to vSwitch

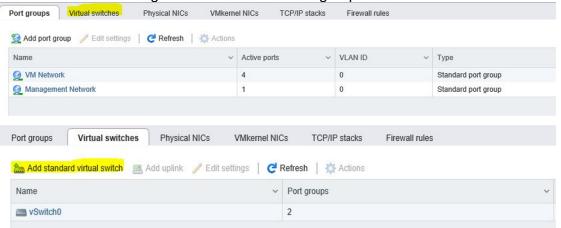
From the Main Menu On the Left hand side Click Network.



Once the network section has been clicked it will display all the available port groups.



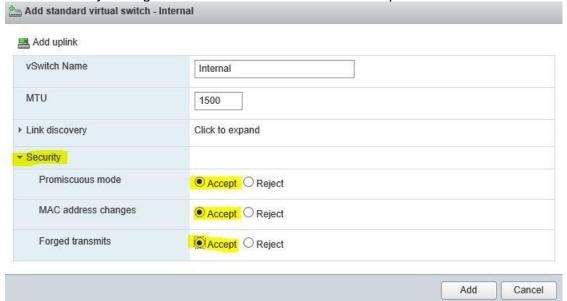
In the networking Section next to the Port group tab Click "Virtual Switches"



 Click "Add Standard Virtual Switch" After clicking "Add Standard Virtual Switch" A display Box will pop up.



 The Display Box will Request a Name. In this case it will be named Internal. In addition to this the security settings will need to be edited to match the photo below.

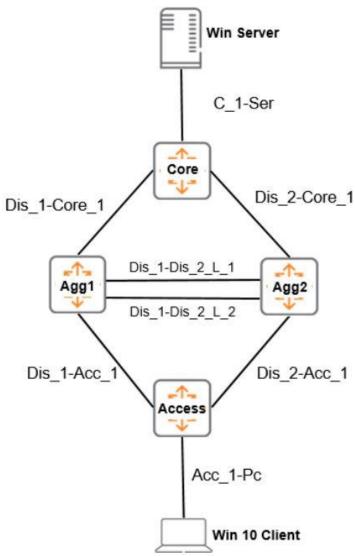


 After Clicking Add there should be two Virtual switches the internal Switch that was just created and the Native vSwitch.





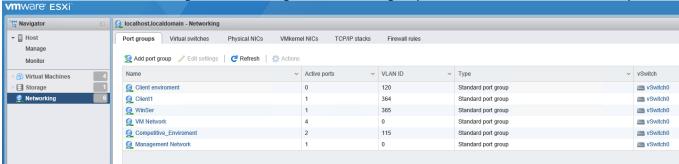
Creating Port Groups



Each Link in the topology will have to be its own port group so it can act as a point to point Link. So that means there will need to be 8 port groups Configured For the topology displayed here. Giving the ports Friendly names will help when assigning the interfaces to a port group.



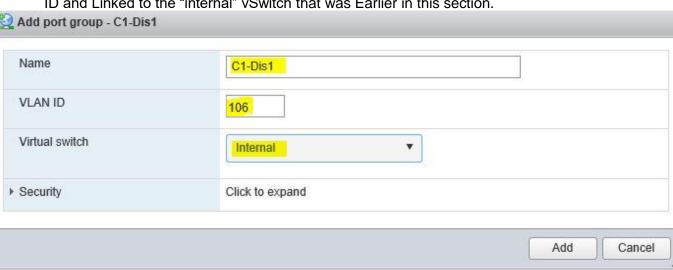
Under the Networking Section Navigate to the Port groups Tab then Click Add Port Group



• On the Port Group Tab Click "Add Port groups" A popup should then display.



• The Pop up should look like this. In this pop the Port group will need to be named Given a Vlan ID and Linked to the "internal" vSwitch that was Earlier in this section.





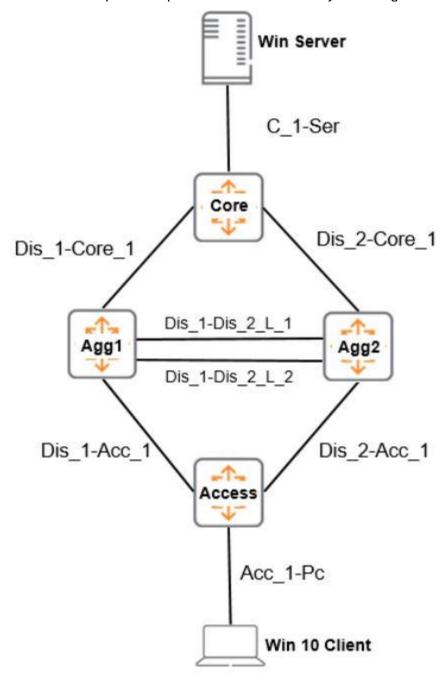
This will have to be repeated for each link. For this topology there should be 8 port groups after Creating All the port groups it should look Similar to this

Name	~	Active ports	→ VLAN ID	~	Туре	~	vSwitch
Q VM Network		0	0		Standard port group		
Management Network		1	0		Standard port group		svSwitch0
Dis1-Acc1		0	103		Standard port group		Internal
Dis1-Dis2-L2		0	101		Standard port group		Internal
Dis1-Dis2-L1		0	102		Standard port group		Internal
Dis2-Acc1		0	104		Standard port group		Internal
Q C1-Dis1		0	106		Standard port group		Internal
Q Core-Ser		0	105		Standard port group		Internal
Q C1-Dis2		0	107		Standard port group		Internal
Q Acc-PC		0	100		Standard port group		Internal



Port Group Topology

Here is what the port Groups will look like when they are assigned to the correct ports.





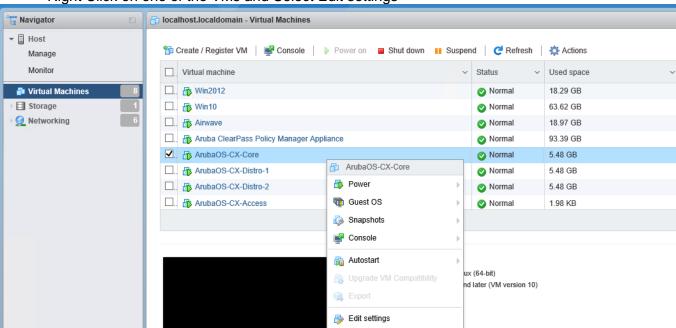
CONNECTING THE PORT GROUPS TO THE NETWORK ADAPTERS

Now That the Port groups are created and the vSwitch is created now the each ArubaOS-CX OVA network adapter will need to be assigned to the correct port group. So to do this, Navigate to the main Menu with all the VMs.

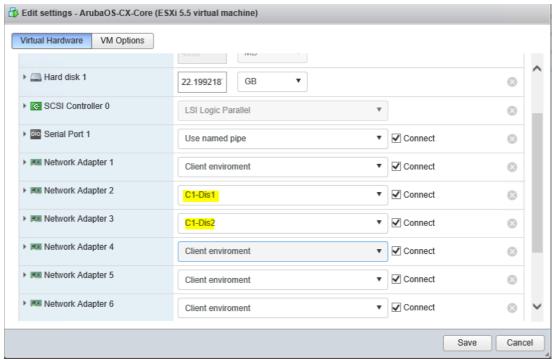
Start the all the VMs



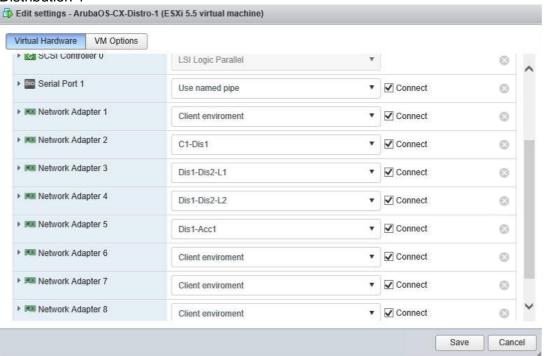
- Now place each Link has to be in the appropriate port group (each port group should only have 2 VMs included)
- Right Click on one of the VMs and Select Edit settings



 (VM Core Settings) This Should Display the current settings for the VM. Click the Network Adapter and from here select the appropriate port groups. This will need to be repeated for all 4 ArubaOS-CX Devices.

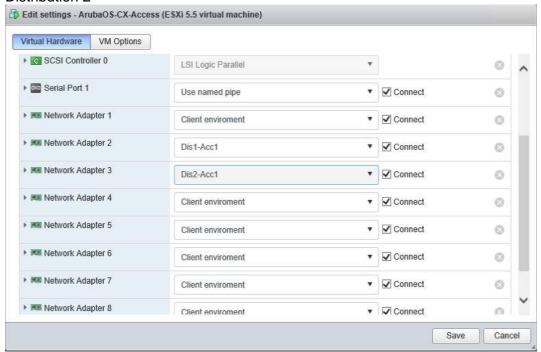


Distribution 1

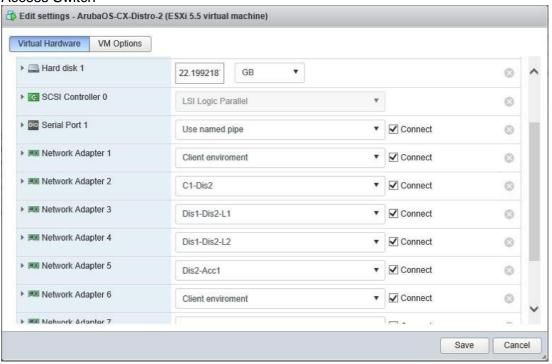




Distribution 2



Access Switch

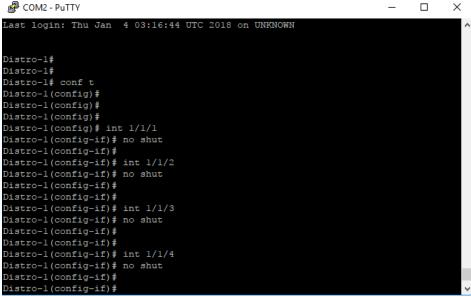




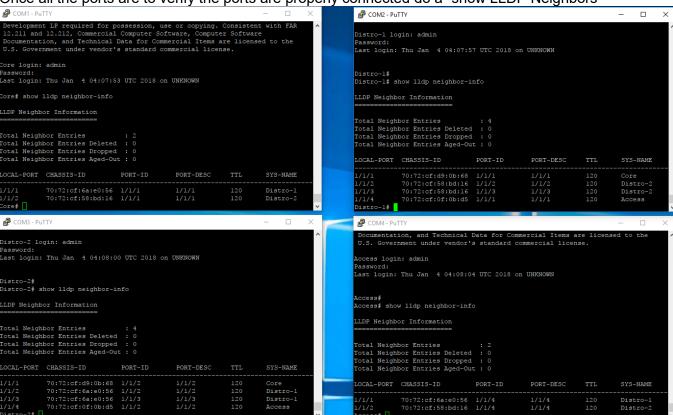
Verification

In Order to verify the connections the ports on the switch can be turned on and a ping test can be done and LLDP can be used to see neighbors.

First the interfaces have to be turned on this is done by doing a no Shutdown on all used interfaces on each Instance.



Once all the ports are to verify the ports are properly connected do a "show LLDP Neighbors"





A ping can also be done from switch to switch An IP address has it be assigned to the interfaces

```
COM1 - PuTT
                                                                                                                         COM2 - PuTTY
 Cotal Neighbor Entries Dropped : 0
Cotal Neighbor Entries Aged-Out : 0
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
 OCAL-PORT CHASSIS-ID
                                                                                    PORT-DESC
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
                                                                                                                        Distro-1(config-if)#
                     70:72:cf:6a:e0:56 1/1/1
70:72:cf:58:bd:16 1/1/1
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
                                                                                    1/1/1
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
 ore# conf t
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
  ore(config)#
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
                                                                                                                       Distro-1(config-if)#
  ore(config)#
                                                                                                                        Distro-1(config-if) # int 1/1/1
Core(config) # int 1/1/1
Core(config-if) # ip address 10.1.1.1/30
Core(config-if) # do ping 10.1.1.2
PING 10.1.1.2 (10.1.1.2) 100(128) bytes of data.
108 bytes from 10.1.1.2: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=1.47 ms
108 bytes from 10.1.1.2: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=1.38 ms
108 bytes from 10.1.1.2: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=1.62 ms
108 bytes from 10.1.1.2: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=1.38 ms
108 bytes from 10.1.1.2: icmp_seq=5 ttl=64 time=1.47 ms
                                                                                                                        Distro-1(config-if) # ip address 10.1.1.2/30
                                                                                                                        Distro-1(config-if) # do ping 10.1.1.1
                                                                                                                       PING 10.1.1.1 (10.1.1.1) 100(128) bytes of data.
                                                                                                                       108 bytes from 10.1.1.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=2.33 ms
108 bytes from 10.1.1.1: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=1.81 ms
108 bytes from 10.1.1.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=1.59 ms
108 bytes from 10.1.1.1: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=1.47 ms
                                                                                                                        108 bytes from 10.1.1.1: icmp_seq=5 ttl=64 time=1.30 ms
   - 10.1.1.2 ping statistics ---
                                                                                                                       --- 10.1.1.1 ping statistics ---
5 packets transmitted, 5 received, 0% packet loss, time 4004ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 1.305/1.704/2.338/0.357 ms
 packets transmitted, 5 received, 0% packet loss, time 4004ms tt min/avg/max/mdev = 1.384/1.471/1.629/0.098 ms
  ore(config-if)#
```

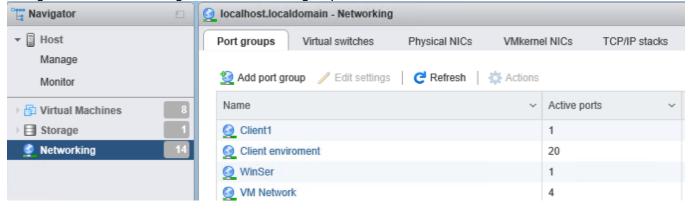
ACCESSING THE WEB UI

Description

The Web UI can also be accessed by remote device this can be done either by using the built in VM environment or another port group.

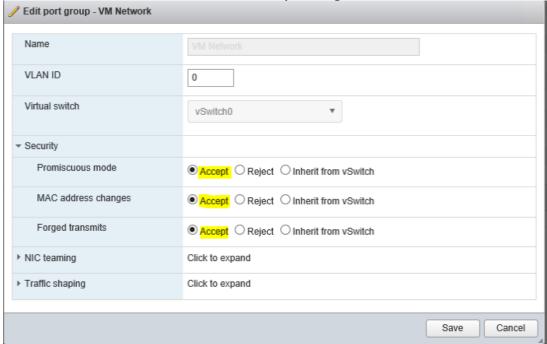
For this example the built in Port group will be used.

Navigate to the Networking section then Port groups.

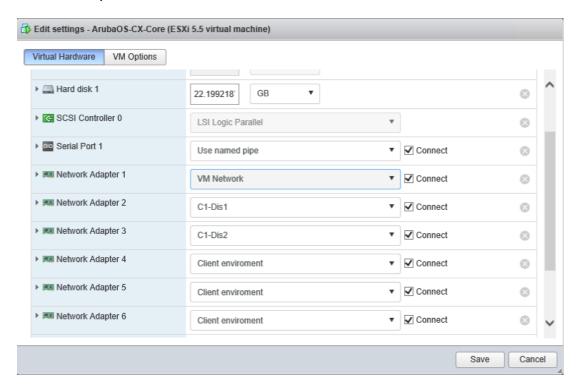




Select the VM Network and Edit the Security Settings



To continue this example the Core switch will be used. Edit the Settings of the Switch, and change Network adapter 1 to the VM network.





Now Connect to the Switch now configure the switch to turn on the Web UI

```
COM1 - PuTTY
                                                                        Core(config)#
Core(config)#
Core (config) #
Core(config)#
Core(config) # https-server vrf mgmt
Failed to enable https-server on VRF mgmt. 'admin' password is not set.
Core(config)#
Core (config) #
Core(config) # user
 WORD Specify the username. Maximum length is 32 characters.
ore(config) # user admin password
Changing password for user admin
Enter password: *****
Confirm new password: *****
Core(config) # https-server vrf mgmt
Core(config) # https-server rest access-mode read-write
Core(config) # interface mgmt
Core(config-if-mgmt) # ip static 10.6.9.3/24
Core(config-if-mgmt) # default-gateway 10.6.3.9
The default gateway is not on the same network segment.
Core(config-if-mgmt) # ip static 10.6.3.9/24
Core(config-if-mgmt) # default-gateway 10.6.3.1
Core(config-if-mgmt)#
Core(config-if-mgmt)#
interface mgmt
    no shutdown
    ip static <IP Address>
    default-gateway <IP Address>
https-server rest access-mode read-write
https-server vrf mgmt
user <name> password
```



Verification

Now web browse to the configured IP and login

