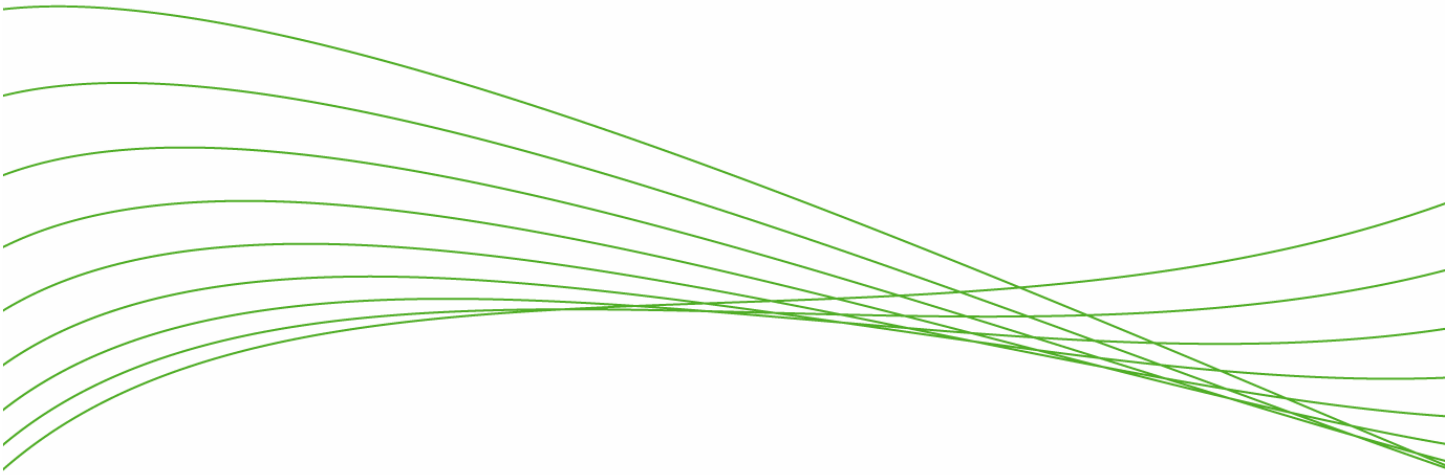
ProCurve Networking

ProCurve Web Managed Switches: Increase Control Without Complexity



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Introduction

As businesses grow, it becomes more important to keep employees connected so they can communicate efficiently and have access to the information they need. Networks allow businesses to provide this connectivity for their employees and other business resources. While some businesses have very advanced network requirements, others require plug-and-play connectivity.

In the past, unmanaged switches have provided an excellent solution for plug-and-play connectivity. A new category of switches, called Web Managed switches, has emerged offering the same benefits of an unmanaged solution – low complexity and an entry level price point – but add additional capabilities and flexibility.

This paper focuses on Web Managed switches and how implementing Web Managed switches benefits businesses and organizations by improving capabilities within the network leading to improved efficiency and profitability. An overview of ProCurve's new Web Managed switch family – the ProCurve Switch 1800 Series – is also included.

What is a Web Managed Switch?

"Web Managed" is a product category in the LAN switch market. Also known as "Smart Switches" or "Web Smart" switches, Web Managed switches are an evolution of unmanaged switches. Industry analysts predict that customers will migrate from deploying unmanaged switches to deploying Web Managed switches over the next several years. This migration is driven by two factors. First, there is little to no price premium for Web Managed switches versus unmanaged switches. And second, Web Managed switches allow customers to add a basic set of capabilities to their network, without adding complexity.

Web Managed switches add fundamental features and capabilities versus unmanaged switches. While unmanaged switches do not support configuration, Web-Managed switches are configured using an intuitive web interface. The characteristics that make a switch a Web Managed switch are:

- Managed via browser-based web interface
- No console port
- No CLI
- Not manageable with SNMP

Benefits of a Web Managed Switch

Industry analysts estimate that 80% of Web Managed switches sold today are used as unmanaged devices. Customers tend to purchase Web Managed switches because the additional functionality seems appealing, whether they intend to use the features now or would like the functionality for future-proofing. Additionally, the price premium for a Web Managed switch vs. an unmanaged switch in the market is negligible.

A customer may decide to deploy a Web Managed switch for the following reasons:

- *Investment protection for future growth* - Some customers find the additional functionality of a Web Managed switch appealing. They may not plan to implement the functionality immediately (or ever), but the price premium is negligible over unmanaged so the decision to future proof is easy.
- *Seeking to implement some network control with low complexity* – Web Managed switches allow customers to assign an IP address, configure VLANs for network segmentation, honor traffic priority via IEEE 802.1p tags, and monitor status via the web interface among other things.
- *Value* – The price of Web Managed switches is very close to the price for unmanaged switches, so Web Managed switches provide a more robust entry level switching solution than unmanaged switches.

Ideal Customer Environment

Businesses that are using unmanaged switches today are ideal candidates for deploying a Web Managed solution. Often, businesses build networks upon unmanaged switches simply because they need plug-and-play connectivity at an entry-level price. In many cases, these businesses do not have a large IT staff or extensive networking expertise and are more focused on running their business than on running their network, so ease of use is of utmost importance.

Ideal customer environment for Web Managed switches:

Customers using unmanaged today
• Plug-and-play connectivity • Seeking to add basic networking capabilities, such as VLANs, trunking, and web-based management • Limited IT staff or networking expertise
Customers deploying network connectivity within their business for the first time
• Ease of use/low complexity • Entry level price
Enterprise deployments for branch offices and meeting rooms not requiring high degree of management
• Investment protection • High quality and reliability

Web Managed switches fit very well into this environment because they are managed and configured via an intuitive and easy to use web interface. Adding Web Managed switches to a networking environment does not significantly increase complexity. If a user wishes to use the switch as an unmanaged switch, it is a plug-and-play solution. And if the user wants to enable some of the management capabilities on a Web Managed switch, set up can be completed in a few simple steps. Configuring the switch is also done through the intuitive web interface so features can be enabled and configured very easily.

Web Managed switches not only offer an easy to use solution, they also offer investment protection. Businesses that are looking to add more capabilities to an unmanaged network or looking to extend an existing network, such as for enterprise remote offices or meeting rooms, can benefit from deploying a Web Managed switch. Web Managed switches provide basic network capabilities, which allow businesses to grow their network resources to enable their business to operate more efficiently and profitably.

Additionally, ProCurve's Web Managed product offering is designed and built with the same quality standards as its high-end switches. This means that users do not need to sacrifice quality and reliability in order to achieve an entry level solution.

Where do Web Managed Switches Fit within the ProCurve Portfolio

Fully Managed Switches

Ideal for deploying robust management and configuration capabilities

Customers' needs:

- Network redundancy with spanning tree protocol
- Centralized management via PCM
- Security via network segmentation, management, and authentication
- Scalability with virtual IP stacking
- Advanced traffic filtering and prioritization for environments with delay sensitive traffic such as voice and video

Web Managed Switches

Ideal for deploying basic network capabilities without complexity

Customers' needs:

- Small or no IT department
- Honor priority of important traffic
- Intuitive and simple configuration
- Link aggregation for resiliency and increased performance
- High bandwidth
- Basic prioritization of important traffic
- Security via network Segmentation

Unmanaged Switches

Ideal for networks needing basic connectivity

Customers' needs:

- Small networks
- Basic connectivity
- Plug & play
- Unrestricted network access

How a ProCurve Web Managed Switch Works within a Network

Configuring a Web Managed switch is relatively easy. The ProCurve Switch 1800 Series, ProCurve's first Web Managed switch family, can be installed and configured in minutes, without extensive network administration training or knowledge. The following steps explain how to get a ProCurve Switch 1800 Series up and running.

In order to access the switch, the switch provides an embedded HTTP web agent. Using a web browser you can configure the switch and view statistics to monitor network activity. The web agent can be accessed by any computer on the network using a standard web browser (Internet Explorer 5.5 or above). For security, the web interface can be configured with a password to protect access to the device.

ProCurve 1800 Series switches ship with a default IP address. A new IP address can be assigned in a few simple steps, either by enabling DHCP or by assigning an IP address.

Steps for assigning an IP address

1. Change the IP address on the PC to an IP address near the default IP address of the switch and save the new IP address.
2. Open Internet Explorer and type the default IP address of the switch into the navigation bar.
3. The initial login screen of the switch will appear and the default password is blank. Click on "Login" to enter the switches' web interface.
4. Once you are logged in, you will see the System Information page which gives an at-a-glance view of the switch including a graphical representation of the port status, system information, IP address information, port information, trunk information, and VLAN information. Click on "IP Address" on the left navigation bar. At this point you can decide to enable DHCP or to set a static IP address.

Further information about initial switch configuration is available in the Installation and Getting Started Guide.

The ProCurve 1800 Series switches do not support SNMP for management. The SNMP functionality is read-only and is used by ProCurve Manager to discover and map the device. SNMP **cannot** be used to configure the switch or send SNMP traps to a trap receiver.

In addition to being easy to set up, the ProCurve Switch 1800 Series can also be discovered and mapped on a network topology via ProCurve Manager (PCM). This provides visibility into the 1800s within a network for larger networks. Additionally, one can launch the ProCurve 1800 Series Switches' web interface through PCM, providing a centralized location for accessing the 1800s in environments where a network administrator may be managing many switches.

Why ProCurve Switch 1800 Series

The ProCurve Switch 1800 Series consists of two switches:

- The ProCurve Switch 1800-8G is a small form factor, fanless 8-port 10/100/1000 switch.
- The ProCurve Switch 1800-24G is a 24-port 10/100/1000 switch with 2 dual-personality ports for up to 2 Gigabit fiber uplinks.

ProCurve Switch 1800-8G (J9029A)

ProCurve Switch 1800-24G (J9028A)

Because the ProCurve Switch 1800 Series is managed via a simple and intuitive Web interface, it is ideal for businesses that do not have a large IT staff or networking expertise. Its simple configuration enables out-of-the-box connectivity with fundamental management and configuration capabilities. For example, users can segment the network using VLANs, honor priority of important traffic by recognizing IEEE 802.1p tags, or set up redundant links using trunking.

- The Switch 1800-8G is a small form factor desk top switch and is ideal for connecting small work groups or for extending network connectivity into conference rooms, classrooms or open spaces. The 1800-8G is also fanless, ensuring quiet operation.
- The Switch 1800-24G is ideal for environments that require larger port density and optional Gigabit fiber uplinks for connecting to a core or distribution switch.

The table below outlines the value that the ProCurve Switch 1800 Series offers to customers.

Feature	Benefit
Superior Business Value	• Capability added to network without adding cost • Commercial-grade quality at an affordable price • Industry-leading lifetime warranty with next-business day advance replacement, without purchase of service contract
Reduced Complexity	• Trained IT staff is not necessary to configure switch due to management via intuitive web interface • Troubleshooting is simple because front panel LEDs demonstrate status of ports • Capability to discover, map and launch web interface from ProCurve Manager (PCM) application
Safe Buy	• Access to ProCurve engineers via free email and phone support for product lifetime • ProCurve is safe choice - #2 networking company in world with more than 20 years of experience in building world-class networking solutions • Stringent component requirements, including use of best power supplies, connectors, and fans in the industry, demonstrate ProCurve's commitment to quality
Easy Integration into Your Network	• Standards-based so works with what you have • Easy set-up in few simple steps • Fanless design ensures quiet operation providing operational flexibility • Switch can easily be deployed in open spaces or workgroups without nuisance • Transparent integration into ProCurve management application for comprehensive network mapping

Summary

Web Managed switches provide an excellent migration path from unmanaged devices for users that are looking to deploy more capabilities in their network. Additionally, because the price of Web Managed switches is so close to that of unmanaged switches, some users may choose to deploy Web Managed switches for investment protection, whether or not they choose to use the functionality today. ProCurve offers a new Web Managed product family with the ProCurve Switch 1800 Series, which provides an easy to use solution, with high quality and reliability at an affordable price.

For More Information

For more information on ProCurve and the ProCurve Switch 1800 Series, please visit www.procurve.com.

To find out more about ProCurve Networking products and solutions, visit our web site at

www.procurve.com

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