K

keepalive

Use the **keepalive** interface configuration command to set the keepalive timer for a specific interface. The **no** form of this command turns off keepalives entirely.

> **keepalive** [*seconds*]
> **no keepalive** [*seconds*]

Syntax Description

seconds   (Optional) Unsigned integer value greater than 0. The default is 10 seconds.

Default

10 seconds.

Command Mode

Interface configuration.

Usage Guidelines

This command only applies to ASP interfaces. You can configure the keepalive interval, which is the frequency at which the switch sends messages to itself (Ethernet) or to the other end (auxiliary), to ensure a network interface is alive. The interval is adjustable in 1-second increments down to 1 second. An interface is declared down after three update intervals have passed without receiving a keepalive packet.

Setting the keepalive timer to a low value is very useful for rapidly detecting Ethernet interface failures (transceiver cable disconnecting, cable unterminated, and so on).

A typical serial line failure involves losing Carrier Detect (CD). Since this sort of failure is typically noticed within a few milliseconds, adjusting the keepalive timer for quicker routing recovery is generally not useful.

> **Note**   When adjusting the keepalive timer for a very low bandwidth aux interface, large datagrams can delay the smaller keepalive packets long enough to cause the line protocol to go down. You might need to experiment to determine the best value.

Example

The following example sets the keepalive interval to 3 seconds.

```
Switch(config)# interface ethernet 2/0/0
Switch(config-if)# keepalive 3
```