



Loading and Maintaining System Images

This document applies to: Cisco IOS Software, Release 12.2

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This chapter describes how to load and maintain system images and microcode. System images contain the system software. Microcode typically contains system images or hardware-specific software that can be loaded directly on to various hardware devices.

For a complete description of the system image and microcode commands mentioned in this chapter, refer to the “System Image and Microcode Commands” chapter in the Release 12.2 *Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference*. To locate documentation of other commands that appear in this chapter, use the *Cisco IOS Command Reference Master Index* or search online.

To identify hardware or software image support for a specific feature, use Feature Navigator on Cisco.com to search for information about the feature or refer to the software release notes for a specific release. For more information, see the [“Identifying Platform Support for Cisco IOS Software Features”](#) section in the [“About Cisco IOS Software Documentation”](#) chapter.

Understanding Images

System images contain the Cisco IOS software. Your router already has an image on it when you receive it. However, you may want to load a different image onto the router at some point. For example, you may want to upgrade your software to the latest release, or use the same version of the software for all the routers in a network. Different system images contain different sets of Cisco IOS features. To determine which version (release number) of Cisco IOS is currently running on your system, and the filename of the system image, use the **show version** command in Exec mode. For example, “Version 12.2” indicates Cisco IOS Release 12.2, and “c7200-js-mz” indicates the system image for a Cisco 7200 series router (c7200) containing the “enterprise” feature set (jz).

Types of Images

The following are the two main types of image your router may use:

- System image—The complete Cisco IOS software. This image is loaded when your router boots and is used most of the time.

On most platforms, the image is located in Flash memory. On platforms with multiple Flash memory file systems (Flash, boot flash, slot 0, or slot 1), the image can be located in any existing Flash file system. Use the **show file systems EXEC** command to determine which file systems your router supports. Refer to your hardware documentation for information about where these images are located by default.

- **Boot image**—A subset of the Cisco IOS software. This image is used to perform network booting or to load Cisco IOS images onto the router. This image is also used if the router cannot find a valid system image. Depending on your platform, this image may be called xboot image, rxboot image, bootstrap image, or boot loader/helper image.

On some platforms, the boot image is contained in ROM. In others, the boot image can be stored in Flash memory. On these platforms, you can specify which image should be used as the boot image using the **boot bootldr** global configuration command. Refer to your hardware documentation for information about the boot image used on your router.

Image Naming Conventions

You can identify the platform, features, and image location by the name of the image. The naming convention is *platform-features-type* for images that are stored on a UNIX system

The *platform* variable indicates which platforms can use this image. Examples of *platform* variables include *rsp* (Cisco 7000 series with RSP7000 and Cisco 7500 series), *c1600* (Cisco 1600 series), and *c1005* (Cisco 1005).

The *features* variable identifies the feature sets supported by the image.

The *type* field can contain the following characters:

- *f*—The image runs from Flash memory.
- *m*—The image runs from RAM.
- *r*—The image runs from ROM.
- *l*—The image is relocatable.
- *z*—The image is zip compressed.
- *x*—The image is mzip compressed.

General Output Conventions for Copy Operations

During a copy operation, any of the following characters may be printed to the screen:

- A pound sign (#) generally means that a Flash memory device is being cleared and initialized. (Different platforms use different ways of indicating that Flash is being cleared.)
- An exclamation point (!) means that ten packets have been transferred.
- A series of “V” characters means that a checksum verification of the file is occurring after the file is written to Flash memory.
- An “O” means an out-of-order packet.
- A period (.) means a timeout.

The last line in the output indicates whether the copy was successful.

System Images Task List

To manage system images, perform any of the tasks in the following sections:

- [Displaying System Image Information](#)
- [Copying Images from Flash Memory to a Network Server](#)
- [Copying Images from a Network Server to Flash Memory](#)
- [Copying Images Between Local Flash Memory Devices](#)
- [Specifying the Startup System Image in the Configuration File](#)
- [Recovering a System Image Using Xmodem or Ymodem](#)
- [Loading and Displaying Microcode Images](#)

Displaying System Image Information

Use the following commands in EXEC mode to display information about system software:

Command	Purpose
Router# <code>show bootvar</code>	Lists the contents of the BOOT environment variable, the name of the configuration file pointed to by the CONFIG_FILE environment variable, and the contents of the BOOTLDR environment variable.
Router# <code>show flash-filesystem: [partition number] [all chips detailed err summary]</code>	Lists information about Flash memory for Class B file systems.
Router# <code>show flash-filesystem: [all chips filesys]</code>	Lists information about Flash memory for Class A file systems.
Router# <code>show flash-filesystem:</code>	Lists information about Flash memory for Class C file systems.
Router# <code>show microcode</code>	Displays microcode information.
Router# <code>show version</code>	Lists the currently running system image filename, and the system software release version, the configuration register setting, and other information.

Refer to the Release 12.2 *Cisco IOS Configuration Fundamentals Command Reference* for examples of these commands.

Copying Images from Flash Memory to a Network Server

You can copy system images from Flash memory to an File Transfer Protocol (FTP), remote copy protocol (rcp), or Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP) server. You can use this server copy of the system image as a backup copy, or you can use it to verify that the copy in Flash is the same as the original file on disk. The following sections describe these tasks:

- [Copying an Image from Flash Memory to a TFTP Server](#)
- [Copying an Image from Flash Memory to an rcp Server](#)
- [Copying an Image from Flash Memory to an FTP Server](#)

The protocol you use depends on which type of server you are using. The FTP and rcp transport mechanisms provide faster performance and more reliable delivery of data than TFTP. These improvements are possible because the FTP and rcp transport mechanisms are built on and use the TCP/IP stack, which is connection-oriented.

To stop the copy process, press **Ctrl-^** or **Ctrl-Shift-6**.

In the output, an exclamation point (!) indicates that the copy process is taking place. Each exclamation point (!) indicates that ten packets have been transferred.

Refer to the *Internetwork Troubleshooting Guide* publication for procedures on how to resolve Flash memory problems.

Copying an Image from Flash Memory to a TFTP Server

You can copy a system image to a TFTP network server. In some implementations of TFTP, you must first create a “dummy” file on the TFTP server and give it read, write, and execute permissions before copying a file over it. Refer to your TFTP documentation for more information.

To copy a system image to a TFTP network server, use the following commands in EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# show flash-filesystem:	(Optional) Displays the system image filename in Flash memory. Use this command to verify the url-path of the file and the exact spelling of the system image filename for use in the next command.
Step 2	Router# copy flash-url tftp: [[<i>[/location]</i>]/ <i>directory</i>]/ <i>filename</i>]	Copies the system image from Flash memory to a TFTP server. Specify the file location and filename as the <i>flash-url</i> argument.

After you have issued the **copy** EXEC command, you may be prompted for additional information or for confirmation of the action. The prompting will depend on how much information you provide in the **copy** command and the current setting of the **file prompt** global configuration command.

Copying an Image from Flash Memory to a TFTP Server Example

The following example uses the **show flash:** EXEC command to learn the name of the system image file and the **copy flash: tftp:** EXEC command to copy the system image to a TFTP server:

```
RouterB# show flash:
```

```

System flash directory:
File Length Name/status
  1 4137888 c3640-c2is-mz.Feb24
[4137952 bytes used, 12639264 available, 16777216 total]
16384K bytes of processor board System flash (Read/Write)\

Router# copy flash: tftp:
IP address of remote host [255.255.255.255]? 172.16.13.110
filename to write on tftp host? c3640-c2is-mz.Feb24
writing c3640-c2is-mz.Feb24 !!!!!...
successful tftp write.

```

Copying an Image from Partitioned Flash Memory to a TFTP Server Example

In this example, the file named `your-ios` is copied from partition 1 of the Flash memory PC card in slot 0 to the TFTP server at 172.23.1.129. The file will be saved with the name `your-ios` in the `dirt/sysadmin` directory relative to the directory of the remote username.

```

Router# copy slot0:1:your-ios tftp://172.23.1.129/dirt/sysadmin/your-ios
Verifying checksum for 'your-ios' (file # 1)... OK
Copy 'your-ios' from Flash to server
  as 'dirt/sysadmin/ios-2'? [yes/no] yes
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Upload to server done
Flash device copy took 00:00:23 [hh:mm:ss]

```

Copying an Image from Flash Memory to an rcp Server

You can copy a system image from Flash memory to an rcp network server.

If you copy the configuration file to a PC used as a file server, the computer must support remote shell protocol (rsh).

The rcp protocol requires a client to send a remote username on each rcp request to a server. When you copy an image from the router to a server using rcp, the Cisco IOS software sends the first valid username it encounters in the following list:

1. The remote username specified in the **copy EXEC** command, if one is specified.
2. The username set by the **ip rcmd remote-username** global configuration command, if the command is configured.
3. The remote username associated with the current tty (terminal) process. For example, if the user is connected to the router through Telnet and was authenticated through the **username** global configuration command, the router software sends the Telnet username as the remote username.
4. The router host name.

For the rcp copy request to execute, an account must be defined on the network server for the remote username. If the server has a directory structure, the configuration file or image is written or copied relative to the directory associated with the remote username on the server. The path for all files and images to be copied begins at the remote user's home directory. For example, if the system image resides in the home directory of a user on the server, specify that user's name as the remote username.

If you are writing to the server, the rcp server must be properly configured to accept the rcp write request from the user on the router. For UNIX systems, you must add an entry to the `.rhosts` file for the remote user on the rcp server. For example, suppose the router contains the following configuration lines:

```
hostname Rtr1
ip rcmd remote-username User0
```

If the router's IP address translates to Router1.domain.com, then the .rhosts file for User0 on the rcp server should contain the following line:

```
Router1.domain.com Rtr1
```

Refer to the documentation for your rcp server for more information.

To copy a system image from Flash memory to a network server, use the following commands:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# show flash-filesystem:	(Optional) Displays the system image filename in Flash memory. Use this command to verify the <i>url-path</i> of the file and the exact spelling of the system image filename for use in the copy EXEC command.
Step 2	Router# configure terminal	(Optional) Enters global configuration mode from the terminal. This step is required only if you want to change the default remote username (see Step 3).
Step 3	Router(config)# ip rcmd remote-username username	(Optional) Configures the remote username.
Step 4	Router(config)# end	(Optional) Exits global configuration mode. This step is required only if you want to change the default remote username (see Step 3).
Step 5	Router# copy flash-url rcp: [[//[username@] location]/directory]/filename]	Copies the system image from Flash memory to a network server using rcp.

After you have issued the **copy EXEC** command, you may be prompted for additional information or for confirmation of the action. The prompting will depend on how much information you provide in the **copy** command and the current setting of the **file prompt** global configuration command.

Copy from Flash to RCP Server Example

The following example copies the system image named c5200-ds-1 to the network server at 172.16.1.111 using rcp and a username of netadmin:

```
Router# copy flash:c5200-ds-1 rcp:netadmin1@172.16.1.111/c5200-ds-1
Verifying checksum for 'c5200-ds-1' (file # 1)...[OK]
Writing c5200-ds-1 -
```

Copy from Slot1 to RCP Server Example

The following example copies a system image file named test from the second PCMCIA slot to a network server using rcp. The remote username is netadmin1. Because the destination address and filename are not specified, the router prompts for this information.

```
Router# configure terminal
Router(config)# ip rcmd remote-username netadmin1
Router(config)# end
Router# copy slot1:test rcp:
Address or name of remote host [UNKNOWN]? 172.16.1.111
File name to write to? test
Verifying checksum for 'test' (file # 1)...[OK]
```

```

Writing test
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Upload to server done
Flash device copy took 00:00:08 [hh:mm:ss]

```

Copying an Image from Flash Memory to an FTP Server

You can copy a system image to an FTP network server.

Understanding the FTP Username and Password

The FTP protocol requires a client to send a remote username and password on each FTP request to a server. When you copy a configuration file from the router to a server using FTP, the Cisco IOS software sends the first valid username it encounters in the following list:

1. The username specified in the **copy EXEC** command, if a username is specified.
2. The username set by the **ip ftp username** global configuration command, if the command is configured.
3. Anonymous.

The router sends the first valid password it encounters in the following list:

1. The password specified in the **copy EXEC** command, if a password is specified.
2. The password set by the **ip ftp password** global configuration command, if the command is configured.
3. The router forms a password *username@routename.domain*. The variable *username* is the username associated with the current session, *routename* is the configured host name, and *domain* is the domain of the router.

The username and password must be associated with an account on the FTP server. If you are writing to the server, the FTP server must be properly configured to accept the FTP write request from the user on the router.

If the server has a directory structure, the configuration file or image is written to or copied from the directory associated with the username on the server. For example, if the system image resides in the home directory of a user on the server, specify that user's name as the remote username.

Refer to the documentation for your FTP server for more information.

Use the **ip ftp username** and **ip ftp password** commands to specify a username and password for all copies. Include the username in the **copy** command if you want to specify a username for that copy operation only.

Copying from Flash Memory to an FTP Server Tasks

To copy a system image to an FTP network server, use the following commands beginning in privileged EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# configure terminal	(Optional) Enters global configuration mode. This step is required only if you override the default remote username or password (see Steps 2 and 3).
Step 2	Router(config)# ip ftp username <i>username</i>	(Optional) Changes the default remote username.
Step 3	Router(config)# ip ftp password <i>password</i>	(Optional) Changes the default password.
Step 4	Router(config)# end	(Optional) Exits global configuration mode. This step is required only if you override the default remote username or password (see Steps 2 and 3).
Step 5	Router# show flash-filesystem:	(Optional) Displays the system image file in the specified Flash directory. If you do not already know it, note the exact spelling of the system image filename in Flash memory.
Step 6	Router# copy flash-filesystem:filename ftp: [[[/[username [:password]@] location]/directory]/filename]	Copies the image to the FTP server.

After you have issued the **copy** EXEC command, you may be prompted for additional information or for confirmation of the action. The prompting will depend on how much information you provide in the **copy** command and the current setting of the **file prompt** global configuration command.

Copying from Flash Memory to an FTP Server Example

The following example uses the **show flash:** EXEC command to learn the name of the system image file and the **copy flash: tftp:** EXEC command to copy the system image (c3640-2is-mz) to a TFTP server. The router uses the default username and password.

```
Router# show flash:

System flash directory:
File Length Name/status
  1 4137888 c3640-c2is-mz
[4137952 bytes used, 12639264 available, 16777216 total]
16384K bytes of processor board System flash (Read/Write)\

Router# copy flash: tftp:
IP address of remote host [255.255.255.255]? 172.16.13.110
filename to write on tftp host? c3600-c2is-mz
writing c3640-c2is-mz !!!!!...
successful ftp write.
```

Copying from Slot1 to an FTP Server Example

The following example uses the **show slot1:** EXEC command to display the name of the system image file in the second PCMCIA slot, and copies the file (test) to an FTP server.

```
Router# show slot1:

-#- ED --type-- --crc--- -seek-- nlen -length- -----date/time----- name
1  .. 1          46A11866 2036C   4    746      May 16 1995 16:24:37 test

Router# copy slot1:test ftp://thisuser:thatpass@172.16.13.110/test
writing test!!!!...
successful ftp write.
```


Copying from Partitioned Flash to an FTP Server Example

In this example, the file named `your-ios` is copied from partition 1 of the Flash memory PC card in slot 0 to the TFTP server at 172.23.1.129. The file will be saved with the name `your-ios` in the `dirt/sysadmin` directory relative to the directory of the remote username.

```
Router# show slot0: partition 1

PCMCIA Slot0 flash directory, partition 1:
File Length Name/status
  1 1711088 your-ios
[1711152 bytes used, 2483152 available, 4194304 total]

Router# copy slot0:1:your-ios ftp://myuser:mypass@172.23.1.129/dirt/sysadmin/your-ios

Verifying checksum for 'your-ios' (file # 1)... OK
Copy 'your-ios' from Flash to server
  as 'dirt/sysadmin/ios-2'? [yes/no] yes
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Upload to server done
Flash device copy took 00:00:23 [hh:mm:ss]
```

Copying Images from a Network Server to Flash Memory

You can copy system images or boot image from a TFTP, rcp, or FTP server to a Flash memory file system to upgrade or change the Cisco IOS software or boot image on your router.

The protocol you use depends on which type of server you are using. The FTP and rcp transport mechanisms provide faster performance and more reliable delivery of data than TFTP. These improvements are possible because the FTP and rcp transport mechanisms are built on and use the TCP/IP stack, which is connection-oriented.

The following sections describe the copying tasks. The first two tasks and the last task are required. If you have a run-from-Flash system, the third section is required. Perform one of the remaining tasks, depending on which file transfer protocol you use.

- [Restrictions on Naming Files](#)
- [Understanding Flash Memory Space Considerations](#)
- [Output for Image Downloading Process](#)
- [Copying to Flash Memory for Run-from-Flash Systems](#)
- [Copying an Image from a TFTP Server to a Flash Memory File System](#)
- [Copying an Image from an rcp Server to a Flash Memory File System](#)
- [Copying an Image from an FTP Server to a Flash Memory File System](#)
- [Verifying the Image in Flash Memory](#)



Note

When you are upgrading or changing to a different Cisco IOS release, refer to the appropriate release notes for information on system requirements and limitations.

Restrictions on Naming Files

Filenames in Flash memory can be up to 63 characters long; they are not case-sensitive and are always converted to lowercase.



Note

The destination filename must be an alphanumeric expression (contains all letters or a combination of letters and numerals). For example, “1” is an invalid filename.

The filename can be in either lowercase or uppercase; the system ignores case. If more than one file of the same name is copied to Flash, regardless of case, the last file copied becomes the valid file.

Understanding Flash Memory Space Considerations

Be sure that enough space is available before copying a file to Flash memory. Use the **show flash-file:system: EXEC** command, and compare the size of the file you want to copy to the amount of Flash memory available. If the space available is less than the amount needed, the **copy EXEC** command will be partially executed, but the entire file will not be copied into Flash memory. The failure message “buffer overflow - xxx/xxx” will appear, where xxx/xxx is the number of bytes read from the source file and the number of bytes available on the destination device.



Caution

Do not reboot the router if no valid image is in Flash memory.



Note

For the Cisco 3600 series routers, if you do not have access to a network server and need to download a system image, you can copy an image from a local or remote computer (such as a PC, UNIX workstation, or Macintosh) using the Xmodem or Ymodem protocols. See the section “[Recovering a System Image Using Xmodem or Ymodem](#)” later in this chapter.

On Cisco 2500, Cisco 3000, and Cisco 4000 systems, if the file being downloaded to Flash memory is an uncompressed system image, the **copy** command automatically determines the size of the file being downloaded and validates it with the space available in Flash memory.

On Class B Flash file systems, the router gives you the option of erasing the existing contents of Flash memory before writing to it. If no free Flash memory is available, or if no files have ever been written to Flash memory, the erase routine is required before new files can be copied. If there is enough free Flash memory, the router gives you the option of erasing the existing Flash memory before writing to it. The system will inform you of these conditions and prompt you for a response.



Note

If you enter **n** after the “Erase flash before writing?” prompt, the copy process continues. If you enter **y** and confirm the erasure, the erase routine begins. Be sure to have ample Flash memory space before entering **n** at the erasure prompt.

If you attempt to copy a file into Flash memory that is already there, a prompt informs you that a file with the same name already exists. This file is “deleted” when you copy the new file into Flash.

- On Class A and B Flash file systems, the first copy of the file still resides within Flash memory, but it is rendered unusable in favor of the newest version and is listed with the “deleted” tag when you use the **show flash-filesystem: EXEC** command. If you terminate the copy process, the newer file is marked “deleted” because the entire file was not copied and is not valid. In this case, the original file in Flash memory is valid and available to the system.
- On Class C Flash file systems, the first copy of the file is erased.

You can copy normal or compressed images to Flash memory. You can produce a compressed system image on any UNIX platform using the **compress** interface configuration command. Refer to your UNIX platform’s documentation for the exact usage of the **compress** command.

On some platforms, the Flash security jumper must be installed in order to write to Flash memory. In addition, some platforms have a write protect switch which must be set to *unprotected* in order to write to Flash memory.

Output for Image Downloading Process

The output and dialog varies depending on the platform.

Output for Partitioned Flash Memory

One of the following prompts will be displayed after the command is entered to indicate how a file can be downloaded:

- None—The file cannot be copied.
- RXBOOT-Manual—You must manually reload to the rxboot image in ROM to copy the image.
- RXBOOT-FLH—The copy is done automatically via the Flash load helper software in boot ROMs.
- Direct—The copy can be done directly.

If the file can be downloaded into more than one partition, you are prompted for the partition number. To obtain help, enter any of the following characters at the partition number prompt:

- ?—Displays the directory listings of all partitions.
- ?1—Displays the directory of the first partition.
- ?2—Displays the directory of the second partition.
- q—Quits the **copy** command.

Copying to Flash Memory for Run-from-Flash Systems

You cannot run the system from Flash memory and copy to it at the same time. Therefore, for systems that run from Flash, perform either of the following tasks before copying to Flash:

- Partition Flash memory or use Flash load helper to allow the system to run from Flash memory while you copy to it.
- Reload the system to use a system image from boot ROMs.

See the [“Understanding Memory Types and Functions”](#) section in the [“Maintaining System Memory”](#) chapter of this document for more information on run-from-Flash systems.

Refer to the appropriate hardware installation and maintenance publication for information about the jumper settings required for your configuration.


```

Router# copy tftp://172.23.1.129/c3600-i-mz flash:1:c3600-i-mz/c3600-i-mz
Accessing file 'c3600-i-mz' on 172.23.1.129...
Loading c3600-i-mz from 172.23.1.129 (via Ethernet1/0): ! [OK]
Erase flash device before writing? [confirm]
Flash contains files. Are you sure you want to erase? [confirm]
Copy 'c3600-i-mz' from server
  as 'c3600-i-mz' into Flash WITH erase? [yes/no] yes
Erasing device... eeeeeeeeeeeeeeee ...erased
Loading c3600-i-mz from 172.23.1.129 (via Ethernet1/0):
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
[OK - 1711088 bytes]

Verifying checksum... OK (0xF89A)
Flash device copy took 00:00:17 [hh:mm:ss]

```

Copying an Image from an rcp Server to a Flash Memory File System

You can copy a system image from an rcp network server to a Flash memory file system.

If you copy the configuration file to a PC used as a file server, the computer must support rsh.

Understanding the rcp Username

The rcp protocol requires a client to send a remote username on each rcp request to a server. When you copy an image from the router to a server using rcp, the Cisco IOS software sends the first valid username it encounters in the following list:

1. The remote username specified in the **copy EXEC** command, if one is specified.
2. The username set by the **ip rcmd remote-username** global configuration command, if the command is configured.
3. The remote username associated with the current tty (terminal) process. For example, if the user is connected to the router through Telnet and was authenticated through the **username** global configuration command, the router software sends the Telnet username as the remote username.
4. The router host name.

For the rcp copy request to execute, an account must be defined on the network server for the remote username. If the server has a directory structure, the configuration file or image is written or copied relative to the directory associated with the remote username on the server. The path for all files and images to be copied begins at the remote user's home directory. For example, if the system image resides in the home directory of a user on the server, specify that user's name as the remote username.

Copying from an rcp Server to Flash Memory

To copy an image from an rcp server to Flash memory, use the following command, beginning in privileged EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	See the instructions in the section "Copying Images from Flash Memory to a Network Server."	Make a backup copy of the current system or bootstrap software image.
Step 2	Router# configure terminal	(Optional) Enters global configuration mode from the terminal. This step is required only if you override the default remote username (see Step 3).
Step 3	Router(config)# ip rcmd remote-username username	(Optional) Specifies the remote username.
Step 4	Router# end	(Optional) Exits global configuration mode. This step is required only if you override the default remote username (see Step 3).
Step 5	Router# copy rcp: [[//[username@]location]/directory] /filename] flash-filesystem:[filename]	Copies the image from an rcp server to a Flash memory file system.

After you have issued the **copy EXEC** command, you may be prompted for additional information or for confirmation of the action. The prompting will depend on how much information you provide in the **copy** command and the current setting of the **file prompt** global configuration command.

Copying from an rcp Server to Flash Example

The following example copies a system image named `mysysim1` from the `netadmin1` directory on the remote server named `SERVER1.CISCO.COM` with an IP address of `172.16.101.101` to Flash memory. To ensure that enough Flash memory is available to accommodate the system image to be copied, the Cisco IOS software allows you to first erase the contents of Flash memory.

```
Router1# configure terminal
Router1(config)# ip rcmd remote-username netadmin1
Router1(config)# end
Router# copy rcp: flash:

System flash directory:
File name/status
  1 mysysim1
[2076072 bytes used, 21080 bytes available]

Address or name of remote host [UNKNOWN]? 172.16.101.101
Name of file to copy? mysysim1
Copy mysysim1 from SERVER1.CISCO.COM? [confirm]

Checking for file 'mysysim1' on SERVER1.CISCO.COM... [OK]

Erase Flash device before writing? [confirm]
Are you sure? [confirm]
Erasing device...ezyeeze...erased.

Connected to 172.16.101.101

Loading 2076007 byte file mysysim1:!!!!!!...
[OK]

Verifying checksum... (0x87FD)... [OK]
```


The username and password must be associated with an account on the FTP server. If you are writing to the server, the FTP server must be properly configured to accept the FTP write request from the user on the router.

If the server has a directory structure, the configuration file or image is written to or copied from the directory associated with the username on the server. For example, if the system image resides in the home directory of a user on the server, specify that user's name as the remote username.

Refer to the documentation for your FTP server for more information.

Use the **ip ftp username** and **ip ftp password** commands to specify a username and password for all copies. Include the username in the **copy** command if you want to specify a username for that copy operation only.

Copying from an FTP Server to Flash Memory

To copy a system image from an FTP server to a Flash memory file system, use the following command, beginning in privileged EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	See the instructions in the section " Copying Images from Flash Memory to a Network Server ."	Make a backup copy of the current software image or bootstrap image.
Step 2	Router# configure terminal	(Optional) Enters global configuration mode from the terminal. This step is required only if you want to override the default remote username or password (see Steps 3 and 4).
Step 3	Router(config)# ip ftp username <i>username</i>	(Optional) Changes the default remote username.
Step 4	Router(config)# ip ftp password <i>password</i>	(Optional) Changes the default password.
Step 5	Router(config)# end	(Optional) Exits global configuration mode. This step is required only if you override the default remote username or password (see Steps 3 and 4).
Step 6	Router# copy ftp: [[[// <i>username[:password]</i> @] <i>location</i>] / <i>directory</i>]/ <i>filename</i>] flash-filesystem: [<i>filename</i>]	Copies the configuration file from a network server to running memory or the startup configuration using rcp.

After you have issued the **copy** EXEC command, you may be prompted for additional information or for confirmation of the action. The prompting will depend on how much information you provide in the **copy** command and the current setting of the **file prompt** global configuration command.

Copy from FTP Server to Flash Memory Example

The following example copies a the file named c7200-js-mz from the FTP server the server using a username of myuser and a password of mypass:

```
Router# copy ftp://myuser:mypass@theserver/tftpboot/ken/c7200-js-mz slot1:c7200-js-mz
Accessing ftp://theserver/tftpboot/ken/c7200-js-mz...Translating "theserver"...domain
server (192.168.2.132) [OK]
```

```
Loading c7200-js-mz from 192.168.2.132 (via Ethernet3/0):
```

```
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
[OK - 4823492 bytes]

4823492 bytes copied in 264.312 secs (18270 bytes/sec)
```

Verifying the Image in Flash Memory

Before booting from Flash memory, use the **verify** EXEC command to verify that the checksum of the image in Flash memory matches the checksum listed in the README file that was distributed with the system software image. The checksum of the image in Flash memory is displayed at the bottom of the screen when you issue the **copy** EXEC command to copy an image. The README file was copied to the network server automatically when you installed the system software image on the server.



If the checksum value does not match the value in the README file, do not reboot the router. Instead, issue the **copy** command and compare the checksums again. If the checksum repeatedly is incorrect, copy the original system software image back into Flash memory *before* you reboot the router from Flash memory. If you have a corrupted image in Flash memory and try to boot from Flash, the router will start the system image contained in ROM (assuming that booting from a network server is not configured). If ROM does not contain a fully functional system image, the router will not function and must be reconfigured through a direct console port connection.

The Flash memory content listing does not include the checksum of individual files. To recompute and verify the image checksum after an image is copied into Flash memory or a Flash memory device, use the following command in EXEC mode:

Command	Purpose
Router# verify <i>flash-filesystem:[partition-number:]</i> <i>[filename]</i>	Recomputes and verifies the image checksum after the image is copied into Flash memory.

If you do not provide the filename in the command, the router prompts you. By default, it prompts for the last (most recent) file in Flash. Press Return to recompute the default file checksum, or enter the filename of a different file at the prompt. Note that the checksum for microcode images is always 0x0000.

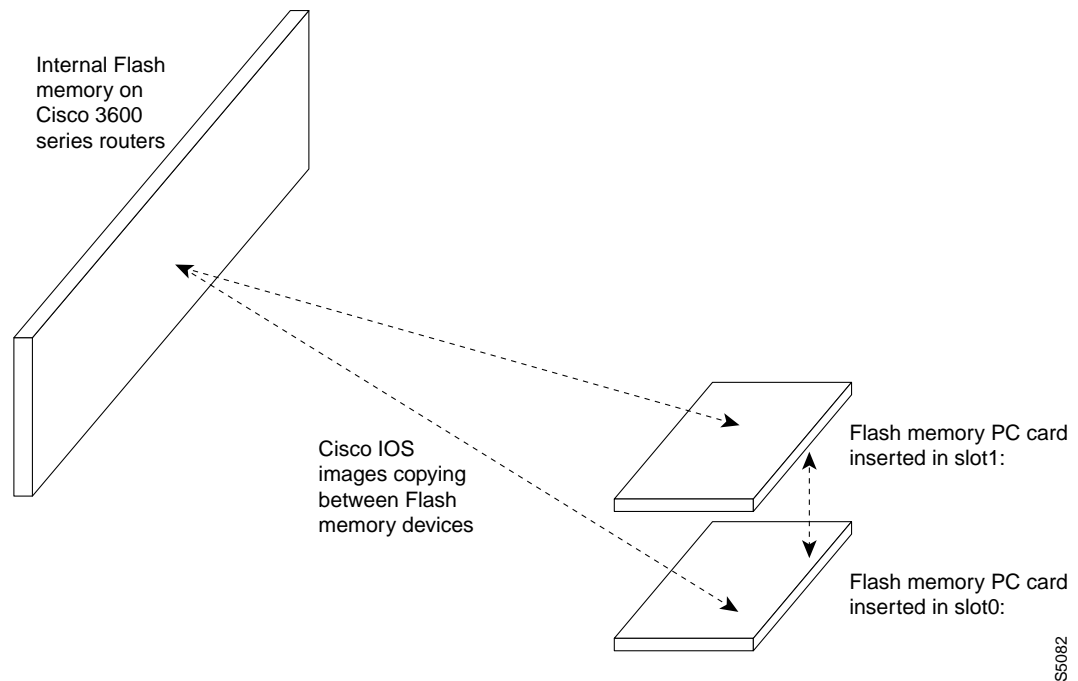
The following example verifies the image named c7200-js-mz in slot0:

```
Router# verify slot0:c7200-js-mz
Verified slot0:c7200-js-mz
```

Copying Images Between Local Flash Memory Devices

On routers with multiple Flash memory file systems, you can copy images from one Flash memory file system, such as internal Flash memory or a Flash memory card in a PCMCIA slot, to another Flash memory file system, as shown in [Figure 9](#). One reason to copy the image to a different Flash device is to make a backup copy of it.

Figure 9 Copying Images Between Flash Memory File Systems



Caution

Before copying to a new Flash device, you must first format that device. All new media should be formatted. Memory media used in Cisco devices does not typically come pre-formatted. Even if pre-formatted, an initial format using the Cisco filesystem may help to prevent potential problems with incompatible formatting. Attempts to copy images to unformatted or improperly formatted Flash devices may not generate failure messages on some devices. For this reason, the **show** and **verify** steps below are strongly recommended. For instructions on formatting your flash device, see the “Maintaining Router Memory” chapter.

To copy an image between Flash memory file systems, use the following commands in EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# show <i>flash-filesystem:</i>	Displays the layout and contents of Flash memory.
Step 2	Router# copy <i>source-url destination-url</i>	Copies an image between Flash memory devices.
Step 3	Router# verify <i>flash-filesystem:filename</i>	Verifies the checksum of the image you copied. (You can get the MD5 checksum for your image from Cisco.com).



Note

The source device and the destination device cannot be the same. For example, the **copy slot1: slot1:** command is invalid.

Specifying the Startup System Image in the Configuration File

You can enter multiple boot commands in the startup configuration file or in the BOOT environment variable to provide backup methods for loading a system image onto the router. The following are three ways to load a system image:

- From Flash memory—Flash memory allows you to copy new system images without changing ROM. Information stored in Flash memory is not vulnerable to network failures that might occur when loading system images from servers.
- From a network server—In case Flash memory becomes corrupted, you can specify that a system image be loaded from a network server using Maintenance Operation Protocol (MOP), TFTP, rcp, or FTP as a backup boot method. For some platforms, you can specify a boot image to be loaded from a network server using TFTP, rcp, or FTP.
- From ROM—In case of both Flash memory corruption and network failure, specifying a system image to be loaded from ROM provides a final backup boot method. System images stored in ROM may not always be as current as those stored in Flash memory or on network servers.



Note Some platforms cannot boot from ROM.

You can enter the different types of boot commands in any order in the startup configuration file or in the BOOT environment variable. If you enter multiple boot commands, the Cisco IOS software tries them in the order they are entered.



Note Booting from ROM is faster than booting from Flash memory. However, booting from Flash memory is faster and more reliable than booting from a network server.

Loading the System Image from Flash Memory

Use the tasks described in the following sections to configure your router to boot from Flash memory. Flash memory can reduce the effects of network failure by reducing dependency on files that can only be accessed over the network.

Flash Memory Configuration Process

To configure the router to load a system image in Flash memory, perform the following steps:

	Task
Step 1	(Optional) Copy a system image or boot image to Flash memory using TFTP, rcp, and FTP. See the “Copying Images from a Network Server to Flash Memory” section for more information on performing this step.
Step 2	Configure the system to automatically boot from the desired file and location in Flash memory or boot flash memory. See the “Configuring the Router to Automatically Boot from an Image in Flash Memory” section.
Step 3	(Optional) Depending on the current configuration register setting, change the configuration register value. See the “Configuring the Router to Automatically Boot from an Image in Flash Memory” section for more information on modifying the configuration register.
Step 4	(Optional) For some platforms, set the BOOTLDR environment variable to change the location of the boot image.

Task

- Step 5 Save your configuration.
- Step 6 Power-cycle and reboot your system to ensure that all is working as expected.

Configuring the Router to Automatically Boot from an Image in Flash Memory

To configure a router to automatically boot from an image in Flash memory, use the following commands beginning in privileged EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode from the terminal.
Step 2	Router(config)# boot system flash [<i>flash-filesystem:</i>] [<i>partition-number:</i>] <i>filename</i>	Specifies the filename of an image stored in Flash memory that should be used for booting.
Step 3	Router(config)# config-register value	Sets the configuration register to enable loading of the system image specified in the configuration file.
Step 4	Router(config)# end	Ends your configuration session and exits global configuration mode.
Step 5	Router# copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config	Saves the system running configuration as the device startup configuration (startup-config file).
Step 6	Router# more nvram:startup-config	(Optional) Allows verification of the contents of the startup configuration.
Step 7	Router# reload	Reboots the system.

For routers that are partitioned, if you do not specify a partition, the router boots from the first partition. If you do not specify a filename, the router boots from the first valid image found in the partition.

If you enter more than one image filename, the router tries the file names in the order entered.

To remove a filename from the configuration file, enter the **no boot system flash** global configuration command and specify the file location.

**Note**

The **no boot system** configuration command disables all **boot system** configuration commands regardless of argument. Specifying the **flash** keyword or the *filename* argument with the **no boot system** command disables only the commands specified by these arguments.

Configuring the Router to Boot from Flash Memory Example

The following example shows a router configured to automatically boot from an image in Flash memory:

```
Router# configure terminal
Router(config)# boot system flash new-image
Router(config)# config-register 0x010F
Router(config)# end
Router# copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config
[ok]
Router# reload
[confirm]
```


Specifying the Startup System Image in the Configuration File

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	Router(config)# boot system [rcp tftp] <i>filename</i> [ip-address] or Router(config)# boot system mop <i>filename</i> [mac-address] [interface]	Specifies the system image file to be booted from a network server using rcp, TFTP, or MOP.
Step 3	Router(config)# config-register <i>value</i>	Sets the configuration register to enable loading of the image specified in the configuration file.
Step 4	Router(config)# exit	Exits configuration mode.
Step 5	Router# copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config or Router# copy run start	Saves the configuration file to your startup configuration.

In the following example, a router uses rcp to boot from the testme5.testster system image file on a network server at IP address 172.16.0.1:

```
Router# configure terminal
Router(config)# boot system rcp testme5.testster 172.16.0.1
Router(config)# config-register 0x010F
Router(config)# ^Z
Router# copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config
```

The following section describes how to change request retry times and frequency if you have configured your system to boot using the **boot system mop** command.

Changing MOP Request Parameters

If you configure your router to boot from a network server using MOP (using the **boot system mop** ROM monitor command), the router will send a request for the configuration file to the MOP boot server during startup. By default, when the software sends a request that requires a response from a MOP boot server and the server does not respond, the message will be re-sent after 4 seconds. The message will be re-sent a maximum of eight times. The MOP device code is set to the Cisco device code by default.

If the MOP boot server and router are separated by a slow serial link, it may take longer than 4 seconds for the router to receive a response to its message. Therefore, you may want to configure the software to wait longer than 4 seconds before resending the message if you are using such a link. You may also want to change the maximum number of retries for the MOP request or the MOP device code.

To change the Cisco IOS software parameters for sending boot requests to a MOP server, use the following commands beginning in privileged EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# configure terminal	Enters configuration mode from the terminal.
Step 2	Router(config)# mop device-code {cisco ds200} mop retransmit-timer <i>seconds</i> mop retries <i>count</i>	Changes MOP server parameters.
Step 3	Router(config)# end	Exits configuration mode.
Step 4	Router# copy running-config startup-config	Saves the configuration file to your startup configuration.

In the following example, if the MOP boot server does not respond within 10 seconds after the router sends a message, the software will resend the message:

```
Router# configure terminal
Router (config)# mop retransmit-timer 10
Router (config)# end
Router# copy running-config startup-config
```

Loading the System Image from ROM

To specify the use of the ROM system image as a backup to other boot instructions in the configuration file, use the following commands beginning in EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# <code>configure terminal</code>	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	Router(config)# <code>boot system rom</code>	Specifies use of the ROM system image as a backup image.
Step 3	Router(config)# <code>config-register value</code>	Sets the configuration register to enable loading of the system image specified in the configuration file.
Step 4	Router(config)# <code>end</code>	Exits global configuration mode.
Step 5	Router# <code>copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config</code>	Saves the configuration file to your startup configuration.

In the following example, a router is configured to boot from ROM:

```
Router# configure terminal
Router (config)# boot system rom
Router (config)# config-register 0x010F
Router (config)# end
Router# copy system:running-config nvram:startup-config
```



Note

The Cisco 7000 series routers cannot load from ROM.

Using a Fault-Tolerant Booting Strategy

Occasionally network failures make booting from a network server impossible. To lessen the effects of network failure, consider the following booting strategy. After Flash is installed and configured, you may want to configure the router to boot in the following order:

1. Boot an image from Flash.
2. Boot an image from a network server.
3. Boot from ROM image.

This boot order provides the most fault-tolerant booting strategy. Use the following commands beginning in EXEC mode to allow the router to boot first from Flash, then from a system file from a network server, and finally from ROM:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 2	Router(config)# boot system flash [flash-filesystem:] [partition-number:] filename	Configures the router to boot from Flash memory.
Step 3	Router(config)# boot system [rtp tftp] filename [ip-address]	Configures the router to boot from a network server.
Step 4	Router(config)# boot system rom	Configures the router to boot from ROM.
Step 5	Router(config)# config-register value	Sets the configuration register to enable loading of the system image specified in the configuration file.
Step 6	Router(config)# end	Exits global configuration mode.
Step 7	Router# copy system:running-config nvrn:startup-config	Saves the configuration file to your startup configuration.

In the following example, a router is configured to first boot an internal Flash image named *gsxx*. Should that image fail, the router will boot the configuration file *gsxx* from a network server. If that method should fail, then the system will boot from ROM.

```
Router# configure terminal
Router(config)# boot system flash gsxx
Router(config)# boot system gsxx 172.16.101.101
Router(config)# boot system rom
Router(config)# config-register 0x010F
Router(config)# end
Router# copy system:running-config nvrn:startup-config
[ok]
```

Using this strategy, a router has three alternative sources from which to boot. These alternative sources help lessen the negative effects of a failure on network or file server.

Recovering a System Image Using Xmodem or Ymodem

If you do not have access to a network server and need to download a system image (to update it, or if all the system images in Flash memory somehow are damaged or erased), you can copy an image from a local or remote computer (such as a PC, UNIX workstation, or Macintosh) using the Xmodem or Ymodem protocols. This functionality primarily serves as a disaster recovery technique and is illustrated in [Figure 10](#).



Note

Recovering system images using Xmodem or Ymodem is performed only on the Cisco 1600 series and Cisco 3600 series routers.

Xmodem and Ymodem are common protocols used for transferring files and are included in applications such as Windows 3.1 (TERMINAL.EXE), Windows 95 (HyperTerminal), Windows NT 3.5x (TERMINAL.EXE), Windows NT 4.0 (HyperTerminal), and Linux UNIX freeware (minicom).

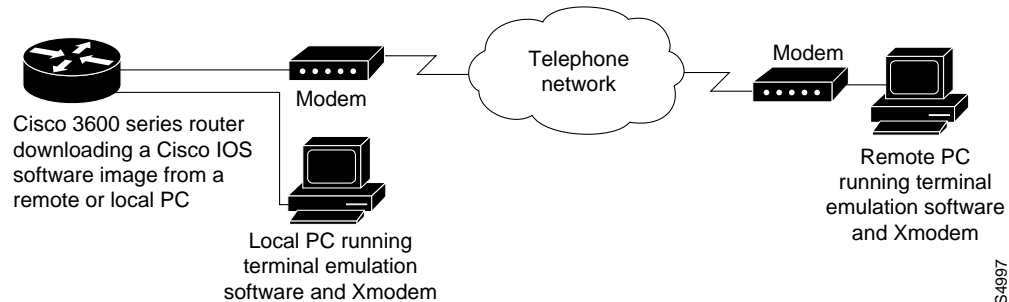
Cisco 3600 series routers do not support XBOOT functionality, a disaster recovery technique for Cisco IOS software, and do not have a separate boot helper (rxboot) image.

Xmodem and Ymodem downloads are slow, so you should use them only when you do not have access to a network server. You can speed up the transfer by setting the transfer port speed to 115200 bps.

On the Cisco 3600 series routers, you can perform the file transfer using Cisco IOS software or, if all local system images are damaged or erased, the ROM monitor. When you use Cisco IOS software for an Xmodem or Ymodem file transfer, the transfer can occur on either the AUX port or the console port. We recommend the AUX port, which supports hardware flow control. File transfers from the ROM monitor must use the console port.

On the Cisco 1600 series routers, you can only perform the file transfer from the ROM monitor over the console port.

Figure 10 Copying a System Image to a Cisco 3600 Series Router with Xmodem or Ymodem



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To copy a Cisco IOS image from a computer or workstation to a router using the Xmodem or Ymodem protocol, use the following commands, as needed:

Command	Purpose
<pre>Router# copy xmodem: flash-filesystem: [partition:] [filename] or Router# copy ymodem: flash-filesystem: [partition:] [filename]</pre>	<p>Copies a system image from a computer to Flash memory using Cisco IOS software in EXEC mode (Cisco 3600 series routers only).</p>
<pre>ROMMON > xmodem [-c] [-y] [-e] [-f] [-r] [-x] [-s data-rate] [filename]</pre>	<p>Copies a system image from a computer to Flash memory in ROM monitor mode for the Cisco 1600 series routers.</p> <p>The -c option provides CRC-16 checksumming; -y uses the Ymodem protocol; -e erases the first partition in Flash memory; -f erases all of Flash memory; -r downloads the image to DRAM (the default is Flash memory); -x prevents the image from executing after download; and -s sets the console port data rate.</p>
<pre>ROMMON > xmodem [-c -y -r -x] [filename]</pre>	<p>Copies a system image from a computer to Flash memory in ROM monitor mode for the Cisco 3600 series routers.</p>

The computer from which you transfer the Cisco IOS image must be running terminal emulation software and the Xmodem or Ymodem protocol.

For the Cisco 1600 series routers, if you include the **-r** option (download to DRAM), your router must have enough DRAM to hold the file being transferred. To run from Flash memory, an image must be positioned as the first file in Flash memory. If you are copying a new image to boot from Flash memory, erase all existing files first.

Xmodem Transfer Using the Cisco IOS Software Example

The following example shows a file transfer using Cisco IOS software and the Xmodem protocol. The Ymodem protocol follows a similar procedure, using the **copy ymodem: EXEC** command.



Note

This functionality is enabled on Cisco 3600 series routers only.

To transfer a Cisco IOS image from a computer running terminal emulation software and the Xmodem protocol, perform the following steps:

- Step 1** Place a Cisco IOS software image on the remote computer's hard drive. You can download an image from Cisco.com.
- Step 2** To transfer from a remote computer, connect a modem to the AUX port of your Cisco 3600 series router and to the standard telephone network. The AUX port is set by default to a speed of 9600 bps, 2 stop bits, and no parity. The maximum speed is 115200 bps. Configure the router for both incoming and outgoing calls by entering the **modem inout** line configuration command.

Connect a modem to the remote computer and to the telephone network. The remote computer dials through the telephone network and connects to the router.

To transfer from a local computer, connect the router's AUX port to a serial port on the computer, using a null-modem cable. The AUX speed configured on the router must match the transfer speed configured on the local computer.

- Step 3** At the EXEC prompt in the terminal emulator window of the computer, enter the **copy xmodem: flash:** EXEC command:

```
Router# copy xmodem: flash:
          **** WARNING ****
x/ymodem is a slow transfer protocol limited to the current speed
settings of the auxiliary/console ports. The use of the auxiliary
port for this download is strongly recommended.
During the course of the download no exec input/output will be
available.
          ---- ***** ----
```

Press **Enter** to continue.

- Step 4** Specify whether to use cyclic redundancy check (CRC) block checksumming, which verifies that your data has been correctly transferred from the computer to the router. If your computer does not support CRC block checksumming, enter **no** at the prompt:

```
Proceed? [confirm]
Use crc block checksumming? [confirm] no
```

- Step 5** Determine how many times the software should try to receive a bad block of data before it declares the copy operation a failure. The default is ten retries. A higher number may be needed for noisy telephone lines. You can configure an unlimited number of retries.

```
Max Retry Count [10]: 7
```

Step 6 Decide whether you want to check that the file is a valid Cisco 3600 series image:

```
Perform image validation checks? [confirm]
Xmodem download using simple checksumming with image validation
Continue? [confirm]
```

After the transfer has begun, and if the image is valid, the software determines whether enough Flash memory space exists on the router to accommodate the transfer:

```
System flash directory:
File Length Name/status
  1 1738244 images/c3600-i-mz
[1738308 bytes used, 2455996 available, 4194304 total]
```

Step 7 Enter the destination filename:

```
Destination file name ? new-ios-image
```

Step 8 If you do not want the contents of internal Flash memory erased before the file transfer, enter **no**:

```
Erase flash device before writing? [confirm] no

Copy '' from server
  as 'new-ios-image' into Flash WITHOUT erase? [yes/no] yes
Ready to receive file.....
```

Step 9 Start an Xmodem or Ymodem send operation with the terminal emulation software on the computer that is sending the system image to the router. See your emulation software application's documentation for instructions on how to execute a file transfer. Depending on the application you use, the emulation software may display the progress of the file transfer.

Xmodem Transfer Example Using the ROM Monitor

This example shows a file transfer using the ROM monitor and the Xmodem protocol. To send with the Ymodem protocol, use the **xmodem -y** ROM monitor command.

For the Cisco 3600 series routers, the router must have enough DRAM to hold the file being transferred, even if you are copying to Flash memory. The image is copied to the first file in internal Flash memory. Any existing files in Flash memory are erased. Copying files to Flash partitions or to the second-file position is not supported.



Caution

A modem connection from the telephone network to your console port introduces security issues that you should consider before enabling the connection. For example, remote users can dial in to your modem and access the router's configuration settings.

Step 1 Place a Cisco IOS software image on the remote computer's hard drive. You can download an image from Cisco.com or from the Feature Pack (Cisco 1600 series routers only).

Step 2 To transfer from a remote computer, connect a modem to the console port of your router and to the standard telephone network. The modem and console port must communicate at the same speed, which can be from 9600 to 115200 bps (Cisco 3600 series routers) or from 1200 to 115200 bps (Cisco 1600 series routers), depending on the speed supported by your modem. Use the **confreg** ROM monitor command to configure the console port transmission speed for the router. For the Cisco 1600 series routers, you can also set the transmission speed with the **-s** option.

Connect a modem to the remote computer and to the telephone network. The remote computer dials through the telephone network and connects to the router.

To transfer from a local computer, connect the router's console port to a serial port on the computer, using a null-modem cable. The console port speed configured on the router must match the transfer speed configured on the local computer.



Note If you are transferring from a local computer, you may need to configure the terminal emulation program to ignore Request To Send (RTS)/data terminal ready (DTR) signals.

Step 3 You should see a ROM monitor prompt in the terminal emulation window:

```
rommon >
```

Enter the **xmodem** ROM monitor command, along with any desired copy options and, optionally, the filename of the Cisco IOS image. The image loads into Flash memory by default; to download to DRAM instead, use the **-r** option. The image is normally executed on completion of the file transfer; to prevent execution, use the **-x** option. The **-c** option specifies CRC-16 checksumming, which is more sophisticated and thorough than standard checksumming, if it is supported by the computer:

```
rommon > xmodem -c new-ios-image
Do not start the sending program yet...
      File size           Checksum   File name
1738244 bytes (0x1a8604)  0xdd25  george-admin/c3600-i-mz
```

```
WARNING: All existing data in flash will be lost!
Invoke this application only for disaster recovery.
Do you wish to continue? y/n [n]: yes
Ready to receive file new-ios-image ...
```

Step 4 Start an Xmodem send operation, which is initiated from the terminal emulation software on the remote computer that is sending the system image to the router. See your emulation software application's documentation for instructions on how to execute an Xmodem file transfer.

Step 5 The Cisco IOS image is transferred and executed. If you are transferring from a remote computer, the computer maintains control of your console port even after the new Cisco IOS image is running. To release control to a local terminal, reconfigure the speed of the router's console port to match the speed of the local terminal by entering the **speed** *bps* line configuration command from the remote computer at the router prompt:

```
Router# configure terminal
Router(config)# line 0
Router(config-line)# speed 9600
```

The remote connection is broken, and you can disconnect the modem from the console port and reconnect the terminal line.

Loading and Displaying Microcode Images

On some Cisco routers, including Cisco 7200, 7500, and 12000 series GSRs, you can update microcode by loading it into peripheral components. This section provides information on loading, upgrading and verifying microcode images, as described in the following subsections:

- [Understanding Microcode Images](#)

- [Specifying the Location of the Microcode Images](#)
- [Reloading the Microcode Image](#)
- [Displaying Microcode Image Information](#)

Understanding Microcode Images

Microcode is stored on ROM and allows the addition of new machine instructions without requiring that they be designed into electronic circuits when new instructions are needed. Microcode images contain microcode software that runs on various hardware devices. For example, microcode can be updated in Channel Interface Processors (CIPs) on Cisco 7500 series routers, or in Channel Port Adapters (CPAs) on Cisco 7200 series routers.

By default, the system loads the microcode bundled with the Cisco IOS system software image. This microcode is referred to as the default microcode image. However, you can configure the router to use microcode stored in Flash.

Cisco 7000 series routers with an RSP7000 and Cisco 7500 series routers each have a writable control store (WCS) that stores microcode. You can load updated microcode onto the WCS from boot flash or from a Flash memory card inserted in one of the PCMCIA slots of the RSP card.

You can update microcode without having physical access to the router by using the **copy EXEC** command to copy microcode to a Flash file system.

Specifying the Location of the Microcode Images

To specify the location from where the microcode should be loaded, use the following commands beginning in EXEC mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router# copy tftp: flash: or Router# copy tftp: file-id	(Optional) Copies microcode files into Flash. Perform this step only if you want to load the microcode from Flash. See the section “ Copying Images from a Network Server to Flash Memory ” for more information about how to copy images to Flash memory.
Step 2	Router# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
Step 3	Router(config)# microcode interface [flash-filesystem:filename [slot] system [slot]]	Configures the router to load microcode on a target interface from the specified memory location.
Step 4	Router(config)# end	Exits global configuration mode.
Step 5	Router# copy system:running-config nvrn:startup-config	Saves the new configuration information.

If an error occurs when you are attempting to download microcode, the system loads the default system microcode image.



Note

Microcode images cannot be compressed.

Reloading the Microcode Image

The configuration commands specifying the microcode to load are implemented following one of three events:

- The system is booted.
- A card is inserted or removed.
- The **microcode reload** global configuration command is issued.

After you have entered a microcode configuration command and one of these events has taken place, all cards are reset, loaded with microcode from the appropriate sources, tested, and enabled for operation.

To signal to the system that all microcode configuration commands have been entered and the processor cards should be reloaded, use the following command in global configuration mode:

Command	Purpose
Router(config)# microcode reload	Reloads the microcode from the source specified in the configuration on to all interface and processor cards.

Immediately after you enter the **microcode reload** global configuration command and press Return, the system reloads all microcode. Global configuration mode remains enabled. After the reload is complete, enter the **exit** global configuration command to return to the EXEC prompt.

If Flash memory is busy because a card is being removed or inserted, or a **microcode reload** command is executed while Flash is locked, the files will not be available and the onboard ROM microcode will be loaded. Issue another **microcode reload** command when Flash memory is available, and the proper microcode will be loaded. The **show flash** EXEC command will reveal if another user or process has locked Flash memory.



Note

The **microcode reload** command should not be used while Flash is in use. For example, do not use this command when a **copy {ftp: | rcp: | tftp:} flash-filesystem** or **show flash-filesystem:** EXEC command is active.

The **microcode reload** command is automatically added to your running configuration when you issue a microcode command that changes the system's default behavior of loading all processors from ROM.

In the following example, all controllers are reset, the specified microcode is loaded, and the CxBus complex is reinitialized according to the microcode configuration commands that have been written to memory:

```
Router# configure terminal
Router(config)# microcode reload
Router(config)# end
```

Displaying Microcode Image Information

To display microcode image information, use the following command in EXEC mode:

Command	Purpose
Router# show microcode	Displays microcode information.

Using Microcode on Specific Platforms

The commands for manipulating microcode vary by platform. This section refers you to specialized configuration information found in other Cisco IOS documents.

For information on downloading microcode (Modem Firmware and Portware) into modems on Cisco access servers (like the Cisco AS5800) using SPE, see the Release 12.2 *Cisco IOS Dial Technologies Configuration Guide*.

For specific information on loading CIP and CPA microcode into adapters on Cisco 7000, 7200, and 7500 series routers, see the “Configuring Cisco Mainframe Channel Connection Adapters” chapter in the “IBM Networking” part of the *Cisco IOS Bridging and IBM Networking Configuration Guide*.

Loading Microcode Images on the Cisco 12000 GSR

In addition to the Cisco IOS image that resides on the GRP, each line card on the Cisco 12000 series has a Cisco IOS image. When the router is reloaded, the specified Cisco IOS image is loaded onto the GRP, and that image is automatically downloaded to all the line cards.

Normally, you want the same Cisco IOS image on the GRP and all line cards. However, if you want to upgrade a line card with a new version of microcode for testing or to fix a defect, you may need to load a microcode system image that is different from the one on the line card. You may also need to load a new image on the line card to work around a problem that is affecting only one of the line cards.

To load a Cisco IOS image on a line card, first use the **copy tftp EXEC** command to download the Cisco IOS image to a slot on one of the PCMCIA Flash cards. After you have downloaded the Cisco IOS image on the Flash card, use the following commands beginning in global configuration mode:

	Command	Purpose
Step 1	Router(config)# microcode {oc12-atm oc12-pos oc3-pos-4} flash file_id slot-number	Specifies the type of line card, location of the microcode image, and the slot of the line card to download the image. If the slot number is omitted, the microcode image is downloaded to all line cards.
Step 2	Router(config)# microcode reload slot-number	Reloads the microcode on the specified line card.
Step 3	Router(config)# exit	Exits configuration mode.
Step 4	Router# execute-on slot slot-number show version or Router# attach slot-number	Connects to the line card and verifies that the new Cisco IOS image is on the line card by checking the version number in the display output.

For further configuration information for Cisco 12000 series routers, see the documentation for Cisco IOS Release 11.2, Cisco IOS Release 12.0S, and Cisco IOS Release 12.2S, available on Cisco.com. For further platform specific documentation see <http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/product/core/>.

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