

# Nutanix and Mellanox SN2010 Switch Deployment using NEO™

# **Quick Start Guide**

**Rev 1.0** 



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#### 1 Overview

Mellanox switches allow you to create a network fabric that offers predictable, low-latency switching while achieving maximum throughput and linear scalability. Combined with the features and intelligence of the Mellanox Onyx<sup>TM</sup> operating system (OS), multilink aggregation groups (MLAGs) create a highly available L2 fabric across Mellanox networking appliances to ensure that you can meet even the most stringent SLAs.

MLAGs aggregate ports across multiple physical switches. Configuring link aggregation between physical switch ports and Nutanix appliances enables the Nutanix Controller Virtual Machine (CVM) to utilize all pNICs and actively load balances user VMs on TCP streams. This capability is a key advantage, particularly in all-flash clusters.

Mellanox Onyx operating system provides a streamlined deployment model with a full documentation set to facilitate networking configurations ranging from basic to advanced. Mellanox Spectrum ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit) delivers 100GbE port speed with the industry's lowest port-to-port latency (approximately 300 ns or about 0.6 us leaf-to-spine).

In this user guide we will showcase a leaf-spine topology deployment using MLAGs. Managing and updating each switch independently with MLAG mitigates the single point of failure that typically results from employing stacking techniques within the switches.

In this document we will be using Mellanox NEO<sup>TM</sup> to deploy the network for our Nutanix cluster. NEO is a powerful platform for data-center network orchestration, designed to simplify network provisioning, monitoring, and operations of the modern data-center. NEO offers robust automation capabilities that extend existing tools, from network staging and bring-up to day-to-day operations.

Mellanox NEO integrates with the Nutanix Prism to provide visibility and auto-provisioning.

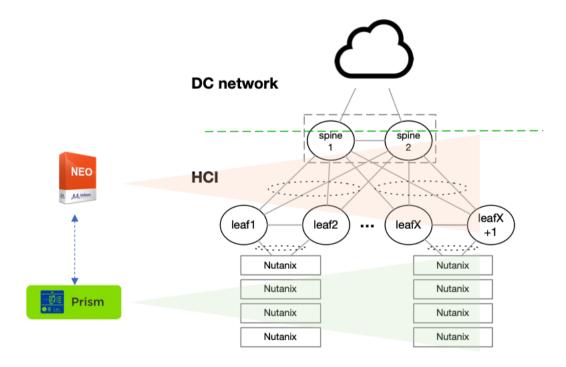


# 2 Setup

# 2.1 Mellanox MLAG-Based Leaf-Spine Topology

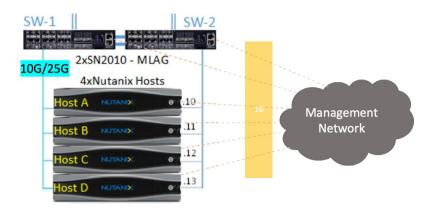
In this setup, we demonstrate how to achieve a Mellanox MLAG-based leaf-spine topology utilizing Mellanox SN2000 Series switches. This reference architecture consists of Mellanox SN2010 switches (18 ports x 10/25GbE + 4 ports x 40/100GbE) as leaf switches and SN2700 (32 ports x 100GbE) as spine switches.

The routing between VLANs can be done by the spine switches (which also operate in MLAG for the downlinks) or at the layer above the spines.





#### **Nutanix and Mellanox Spectrum SN2010 MLAG** 2.2



In the diagram that will be used for this guide, there are four Nutanix nodes that are connected using an active-active LACP bond to a pair of Mellanox SN2010 switches that are configured in MLAG.

#### Prerequisites:

- NEO version should be at least 2.4
- Onyx version should be latest available
- Bring-up your Nutanix cluster before starting the Switch configuration flow
- Configure management IP addresses for both switches (statically or through DHCP)
- NEO server should be able to access the management network





NOTE: SN2700 spine switches are not displayed in this diagram (please see general diagrams) since the focus of the guide is on MLAG configuration on SN2010 leaf switches.



# 2.3 Installing Mellanox NEO

Download the Mellanox NEO and install it.



**NOTE:** There is an option to install NEO via the Nutanix Calm.

### Below is an example installation on a Linux environment:

1. Copy and unpack the NEO package:

```
# cd /tmp
# scp root@my-server:/tmp/neo.tar.gz .
# tar -zxvf neo.tar.gz
```

2. Install the NEO software:

```
# cd /neo
# ./neo-installer.sh
```

- 3. Start the NEO service:
- # /opt/neo/neoservice start
- 4. Open a web browser and type:

http://<my-server-name-or-ip>/neo

Insert default administrator credentials:

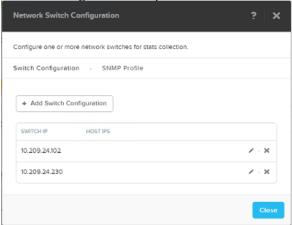
Username: admin Password: 123456



# 2.4 NEO Plugin for Nutanix Auto Provisioning

Install the NEO plugin if you would like to use the NEO Auto VLAN provisioning functionality with Nutanix. This plugin enables NEO to track VMs on the Nutanix nodes and to auto create/delete VLANs from the attached switch ports.

1. Add the switches to the Nutanix Prism via the online user interface. Click the wrench icon on the right and then proceed to Network Switch Configuration.



The switch will be discovered and will appear in the switch table as follows:



- 2. Download the NEO Nutanix plugin from MyMellanox.
- 3. Install the plugin inside the NEO server:

```
#rpm -i nutanix-neo-1-1.4.3.x86_64.rpm
#vi /opt/nutanix-neo/config/nutanix-neo-plugin.cfg
```

- 4. Follow the instructions in the configuration file (.cfg). Insert the IP address and credentials for NEO, Prism, and the local server.
- 5. Start Nutanix-NEO service

#service nutanix-neo start



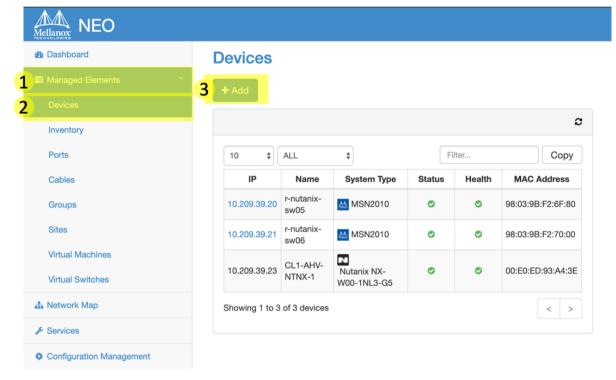
# 2.5 MLAG Switch Configuration

Once the Nutanix plugin is initiated, all Nutanix nodes and Mellanox switches will be automatically added to NEO (Managed Elements  $\rightarrow$  Devices).



**NOTE:** If the plugin is not been used, the switches should be manually added. It is still possible to gain visibility without auto provisioning by manually Adding the Nutanix nodes, see section 3.5.

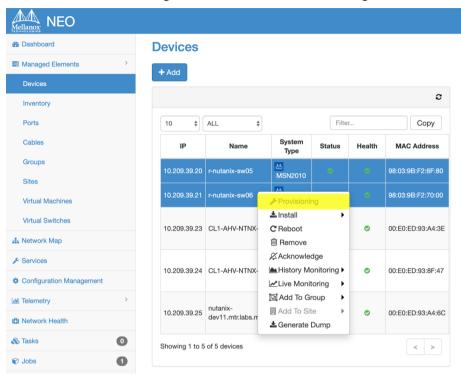
To manually add switches:



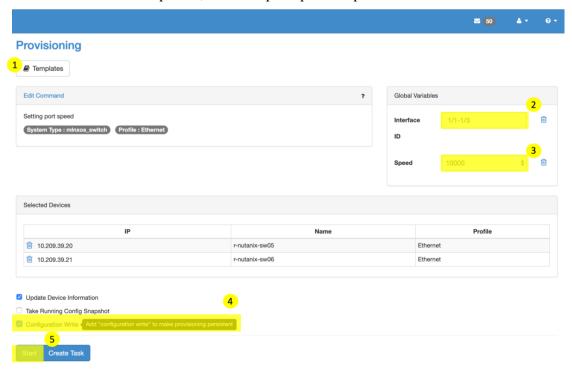


If your Nutanix nodes have 10GbE interfaces, first set your switchports to 10GbE (Default is 25GbE).

Select both switches and right click, then select "Provisioning":

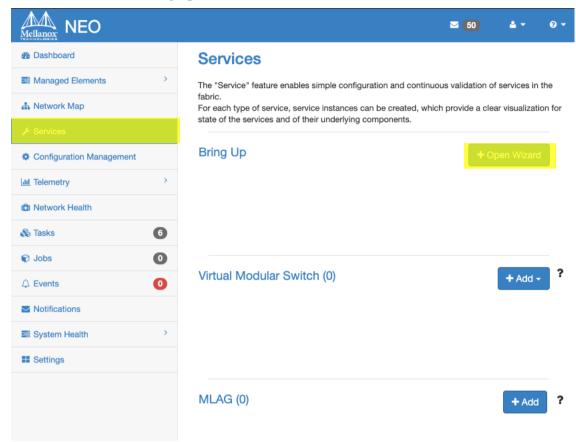


Out of the available "Templates", select the port-speed template and run it:

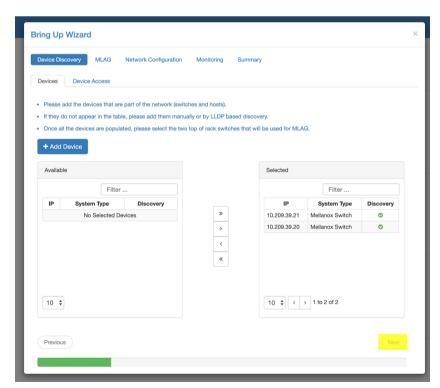




Start the NEO MLAG bring-up wizard:



Both switches should be selected. The Wizard will validate that a connection between the two ports exists for the MLAG IPL:





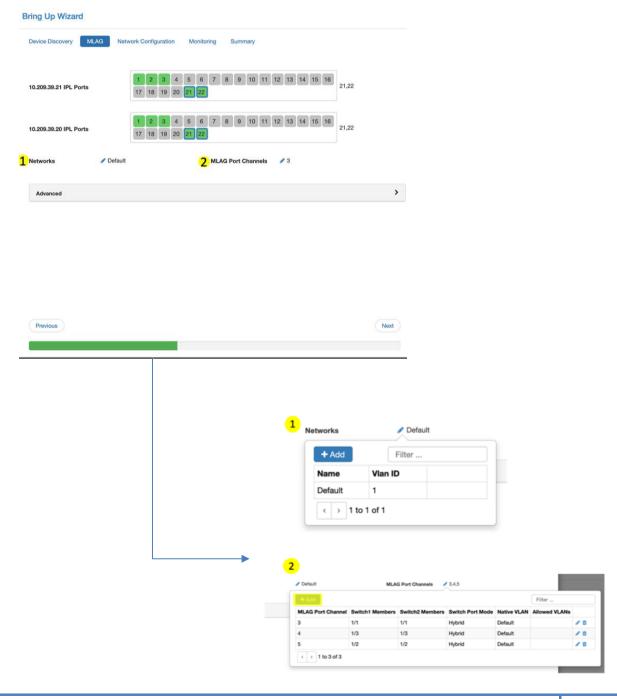
# 2.5.1 MLAG Configuration

If the Nutanix plugin is not being used, you will need to manually add VLANs (1) and manually add MLAG port-channel towards the servers (2).



#### NOTE:

If active-backup bond is been used on the Nutanix nodes, go to (2) and delete all of the mlag-port-channels, these should be used only in case LACP is been used on the Nutanix bond side.





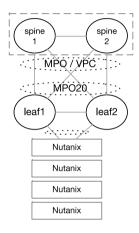
### 2.5.2 Switch Uplinks

L2 ports are used as MLAG switch uplinks towards the Spine switches. These ports need to be aggregated into a single MLAG port (Mpo).

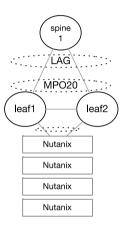
Each MLAG switch has two uplinks towards the Spine switches, port numbers 1/19 and 1/20.

Example of Core/Spine switch connection:



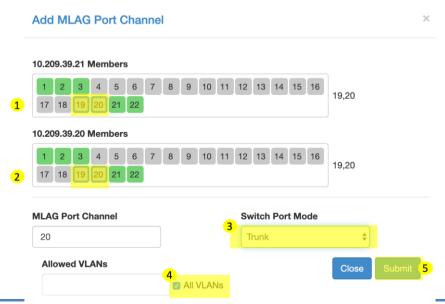


Uplinks towards single switch



#### 2.5.2.1 Configure the Uplinks

- 1. Click on the edit of the MLAG Port channels
- 2. Select the uplinks ports
- 3. Set uplink port mode to Trunk
- 4. All VLANs should be allowed on the port



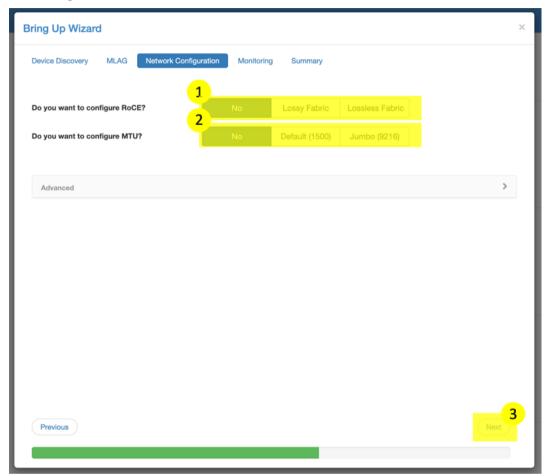
13 Mellanox Tec Rev 1.0



# 2.5.2.2 General network configuration:

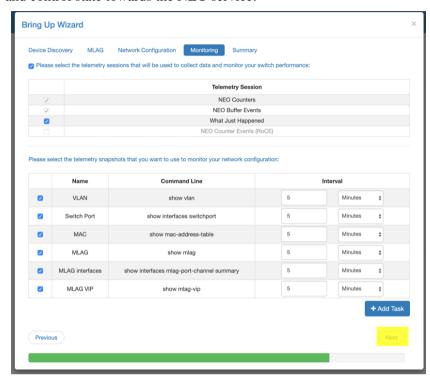
In case RoCE is been used select the required mode and NEO will automatically configure the switches.

Set the required MTU:

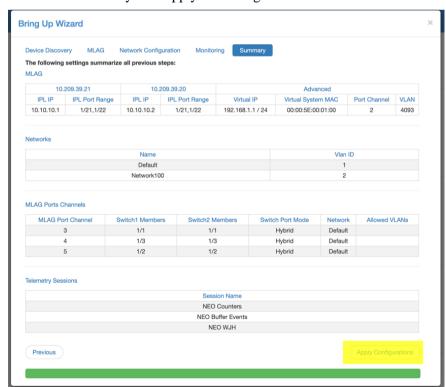




Monitoring capabilities will be automatically deployed on both switches as part of the wizard, each switch will stream telemetry data such as Buffers utilization, Counters, WJH and control state towards the NEO service:

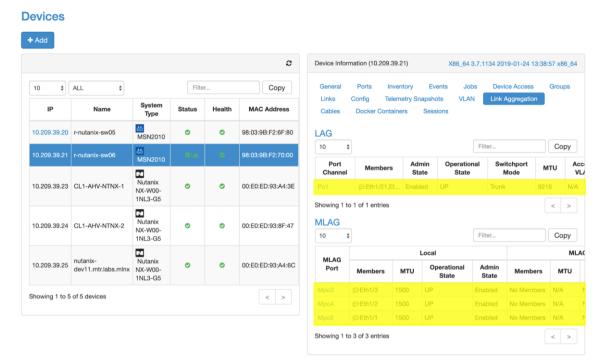


Review the summery and Apply the configuration:

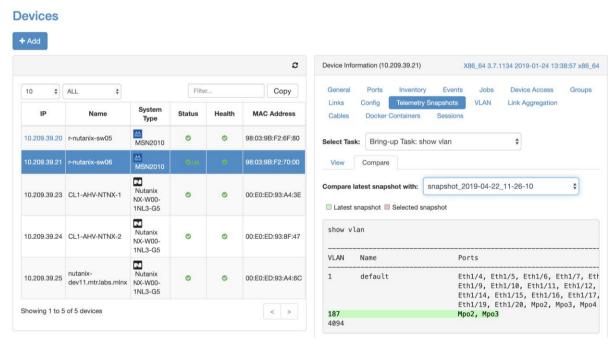




Once done you will be able to see the configuration on each of the switches:

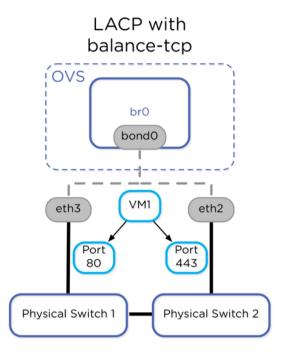


VLANs will be automatically configured/deleted when using the Nutanix plugin based on the VMs which are created/deleted via PRISM.





# 2.6 Nutanix AHV LAG (Bond) Configuration to LACP



#### To configure LACP on Nutanix AHV execute the following commands:

nutanix@CVM\$ ssh root@192.168.5.1 "ovs-vsctl set port bond0 lacp=active"
nutanix@CVM\$ ssh root@192.168.5.1 "ovs-vsctl set port bond0
bond\_mode=balance-tcp"
nutanix@CVM\$ ssh root@192.168.5.1 "ovs-vsctl set port bond0
other config:lacp-fallback-ab=true"

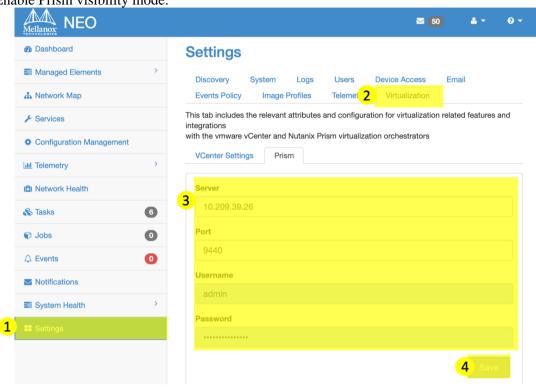


**NOTE:** In case that not an LACP bond used, there is no need to configure any MLAG Ports (MPo) on the switches as the bond will use Active-Backup mode.

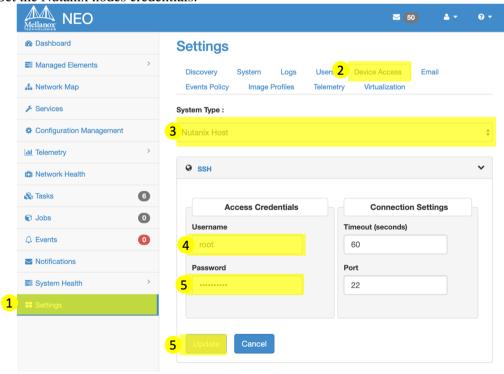


# 2.7 Nutanix Nodes Visibility-Only Mode

Enable Prism visibility mode:

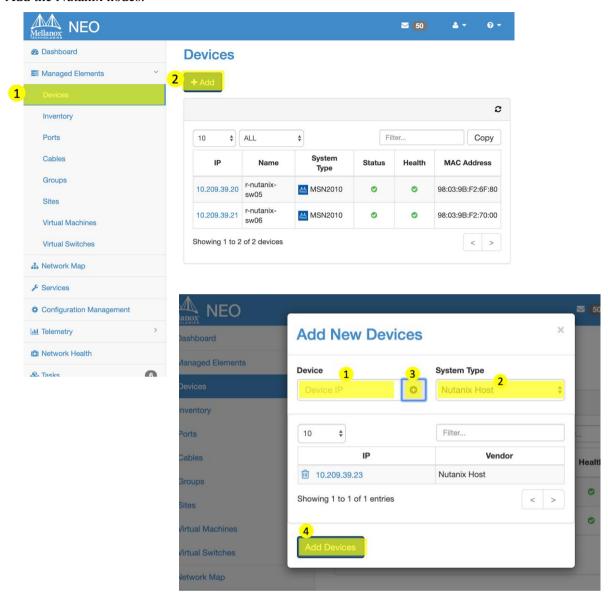


Set the Nutanix nodes credentials:





#### Add the Nutanix nodes:



# Done:

