

- Across the networking industry, established vendors typically categorize switches into one of 3 categories: Unmanaged, Web Managed – which is also often referred to as Smart Managed and lastly, Fully Managed.
- Unmanaged switches are the most affordable and have no management interfaces, making them a plug and play device suited to small and home offices, and to conference rooms in larger enterprises.
- NETGEAR® introduced a new, unique category called the ProSAFE® Plus series. This takes two of the most used features in a managed environment, VLAN and QoS to deliver a ‘lightly managed’ platform to sit in-between unmanaged and smart switches. Using a PC based utility, customers can deliver and differentiate traffic and service according to prioritized needs without expense, complexity or a higher grade web managed switch.
- Web managed, or Smart switches are browser enabled and can be used to configure a multitude of areas to manage and organize network traffic. This can include use of static routes to direct traffic along certain, pre-determined paths for added security and performance.
- Web switches typically do not include a CLI interface, and if they do, are limited to basic setup and initialization, not on-going configuration changes.
- Stacking typically is a Managed switch capability, allowing multiple switches to be logically grouped together and managed as one virtual switch. Stacking brings added benefits to the network, namely a stronger redundancy and resiliency capability where should a switch fail, the rest of the stack will continue to work and route traffic dynamically.
- NETGEAR was the first networking vendor to introduce Stacking into the web category with the Smart Stackable range. For customers seeking resilient and redundant network design, but who do not have the budget for Fully Managed deployments, Smart Stackables offer an affordable alternative.
- Fully Managed switches offer more granular control, mostly at a routing level on a dynamic basis. Dedicated network administrators will set up, configure and managed the switch through a CLI which can be accessed using Telnet, Secure Shell (SSH) or serial console ports.
- The use of Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agents provides users a way to remotely monitor and manage the switches. For example, using NETGEAR NMS300 you can support up to 200 devices Free of Charge.
- NETGEAR Fully Managed switches allow users to set configurations using both CLI and web browsers with full capabilities mirrored across both options.

	UNMANAGED	PLUS*	SMART	SMART STACKABLE	FULLY MANAGED
IP Address	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physical layer	L2	L2	L2/L2+	L2/L2+	L2+/L3/L4
Plug and Play	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes**
Discoverability	MAC address	MAC / IP address	MAC / IP address	MAC / IP address	MAC / IP address
Quality of Service (Qos)	No	Yes, Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virtual LAN (VLAN)	No	Yes, limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
Browser Interface Management	No	Web browser/PC Utility*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Command Line Interface (CLI) Management	No	No	No	No	Yes
SNMP	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Telnet	No	No	No	No	Yes
SSH	No	No	No	No	Yes
Speeds	FE and GbE	FE, GbE and 10GbE	FE, GbE and 10GbE	FE, GbE and 10GbE uplinks***	FE, GbE and 10GbE
Main Switch Type Connectivity: Fiber or Copper	Copper	Copper	Copper	Copper, Fibre uplinks	Fibre and Copper
Stacking	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
PoE Capability	PoE on select models	PoE on select models	PoE/PoE+ /PoE Pass through models available	PoE/PoE+ models available	PoE/PoE+/PoE Pass through models available
Warranties	Lifetime on NETGEAR ProSAFE branded switches				

* PC Utility only for ProSAFE XS708E

** Plug and Play on a Managed switch applies where a DHCP server is used to allow integration into a network without manual configuration, i.e. accept factory default switch settings

*** 10GbE and full PoE+ capability in a Smart Stackable switch is unique to NETGEAR

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