

## IOS and Archiving configurations

Note:

Release	Modification
12.3(4)T	This command was introduced.

### 1 Archiving

Commands:

**archive**

**path flash://config.\$t** → \$t is date + time  
**write-memory** → Archive FOR every write as well  
**time-period 30** → Auto archive every 30 MINUTES!  
**Maximum 14** → max. nr of backup copies.

Example:

```
(config)# archive
(config-archive)# path flash://config.$t  ->Alternatively specify a tftp server here!
(config-archive)# maximum 14
(config-archive)# write-memory
(config-archive)# time-period 30
```

After a few "write" or time-period expirations:

R1#**show archive**

The maximum archive configurations allowed is 14.  
There are currently 6 archive configurations saved.  
The next archive file will be named flash://config.-Jul--2-14-51-14.357-4

```
Archive #  Name
1         flash://config.-Jul--2-13-48-11.880-0
2         flash://config.-Jul--2-13-48-39.931-1
3         flash://config.-Jul--2-13-50-34.730-2
4         flash://config.-Jul--2-13-51-11.632-3
5         flash://config.-Jul--2-13-52-40.404-7
6         flash://config.-Jul--2-14-02-10.516-18 <- Most Recent
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
```

### 2 Replace the running config without reboot

To rollback at t1:

R1# **configure replace flash://config.-Jul--2-13-52-40.404-7**

NOTE 1: This does NOT overwrite the startup config!

NOTE 2: This does NOT merge unlike "copy start run"!

NOTE 3: The current config at t1 will be archived prior to rollback.

### 3 Performing a Rollback of an Archive

A rollback can be reverted within a specific timeframe at t2:

```
R1# configure replace flash://config.-Jul--2-14-07-21.493-25 list time 2
```

What this does is:

- it first archives the running configuration at t2.
- it replaces the current configuration entirely with the archive: flash://config.-Jul--2-14-07-21.493-25.
- after 2 minutes, you will be prompted on the console to CONFIRM the new configuration just replaced:

- > "Rollback Confirmed Change: Rollback will begin in one minute.
- > Enter "configure confirm" if you wish to keep what you've configured."

```
%ARCHIVE_DIFF-5-ROLLBK_CNFMD_CHG_WARNING_ABSTIMER: System will rollback to  
config flash://config.-Jul--2-14-11-57.248-32 in one minute.
```

Enter "configure confirm" if you wish to keep what you've configured.

- > if AT THIS STAGE you do NOT enter "configure confirm", your configuration will be restored to the saved config at t2.

```
"configure confirmRollback Confirmed Change:  
rolling to: flash://config.-Jul--2-14-11-57.248-32"
```

IF however you do NOT want to wait for the 2 minutes to elapse, you can expire the countdown with:

```
Router# configure revert now
```

### 4 Spot the difference

To display the differences between two config files use the 'show archive config differences'; for instance, to find the differences between the startup-config and the 'Ciscozine-8' file, type:

```
NEW-CISCOZINE#show archive config differences nvram:startup-config  
ftp://cisco:lab@192.168.217.1/Ciscozine-8  
Loading Ciscozine-8 !  
[OK - 717/4096 bytes]
```

```
Contextual Config Diffs:  
+hostname Ciscozine  
  
-hostname NEW-CISCOZINE
```