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## Silicon Switching Engine (SSE)

### Definition

Routing and switching mechanism that compares the data link or network layer header of an incoming packet to a silicon-switching cache, determines the appropriate action (routing or bridging), and forwards the packet to the proper interface.

### Details

The SSE is encoded directly in the hardware of the silicon switch processor (SSP) of a Cisco 7000 series router. It therefore can perform switching independently of the system processor, making the execution of routing decisions much quicker than if they were encoded in software.

### Related Resource

[Cisco Trademarks](#)