Virtual Network Interface

Virtual network interfaces are linked to a hardware device, but are not hardware devices.

A virtual network interface is generally associated with a physical network, another virtual interface, a loopback interface or other standalone interfaces.

Types of Virtual Network Interfaces

Type	Example	Description
Aliases	`eth4:5, eth4:6`	Used to handle multiple IP-addresses per interface. Supported for backwards compatibility.
Bridges	`br0, br-lan`	Used to make multiple network interfaces behave as one network interface.
Stacked VLANs	`10, 20`	IEEE 802.1ad type network, using two or more tags in each packet.
Special purpose	`imq0, teql3`	Used to change the order of outgoing or incoming network packets.
Tunnel interfaces	`pppoe-dsl, tun0, vpn1`	Used to send packets over a tunneling protocol.
VLANs	`eth4.0, vlan0`	Used to separate a network into multiple virtual networks.
Wireless operating mode virtual interfaces	`wlan0, ath3`	A wireless subsystem created automatically for a wireless NIC master interface.