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**IBM z Systems**  
**Introduction**  
**May 2017**

**IBM zHyperLink for IBM Storage and**  
**IBM z Systems**  
Frequently Asked Questions

Worldwide



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New and expanding workloads increasingly demand more from enterprise mainframe systems. These workloads include applications running in the cloud and support for analytics, social media, and mobile device access to business applications. They drive the need for improvements in security and the processing demands that it requires. These workloads bombard IT systems with requests for information and drive the need to maintain and support new data being delivered on behalf of existing business applications. Mobile users generate additional transactions that flow from systems of engagement to systems of record, which both often reside on the mainframe.

At the same time, accelerating database transactions is good for business. Consistently fast transactions yield higher user productivity and greater user satisfaction.

The corresponding, ever-increasing, input/output (I/O) activity is stressing current IT systems ability to respond and our clients continually express requirements for improved I/O latency to storage.

zHyperLink™ is a new short distance mainframe link technology designed for up to 10x lower latency than zHPF™. zHyperLink is intended to speed up DB2® for z/OS® transaction processing and improve active log throughput. IBM intends to deliver field upgradable support for zHyperLink on the existing IBM DS8880 System Storage®.

In addition to faster transaction processing mainframe clients will also get the following value:

- Avoids application development cost to meet scaling requirements
- Avoids additional hardware cost and data sharing instances to meet scaling requirements
- Industry leading I/O latency with easy to deploy and manage I/O technology
- Enhances system resilience by better handling of unpredictable work load spikes and hardware failures

The zHyperLink technology makes z/OS a more attractive platform for deploying new work loads and allowing client reuse of existing storage assets.

## **IBM zHyperLink for IBM Storage and IBM z Systems**

### **What are zHyperLinks?**

The zHyperLink technology is a new mainframe attach link. It is the result of collaboration between DB2 for z/OS, the z/OS operating System, IBM z Systems® processors and DS8880 storage to deliver the extreme low latency I/O access for DB2 for z/OS Applications.

### **What is the expected value of low latency I/O for DB2 on z/OS Applications?**

zHyperLinks are expected to save client's money, improve the scalability of DB2 for z/OS, enhance system resilience and provide industry leading I/O latency for transaction processing.

### **Do zHyperLinks replace FICON® technology?**

No, zHyperLink technology is intended to complement FICON technology to accelerate those I/O requests that are typically used for transaction processing. These links are point-to-point connections between the CEC and the storage system and are limited to 150 meter distances. These links do not take away from the z Architecture 8 channel path limit.

### **When will z Systems exploit zHyperLink technology?**

IBM has not announced a date for z Systems support of zHyperLink technology and does not comment on future dates associated with our Statements of Direction.

### **Why did IBM issue this Statement of direction on zHyperLink in January 2017?**

The statement of direction is being issued allows clients to plan their machine rooms, disaster recovery strategy and application deployment choices in anticipation of this new technology.

### **Will my current DS8880 support IBM zHyperlink technology?**

Yes. Clients will be able to upgrade their DS8880 storage devices to support IBM zHyperLink when it becomes available.

### **Are there be software considerations that you could provide for zHyperLink?**

There will be software updates available for z/OS and DB2 and they will be listed in the PSP buckets.



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