

Q&A Session for Accelerate with IBM Storage: IBM c-type 64G FC fabric switches: Scalable innovation for NextGen SAN

Session number: 1451920185

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Starting time: 11:21 AM

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Q: Is there a table with a list of IBM switch models with the corresponding Cisco models?

A: Attached to this deck.

Q: Why did Cisco remove the 100ms creditmon ? In performance based issues credit availability is a key component to check. In flash storage response times customer's often expect sub 1ms times. Having a very granular buffer credit count is very helpful in understanding if tx or rx credits are being exhausted.

A: It is not removed, it is enhanced, using HW ONLY now.

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Q: On the 48 port model there are 2 ASICs where each ASIC supports 24 ports. How do the 2 ASICs move frames between each other then?

A: Using high speed inter links, running in Terabytes.

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Q: Does it only support FC ? Is FICON supported ?

A: No FICON support on these switches.

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Q: Maybe with that amount of buffer credits available per port group is simpler increase buffer credits on each port. Maybe is good to ask if there's a recommended amount of buffer credits to set on each port according the type of device (tape, HDD or Flash).

A: Increase credits in case of IBM SVC Intersight replication, tape backup or storage migration. Leave default in all other cases.

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Q: What is VRL, what does it stand for?

A: VRL is Port re-order module

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Q: Can we do ISL between this switch and brocade switch?

A: yes with caveats and limitations

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Q: how can we get a copy of the preso?

Priority: N/A-

-Rick Pekosh (External) - 12:33 PM

A: <https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6594831>-

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Q: Yes, Rich. But I would like him to also have a chart about max cable length limits for 64-gig using various cable types

A: Cable needs remain same, as of 32G.

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Q: Is 24C-7 dual PSU?

A: Yes

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Q: Does the 24 port switch have only 2 fans?

A: 4 fans-

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Q: So customers will now need 2 software platforms to manage their switches if they have these two switches mixed with MDS9700 switches?

A: NDFC can manage all switches that are part of the fabric -

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Q: When will 64G optics be available?

A: We are still working on a schedule to deliver the c-type 64G optics.-

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Q: What about NVMeOF? Does the switches supports it?

A: yes-

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Q: Can DURL output be observed and analyzed using command line output ? Or does the customer need DCNM or SAN Analytics to monitor DURL?

A: can use CLI as well / latest NDFC release.

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Q: DCNM can be upgraded inplace to NDFC?

A: it's a fresh install but DCNM database can be migrated into NDFC - 2-4 hours-

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Q: sorry but about Doug's question, I think it was rather can you observe the DIRM behaviour and not just enable/disable via CLI

A: using the show commands you can view but limited -

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Q: So what you are saying is that customer can buy 8 port license and move that around their switches

A: Port licenses can not be moved around. Port licenses also require authentication code which will be done using smart account.

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Q: we have 24c and 48c switches and we can't expand the 24c to a 48c because before there was a 32c switch which came with 16ports by default and you could expand it with another asic to 32

A: removed the expansion module slot so correct, can't expand-

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Q: regarding buffer credit allocation discussion, is the best practice to place the 'slow drain' / less critical devices on a separate VLAN and then assign fewer buffer credits to that VLAN, and also place 'fast drain' / critical / NVMe device on a separate VLAN and assign more buffer credits to that VLAN?

A: Yes that's something that could be done but can't assign buffer credits to VSAN but to an interface-