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## Revision History

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>June 11, 2014</td>
<td>Initial public release</td>
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1.0 Introduction

This document is an introduction to FCoE storage connectivity from a Linux Server Administrator’s perspective, and shows the basic connection from the Linux operating system to an FCoE storage target.

The goal of this document is to show the connection from a host perspective and the requirements provided by and to the Storage and Network Administrators. It is part of a series of FCoE Quick Connect guides for multiple operating systems.

To better understand the entire process, some limited basic port, zone, and storage grouping configurations are shown from Switch and Storage Administrator perspectives. The information in this document is for experienced System Administrators who are familiar with server, network, data center, and SAN storage concepts and technologies.

2.0 FCoE Basics

Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) is a computer technology that encapsulates Fibre Channel frames over an Ethernet network.

Fibre Channel is a set of standards that define reliable, high-speed transport for storage. Fibre Channel does not follow the OSI model, but rather utilizes its own five layer model: layer FC0-FC04. Interconnectivity is much like its OSI counterpart, composed of physical, Data Link, Network, Common Services, and Protocol Mapping layers. The FCoE protocol replaces the FC0 and FC1 layers of the Fibre Channel stack with the Physical and Data Link layers of Ethernet. Using Ethernet provides more flexibility and cost reductions to data center usages.

Some notable configuration parameters and conceptual terms for FCoE are: Targets, Zones, and World-Wide Names.

- Targets (or LUNs) are storage partitions assigned to a server from a remote storage array.
- Storage arrays use unique identifiers called World-Wide Names (WWNs) as an addressing schema to access these targets.
- Zoning or zones are the partitioning of a Fibre Channel or FCoE fabric into smaller subsets to restrict interference, add security, and to simplify management.

Note: Refer to Table 1 to understand the Linux command line syntax that will be used for host configuration.

Table 1. Command Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chkconfig</td>
<td>Updates and queries run-level information for system services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lldpad</td>
<td>Link Layer Discovery Protocol (LLDP) agent daemon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dcbtool</td>
<td>Query and set the DCB settings of a DCB capable Ethernet interfaces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fcoeadm</td>
<td>FCoE management tool for the Linux systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.0 Administrative Ownership

Basic FCoE connectivity touches three technology disciplines: server, network, and storage. The Server Administrator identifies and provides the WWN to both the Network and Storage Administrators. The Network Administrator ensures the network is setup end-to-end, and must provide configurations changes to the FCF-capable switch port and add the WWN to the FCoE fabric’s zone. The Storage Administrator creates the LUN and host entity, then assigns each to a storage group to create the LUN masking.

Table 2 lists the responsibilities of the individual technology administrators.

Table 2. Administrative Ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Server Administrator | 1. Turn on the FCoE service.  
                         2. Identify the host’s Port/Node World-Wide Name.  
                         3. Provide the host’s Port/Node World-Wide Name to the Network and Storage Administrators. |
| Network Administrator| 1. Ensure end-to-end L2 connectivity.  
                         2. Configure Ethernet port with an FCoE-capable VLAN.  
                         3. Add the Port World Wide Name to the appropriate Zone. |
| Storage Administrator| 1. Create server’s host initiator.  
                         2. Create LUN Target.  
                         3. Create “Storage Group”:  
                         a. Assign host entity to the Storage Group.  
                         b. Assign target LUN to the Storage Group. |

4.0 Loading the FCoE Driver and Obtaining the Port (PWWN) and Node (NWWN) World Wide Names in Linux

This section shows how to load the Intel® Ethernet DCB application tools for FCoE, and obtain the WWN in the Linux operating system.

1. There are several ways to load the FCoE tools onto Linux. If the tools were not loaded with the Operating System, they can be added post-installation. With the OS installation disk installed in the host and from a terminal window, run the following commands to install the tools:

   a. **Red Hat Enterprise Linux:** Install the FCoE package with `yum -y install fcoe`, as shown in Figure 1.

   **Note:** The package name is `fcoe` in RHEL 6.4 and below. The package name in RHEL 6.5 going forward is `fcoe-util`.

   ![Figure 1. Installing on RHEL](image)
b. **SUSE Linux Enterprise Server:** Install the FCoE package with `zypper install open-fcoe`, as shown in Figure 2.

**Note:** The package name is `fcoe` in SLES 11 and below. The package name in SLES 12 going forward is `fcoe-util`.

![Figure 2. Installing on SLES](image)

2. From a terminal console, use the `ethtool` to identify the adapter to be used for FCoE, as shown in Figure 3.

![Figure 3. Loading Driver/Obtaining Port and Node WWN - Step 2](image)

3. Use `chkconfig` to verify whether the lltdpad (tools) and FCoE services are running, as shown in Figure 4.

![Figure 4. Loading Driver/Obtaining Port and Node WWN - Step 3](image)
4. Start the FCoE service as shown in Figure 5.

![Figure 5. Loading Driver/Obtaining Port and Node WWN - Step 4](image)

5. Use `dcbtool sc` (set config) to turn Data Center Bridging onto the adapter being used for FCoE, as shown in Figure 6.

![Figure 6. Loading Driver/Obtaining Port and Node WWN - Step 5](image)

6. Use `dcbtool sc` (set config) to turn app:0 (FCoE) onto the desired FCoE adapter, as shown in Figure 7. The subtype can be 0 or fcoe.

   Subtypes:
   - 0: fcoe - Fiber Channel over Ethernet (FCoE)
   - 1: iscsi - Internet Small Computer System Interface (iSCSI)
   - 2: fip - FCoE Initialization Protocol (FIP)

![Figure 7. Loading Driver/Obtaining Port and Node WWN - Step 6](image)

7. Optionally, PFC (Priority Flow Control) can be set with all default arguments (e:1 / a:1 / w:1), as shown in Figure 8.

   args can include:
   - e: <0|1> - controls feature enable
   - a: <0|1> - controls whether the feature is advertised via DCBX to the peer
   - w: <0|1> - controls whether the feature is willing to change its operational configuration based on what is received from the peer
8. The last step to enable FCoE is to add the configuration file. A configuration script (cfg-ethx) was created in the directory /etc/fcoe. Copy the script to a new file named after the Ethernet adapter to be used for FCoE, as shown in Figure 9.

There are three configurable settings within the script:

- `fcoe_enable=yes`
- `dcb_required=yes`
- `auto_vlan=yes`

9. Before verifying the switch and storage setting, make one last check to ensure the FCoE service is running, as shown in Figure 10.

**Note:** When the Intel adapter created the VLAN tag, it read and used the switch's FCoE VLAN (110).

**Note:** For SLES 11 SP3 the syntax is `service boot_fcoe status`.

10. Two notable commands prior to moving forward are a run of the command `fcoeadm -i (interface)` to obtain WWN and interface state information as shown in Figure 11, and `lldptool -tni eth2` (get neighbor interface) to query received neighbor information as shown in Figure 12. Here we can see switch name and the Ethernet port being used.
5.0 Setting Up the Network

The Network Administrator owns network switch port configuration and end-to-end connectivity between the storage array and the server. The overall configuration of a Fibre Channel Forwarder (FCF) switch is outside the parameters of this document, but a basic view of the key SAN administration configurations of the switch provides a valuable view of the FC/FCoE process.

Note: There are no configuration steps in this section, only show commands.

Note: For clarity and accuracy of the configuration, it is recommended to use the *Cisco® Nexus® 5000 Series NX-OS Software Configuration Guide*. 
1. Use the global command `show flogi database` to verify FCoE VSAN details as shown in Figure 13. The key information to note is the assigned VSAN number and PWWN for zone identification and configuration. This verifies the PWWN we saw in Section 4.0, Step 10.

   ![](Figure_13.png)

   **Figure 13. Setting Up the Network - Step 1**

2. Use the `show vlan fcoe` command to verify that Ethernet VLAN 110 and VSAN 11 are mapped together to encapsulate Fiber Channel packets onto an Ethernet, as shown in Figure 14. VLAN 110 must be added to the Ethernet interface to participate in VSAN 11.

   ![](Figure_14.png)

   **Figure 14. Setting Up the Network - Step 2**

3. A view of the interface shows the port configured as an edge trunk as shown in Figure 15. Note that in VLAN 110, the FCoE VLAN is allowed. An edge trunk or edge port is the Cisco Nexus version of Portfast. It allows a port to bypass many of the spanning tree states and go directly into a forwarding state. Additionally, VLAN 353 allows the port to be used as a traditional IP network which can be added to host through a VLAN tag.

   ![](Figure_15.png)
4. Use the `show zone vsan 11` command to verify that the zone associated with VSAN 11 has been populated with the PWWN of the host, as shown in Figure 16.

6.0 Setting Up the Storage

The Storage Administrator will set up the server initiator record and the target. Full administration is beyond the scope of this document, but the storage group settings provide a helpful visual of target masking.

1. The Storage Administrator will require the Port/Node WWN to configure the target initiator, as shown in Figure 17. The WWN is used as a unique identifier to perform direct path assignment from the host initiator to the target initiator.
2. Create a target LUN within a pool or volume within the storage array, as shown in Figure 18. In this case, a new 10 GB LUN is created in a RAID5 pool.

![Setting Up the Storage - Step 2](image1.png)

**Figure 18. Setting Up the Storage - Step 2**

3. The target LUN and the host initiator are mapped together in a storage group as shown in Figure 19.

![Setting Up the Storage - Step 3](image2.png)

**Figure 19. Setting Up the Storage - Step 3**
7.0 Setting the Remote Storage Disk in Linux

This section shows the steps to view and manage the target LUN on the server once both the Storage and Network Administrators have created the storage target and the network has been fully configured.

1. With the switch and storage set up, verify that the host can see the target LUN. Run the command `fcoeadm -1` (list LUNs) to view interface, target and LUN information, as shown in Figure 20.

2. With the information found in Step 1, format the target LUN for use, as shown in Figure 21. (`fdisk` is partition output only).

![Figure 20. Setting the Remote Storage Disk in Linux - Step 1](image)

![Figure 21. Setting the Remote Storage Disk in Linux - Step 2](image)
8.0 Summary

The Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter Family offers some of the most flexible and scalable Ethernet adapters available for today’s data centers. These adapters support Unified Networking and fully support a wide range of storage capabilities. Customers get the ease of Ethernet support along with the ability to converge a variety of applications in a single adapter.

For more configuration information on Intel® Server Adapters, go to:


For more configuration information on Open-FCoE go to

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