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Cisco InfiniBand and Server Virtualization



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Agenda

- Introduction to InfiniBand Technology
- RDMA and InfiniBand Upper Layer Protocols
- High Performance Computing (HPC)
- Designing an InfiniBand Fabric
- Server Virtualization and VFrame
- Examples and Case Studies

Server Networking Challenges

Growing Bandwidth Demands

- Highly distributed X86 architectures with increased I/O requirements
- Increased Inter-process communications between servers
- New X86 systems with channelized I/O
- Increased server utilization with server PCI-express / hypervisor and utility grid technologies
- Multi-CPU's and multi-core on exponential performance curves

Growing Network Complexities

- Average server has 4-8 network interfaces including NICs, HBA's and HCA's
- Complex wiring with increased services requirements
- Strong division of labor between server, storage and networking teams
- Blurring of operational divisions within blade chassis

Cisco Data Center Products



InfiniBand Overview

- Standards-based interconnect (since 2001)
- Channelized, connection-based interconnect optimized for highperformance computing
- Supports server and storage attachments
- Bandwidth capabilities (SDR/DDR)
 - 1x—2.5/5 Gbps: 2/4 Gbps actual data rate (base rate for InfiniBand)
 - 4x—10/20 Gbps: 8/16 Gbps actual data rate

12x—30/60 Gbps: 24/28 Gbps actual data rate

 Built-in RDMA as core capability for inter-CPU communication



InfiniBand Bandwidth



Where to use Infiniband?

- Cost-Effective 10 Gbps to the Server/Desktop
 - 10 Gigabit Ethernet switches very costly
 - 10 Gbps Infiniband is established is cost effective
- Improve Time to Market (Low Latency/Application Acceleration)
 - Financial Markets
 - Manufacturing
 - Oil & Gas Industry
 - Life Sciences (Pharma/Biotech)
 - Higher Education
- I/O Consolidation
 - Single interface for network and storage
- Data Center Virtualization
 - VFrame 3.x (currently shipping)
 - VFrame Data Center 1.1 (available Fall 2006)

Distributed Applications & Systems Networking

- High-Performance Computing and distributed application processing
 - Extract meaningful trends and business metrics
 - **Reduces business risk**
 - Reduce R&D costs
- Low-latency data distribution between application systems
 - Process & Systems Integration
 - **Autonomic trading**
- Distributed Databases & Highvolume Storage
- Distributed Computing requires high-performance Networking to reduce inter-process latency



Architecture of an InfiniBand Solution



Sources of overhead in Datacenter Servers

Sources of Overhead in Server Networking	CPU Overhead
Transport Processing	40%
Intermediate Buffer Copying	20%
Application Context Switches	40%

Solutions for Overhead in Server Networking

Transport Offload Engine (TOE) Moves Transport processor cycles to the NIC Moves TCP/IP protocol stack buffer copies from system memory to the NIC memory

RDMA

Eliminates intermediate and application buffer copies (memory bandwidth consumption)

Kernel Bypass – direct user-level access to hardware Dramatically reduces application context switches



RDMA: Remote Direct Memory Access

- RDMA enables data to be moved between application (user) memory space without CPU intervention
- RDMA is transport agnostic
 - InfiniBand has native support for RDMA
 - Ethernet RDMA and TOE NICs can support RDMA
- RDMA can significantly increase application and transport performance
 - Kernel bypass
 - Zero copy data transfer
 - No CPU intervention

Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA) and Kernel Bypass



Traditional Server I/O architecture



- Access to I/O resource handled by BIOS
- A data packet is typically copied across the bus three times CPU Interrupts, Bus bandwidth constrained, Memory bus constrained

RDMA I/O Architecture



InfiniBand connection

InfiniBand Subnet Manager

 InfiniBand Fabric is called an InfiniBand Subnet

> All devices under the control of a single Master Subnet Manager (SM)

May have multiple slaves with replicated SM database state

 At system startup, all devices register with the SM

> Central Routing function Shortest Path First Routing Equal Paths Load-balanced with static round robin distribution

Connection endpoint lookup

 Built within the SFS switches and also offered externally



IP over InfiniBand (IPoIB)

- IETF Standard (RFC 4931 / 4932)
- IP over InfiniBand provides the TCP / UDP socket interface for InfiniBand
 - Uses IB as a transport for IP
 - Support for IP Multicast over IB
 - No RDMA available in IPoIB
 - IPoIB is also used for address resolution for other protocols such as RDS, SDP, iSER
- Highest level of application compatibility no application change necessary
- Supported under Linux, Solaris, AIX, HP-UX, Windows
- SFS 3000 Ethernet Gateway may be used to bridge IPoIB traffic from InfiniBand to Ethernet



Sockets Direct Protocol (SDP)

- Provides a compatible sockets interface that takes advantage of RDMA features
- Runs socket based TCP traffic with TCP and copy offload
- Application doesn't require any changes but host-side configuration is required

-Configurable by process name, port numbers, destination address, etc.

 Zero copy SDP is possible but needs application / OS kernel support



Message Passing Interface (MPI)

- MPI is message-passing middleware An extended message-passing model Not a language or compiler specification Not a specific implementation or product Not a driver
- For parallel applications running on multiprocessor computers and clusters
- Supports heterogeneous compute environments
 - CPU, Memory and Interconnect agnostic
- Feature Rich protocol library: >300 functions
- Used extensively in HPC clusters
- MPI is not a JMS based message passing API



SCSI RDMA Protocol (SRP)

- Intended to run SCSI protocol to run over InfiniBand for SAN usage
 - T10 specification, similar to FCP
 - Transactions use RDMA for data movement from target to initiator
- Host drivers tie into standard SCSI/Disk interfaces in kernel/OS
- Linux, Windows, Solaris implementations
- SFS 3000 FC Gateway is also a SRP Target
- Native SRP storage targets available today
- Not IB specific (no iWARP implementation yet)



InfiniBand Protocol Summary

Protocol / Application	Summary	Application Example
IPoIB (IP over InfiniBand)	Allows TCP/IP applications to run over the InfiniBand transport. Provides server to server and in-band management traffic from mgt station to switch and HCAs.	Standard IP-based applications. When used in conjunction with Ethernet Gateway, allows connectivity between IB network and LAN.
uDAPL (Direct Access Programming Library)	Allows application to take maximum advantage of RDMA benefits through flexible programming API. Requires custom development.	Used for IPC communication between cluster nodes for Oracle RAC.
SDP (Sockets Direct Protocol)	Adds RDMA benefits transparently to sockets-based applications. Can configure for all sockets applications or on a per port or application basis.	Communication between database nodes and application nodes, as well as between database instances.
SRP (SCSI RDMA Protocol)	Allows InfiniBand-attached servers to utilize block storage devices.	When used in conjunction with the Fibre Channel gateway, allows connectivity between IB network and SAN.
MPI (Message Passing Interface)	Low latency protocol used widely in HPC environments.	HPC applications.

InfiniBand Performance

Measured Results

WebSphere. CRACLE SIEBEL Sockets API			The Power of No)))a .		PI		
	IP		P IPolB		SI)P	MVA	РІСН
	Gigabit Ethernet	10 GE	SDR IB	DDR IB	SDR IB	DDR IB	SDR IB	DDR IB
Latency (us)	45.68	25.8	20.3	14.79	10	8.8	3.64	3.17
Bandwidth MB/s	118	1214	560	584	896	1033	960	1350
CPU	9%	25%	23%	26%	27%	28%	25%	25%

The Cisco SFS Product Line: InfiniBand for High Performance Computing

<u>ں</u>	Design SFS 7000P SFS 7008P SFS 7012P SFS 7024P
ver Fabri Switch	Image: Second
Ser	(12) 4X IB + 1 GW (24) 4X IB + 12 GWs (6) Gigabit Ethernet Gateway
Blade Server	IBM BladeCenter HDell PowerEdge 1855• HCA (1) 4XIB PCI-Express• HCA (2) 4X IB PCI-ex• Embedded switch (14) 4X IB (internal) + (2) 4X IB and (2) 12X IB (external)• Passthru Module (10) 4X IB
НСА	 (2) 4XIB PCI-X (Tall and Short Bracket) (2) 4XIB PCI-ex (Tall and Short Bracket) (1) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (2) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (3) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (4) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (5) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (6) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (7) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (7) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (8) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (9) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (1) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (1) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (2) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short) (3) 4XIB PCI-E (0 Mem, Tall and Short)
Subnet Mgmt	• High Performance Subnet Manager Software • Embedded Subnet Manager • SFS Element Manager / CiscoWorks LMS
Wire	• 24 – 28 AWG Standard IB CX4 • 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, and 15 meters • 30 AWG IB CX4 - SuperFlex • 1, 3, 5 meters

Virtual I/O Basics



InfiniBand – Accelerating Applications in the Data Center

- InfiniBand is a standards based technology
 - 1. Performance Improvement 4 axis
 - Low Latency from RDMA
 - Improved Throughput
 - Message Rate
 - Lower CPU utilization for network transmission
 - 2. Multi-Fabric IO and Flexibility (CapEx & OpEx reduction benefit)
 - Inter-processor communication, Ethernet and Fibre-Channel traffic can all go over 1-wire
 - 3. Low cost 10G solution
 - Copper based solution; << \$1000 \$1500 per port including switch port, HCA and cable
- Broad spectrum of support
 - Rack and Blade Servers (PCI-X, PCIe) Major processors (Intel, AMD, IBM-PPC, Sun-Sparc) Operating Systems (Linux, Windows, Solaris, HP-UX) Storage & SAN (EMC, HDS, IBM, Cisco, Brocade, Multipathing support)



SFS Ethernet Gateway Technology



- 3000 Series InfiniBand to Ethernet Gateway
- 6 ports, 11.5M pps, 12Gbps Line Rate
- Ensures seamless integration with IPbased applications.
- IP bridge device
- Bridge group bridges one VLAN to one IB partition
- Ethernet bridge port can be tagged or untagged
- Ethernet bridge port can aggregate up to 6 ports

InfiniBand-to-Ethernet Gateway Features

- IP-Only protocols
- 802.1Q VLAN trunk support
- Link aggregation
- IPv4 multicast support
- Loop protection
- Ethernet jumbo frames up to 9k
- IP fragmentation
- High availability

SFS Fibre Channel Gateway



- 3000 Series InfiniBand to Fibre Channel Gateway,
- Two 2 Gbps Fibre Channel ports
- 800 MBps throughput
- Supports

SRP to FCP translation

Dynamic load balancing and failover

Load redistribution

Global and individual ITL policies

Topology Transparency

Transparent support for zoning and LUN-based access controls

Additional ITL security filters

InfiniBand-to-Fibre Channel Gateway

Ensures seamless integration with important SAN tools.

- Fabric-based Zoning
- **LUN-based access controls**
- Storage and host-based HA and load balancing tools

Creates SAN network addresses on InfiniBand.

SAN Management Tools must "see" each node.

Creates "talk-through" mode with virtual WWNNs per server.

Enables SAN Interoperability with InfiniBand.

Appears as public AL-Port.

Proven interoperability with Cisco, Brocade, McData, Qlogic, EMC, IBM, Hitachi, and more.

Physical vs. Logical View

Physical View

- Servers connected via IB
- SAN attached via public AL
- Ethernet attached via Gig Etherchannel



Logical View

- Hosts present WWNN on SAN
- Hosts present IP address on VLAN



InfiniBand Cabling Options Superflex and Optical Interconnect Options available



- CX4 Copper SDR up to 15 meters, DDR up to 9 meters
- Fiber Optics up to 200 meters cross data center with pluggable optics modules on each end of fiber
- InfiniBand WAN capabilities have also been demonstrated over Optical Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM)

Cisco IOS Integration Consistent Configuration & Management

- Common CLI across all products –Command Syntax, scripting, etc.
- Consistent Security model

-TACACS and RADIUS for Centralized Authentication

-SSH/SSL/SNMPv3 for full management security

-Multiple authorization levels

- File & Image Management
 - -System image and configuration file libraries.
- Consistent Management Notification
 - -Full SNMP v1/v2/v3 Support across all fabrics

-Streaming Syslog: Integrates with Syslog Analyzer

-Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP)





CiscoWorks LMS Support for Infiniband

- Single network management application for Ethernet and InfiniBand networks
- Resource Manager Essentials

Centralized Device, Software and Configuration Inventory Manager

Dynamic Fault Manager

Diagnostic Tools and Syslog Analyze with centralized reporting

Device level fault analysis for network fabric, including high availability monitoring, pager/email/trap notification

 Benefit: Eliminates administrative and usage barriers; identify and fix problems -> increased performance



Defining Clustered Servers High Performance Computing Clusters



HPC InfiniBand Networking

- Optimized for interprocessor communication for ultra-low latency applications
- Support SDR and DDR switching (10/20 Gbps)
- Scalable, Manageable, Modular design
- Integrated Subnet Manager in for "Plug-and-Play" operation
- High Performance Subnet Manager for the largest clusters
- InfiniBand 4X PCIe & PCI-X HCAs
- IB-attached storage for lower storage overhead



How the HPC Network is Used



HPC - Application Areas



Application Classes and Characteristics

Tightly coupled applications

Frequent IPC exchange

Latency sensitive, bursty traffic profiles

Loosely coupled

Includes massively parallel, embarrassingly parallel or nearly-embarrassingly parallel

Little or no IPC traffic

Typically latency insensitive, Bandwidth may be a consideration for data set download

Parametric Execution Applications:

no IPC traffic

latency insensitive, Bandwidth may be a consideration for data set download Parametric Execution ~60% of HPC clusters

Application characteristics drive Network Technology & Design



HPC Inter-Process Communications Networking

 HPC cluster performance & efficiency is driven by IPC network characteristics

More time spent *communicating* is less time spent *processing*

InfiniBand and Gigabit/10Gigabit Ethernet good IPC network technologies

Gigabit Ethernet ideal for smaller clusters and for loosely coupled applications

InfiniBand ideal for larger clusters and tightly coupled applications

 Understanding Application requirements and target CPU efficiencies are critical in technology selection for HPC



HPC for Financial Sector

Performance for Market Data Distribution
 Low Latency, Throughput, Message Rate, CPU offload
 Ecosystem: TIBCO, 29West, Wombat

- Traditional Applications
 - Monte Carlo simulations, Oracle RAC
 - Ecosystem: Platform, DataSynapse



HPC in Manufacturing



- Large clusters have been deployed with InfiniBand and Ethernet at major aerospace and manufacturing plants
- Reduce design cycles for automotive, aerospace, propulsion, mechanical for more rapid time to market
- Reduce time and cost of research and development

HPC in Energy Sector



- Seismic Processing for Oil Exploration is a key driver for HPC
- Rapid processing of seismic data lead to more efficient drilling and "time-to-oil"
- Visualization of the reservoir for processing and analysis

HPC in Academia & Research Labs

- Large "Petascale" Systems 10,000+ Node Networks
- Multi-core CPU's
 - Pushing requirements for DDR / QDR InfiniBand
- Higher Availability and Uptime Value for better engineering
- Campus-wide / WAN Grids
 - Consolidation and sharing of Compute Infrastructure



HPC Applications: InfiniBand Storage for Lower Cost and Higher I/O Performance

- Enable "unified fabric" with cluster and block storage over single IB fabric
- IB-attached servers get FC storage access for "free" (no FC port, HBA cost)
- SCSI RDMA protocol (SRP) moves FC block storage over IB



Enterprise HPC switch features

Enterprise class management features on SFS switches

-Cisco CLI (async/telnet/ssh)

-Access Security (TACACS or RADIUS authentication)

-AAA - Access, Authentication, Accounting

- -SYSLOG and SNMP trap services
- -SNMP v3 monitoring and management

–Dynamic Subnet Manager failover and database synchronization

-CiscoWorks LMS integration (multi-box config/image management)

Server Virtualization?



What is VFrame[™]

Cisco's data center-wide virtualization software suite

 Delivers the end-to-end manageability, control, and virtualization benefits of the mainframe on top of today's commodity components and the Cisco IIN

Provides virtualization, orchestration, and provisioning for the data center resources that sit between the "OS" and the "wire"

Three Categories of Server Virtualization

Virtual Machine: Splits a servers into independent virtual servers.

VMWare, XEN, MSFT

Main value is higher server utilization.

 Virtual SMP: Combines servers together into a single managed powered entity.

Virtual Iron, Qlusters

Main value is scaling mission critical apps on commodity HW.



Compute Networking and Virtualization —How Does It Work?



Intelligent Interconnect Fabric



- Server is "taken apart" into its basic components—I/O, applications, compute power and storage
- Fabric re-assembles pools on demand to create "Virtual Servers" out of components
- Unified over an Intelligent Interconnect Fabric

Current Enterprise Server Provisioning



Assume you just want to add one server to a web-farm...

The challenge is one of 'coordination delays'. This type of simple scale-out of an existing serve often takes enterprises 90days.

New service turn-ups, after the application has been developed, often take months of planning

Orchestration is designed to eliminate these delays and automate the provisioning of services



VFrame Enterprise Service Provisioning



Vframe Data Center 1.1 Creating a Virtual Fabric



Define application services and pass policy to VFrame

VFrame translates policies to actions and passes to infrastructure

VFrame identifies right App / OS Image From storage

VFrame picks server with right criteria to run application and boots server

VFrame gives new server right VLAN and LUN info so it can find/be found by right clients and storage

VFrame provisions security policies to FWSM

VFrame provisions CSM to add new server to load balancing pool

VFrame Benefits

- Manage the data center from a service-oriented, application-centric perspective
- Eliminate number of layers/devices required to be touched to provision or modify
- Ensure security policies are enforced for compliancy and regulation.
- Treat the entire data center infrastructure (from the "OS" to the "wire") as one manageable entity of shared virtualized resources (Virtual Mainframe)
- Expose a single orchestration and provisioning interface for all data center infrastructure
- Dramatically reduce TCO

Cisco HPC and Top Tier Server Vendors



 Cisco has built relationships with server vendors to deliver integrated HPC and cluster solutions, jointly testing for solution delivery

InfiniBand – Who uses it today?

Industry	Organizations	Description			
Financial Services	1. Bank 1	1. Risk calculations applications, MonteCarlo simulation			
	2. Bank 2	2. Market data, back-end trading, hedge-fund pricing			
	3. Fitch Ratings	3. Oracle database			
Manufactur- ing	1. Auto 1 2 3	1. 600 - 800+ servers, Finite Element Analysis, CFD; ISV apps			
	2. Airline Mfg	(Fluent, LSO-Dyna, PAM-crash)			
		2. Computational fluid dynamics			
BIO / Pharma	1. Private	 1000+ server, non-blocking cluster; used for protein folding research 			
Service Providers	1. Telstra, Australia	All providers are using the InfiniBand interconnect to provide a cost-			
	2. EDS	effective, flexible grid that can be used for a variety of applications and customers: 1000+ servers			
	3. Sun				
Telcos	1. British Telecom	1. Oracle database used for billing system			
Research Labs	1. Sandia National Lab	1. 4700 servers (Largest IB cluster in production)			
	2. SARA, Netherlands	2. 512 nodes; Used			
Academia	1. NCSA	1. Provides computation for Oil & Gas clients; 500+ servers			
	2. Universities multiple	2. Academic research			

Case Study: Large Wall Street Bank Enterprise Grid Computing

Application:

Replace proprietary platforms with standardsbased components

Build scalable "on-demand" compute grid for financial applications

Environment:

500+ Intel Servers per slice

Cisco Server Switch with Ethernet and Fibre Channel Gateways

Hitachi RAID Storage

SAN Switches

Ethernet Switches

Benefits:

20X Price/Performance Improvement over four years

30% Application Performance Improvement

Standards-based solution for on-demand computing

Environment that scales using 500-node building blocks



Oracle RAC 10g: Scope of IB Benefits



Bio-Informatics Cluster: 1,066 Node Supercomputer

1,066 Fully Non-Blocking Fault Tolerant IB Cluster



Key decision factors:

- Cisco benchmarked and tuned customer MPI application
- Best operational experience with large clusters best references
- "Rapid Service" architecture proved 2-min vs. 2-day MTTR.

Sandia National Labs – 4600 Nodes Cluster

- Application:
 - High Performance SuperComputing Cluster
- Environment:
 - 4600 Dell Servers 50% Blocking Ratio 8 SFS 7024 256 SFS 7000's
- Benefits:

Compelling Price/Performance Largest IB Cluster ever built 3rd Largest Supercomputer in the world (Top500)



Key Takeaways

- Cisco provides most complete HPC solution encompassing InfiniBand, Ethernet switching and storage.
- Cisco is a leading manufacturer of InfiniBand, Ethernet and Storage networking switches that are deployed in some of the Worlds largest clusters.
- Only network manufacturer with global channels, expertise and support for Complete HPC networking solutions.

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