

Maintaining the balance between FLASH & FABRIC

Marcus Thordal

Flash Memory Summit 2017 Santa Clara, CA

Director Solutions, Brocade.





Fabric Requirements for NVMe



NVMe over Fabrics Technical Characteristics

Obviously, transporting NVMe commands across a network requires special considerations over and above those that are determined for local, in-storage memory. For instance, in order to transmit NVMe protocol over a distance, the ideal underlying network or fabric technology will have the following characteristics:

✓ Reliable, credit-based flow control and delivery mechanisms.

This type of flow control allows the network or fabric to be self-throttling, providing a reliable connection that can guarantee delivery at the hardware level without the need to drop frames or packets due to congestion. Credit-based flow control is native to Fibre Channel, InfiniBand and PCI Express® transports.

- ✓ An NVMe-optimized client
- ✓ Reduced latency and CPU utilization adapters or interface cards
- ✓ Fabric scaling
- ✓ Multi-Host support
- ✓ Multi-port support
- ✓ Multi-path support

Source: http://www.nvmexpress.org/wp-content/uploads/NVMe_Over_Fabrics.pdf (page 3 & 4)



IO Monitoring Challenges

Lack of IO visibility impedes optimal performance



Poor visibility into the performance of storage IO workloads between host and storage devices

Lack of proactive monitoring ensuring consistent storage performance











Brocade Fabric Vision Technology





Measuring Application Performance





VM Insight -visibility at a VM Level









Remember the Network for your FLASH

The network matters

 You are not going to get maximum performance if it's not running in the right environment.





Why Fibre Channel is the best Fabric for NVMe

The only purpose-built fabric for storage

Low Latency Networking Scalability Beyond the Rack

Low Risk Deployment

Faster than 25/50/100Gb Ethernet









NVMe over Fibre Channel yields 55% latency reduction Optimized for heavy storage workloads

Leverages existing FC infrastructure and Concurrently run NVMe Gen 6 supports 32Gb and 128Gb today

Brocade Fibre Channel is NVMe-Ready Today



Thank You

Flash Memory Summit 2017 Santa Clara, CA

