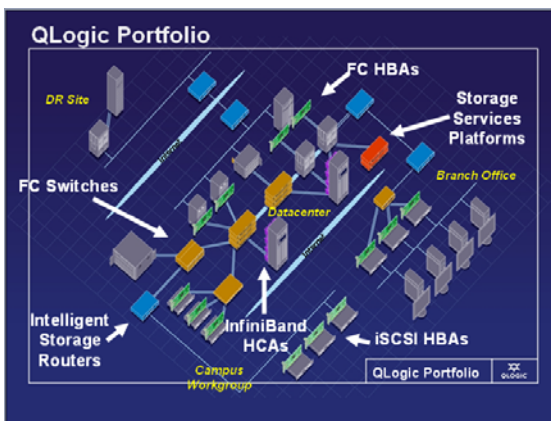


Technology Refresh Migration Path

The Seamless Migration Path to New Technology

Executive Summary



As Storage Area Network (SAN) solutions continue to grow in size and complexity, the on-going cost of maintenance and upgrades easily exceeds the initial acquisition and implementation cost.

SAN architects understand the need to plan for future upgrades but are often limited in funding resources to create a highly flexible solution. In addition, the roadmap for future products and capabilities is not always clear depending on the maturity of the technology in the market and the rate of innovation.

The ideal solution is to provide an architecture that allows for a simple migration path to new capabilities without disrupting the existing infrastructure. The stackable Fibre Channel switch

portfolio from QLogic delivers this solution with no premium for the ability to upgrade and expand in the future.

Key Findings

The stackable Fibre Channel switch portfolio from QLogic delivers a seamless migration path with no premium for the ability to upgrade and expand in future.

These switches have the following major benefits:

- Non-disruptive addition of new switches in the stack.
- Preservation of server and storage ports as the stack is expanded.
- Management of the stack as a single entity with mix-and-match capabilities, e.g., 2Gb, 4Gb, high-availability model, etc.
- Common code base across all stackable switch models.
- Scaling the capacity of the solution, in a cost-effective and manageable manner.
- Centralized data management, storage, and restoring.

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The Path to New Technology with QLogic Switches

The path to new technology with QLogic switches is as follows:

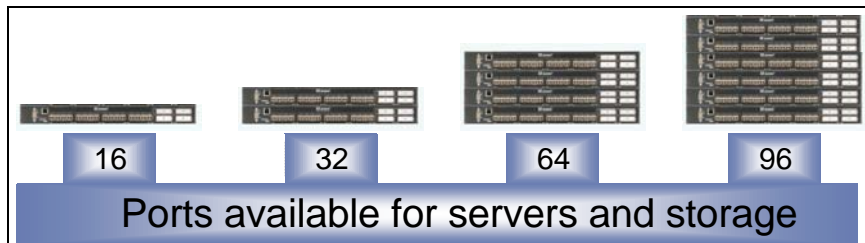
- Stackable Switch Architecture
- Stack Management
- Technology Refresh and Seamless Migration

Stackable Switch Architecture

A seamless migration path requires the ability to scale the capacity of the solution, in a cost-effective and manageable manner. Stackable Fibre Channel switches, like the SANbox 5602, feature purpose-built stacking ports with high 10 Gb/sec performance and plug-and-play installation.

Unlike the situation with traditional fixed port switches, all the switch ports are preserved for attachment to servers and storage as switches are added to the stack. In addition, the stack is maintained as a single entity via the software-management tools.

In the following figure, the number of available switch ports increases by 16 each time a switch is added to the stack because they connect via the stacking ports (shown on the right side of each device).



Stack Management

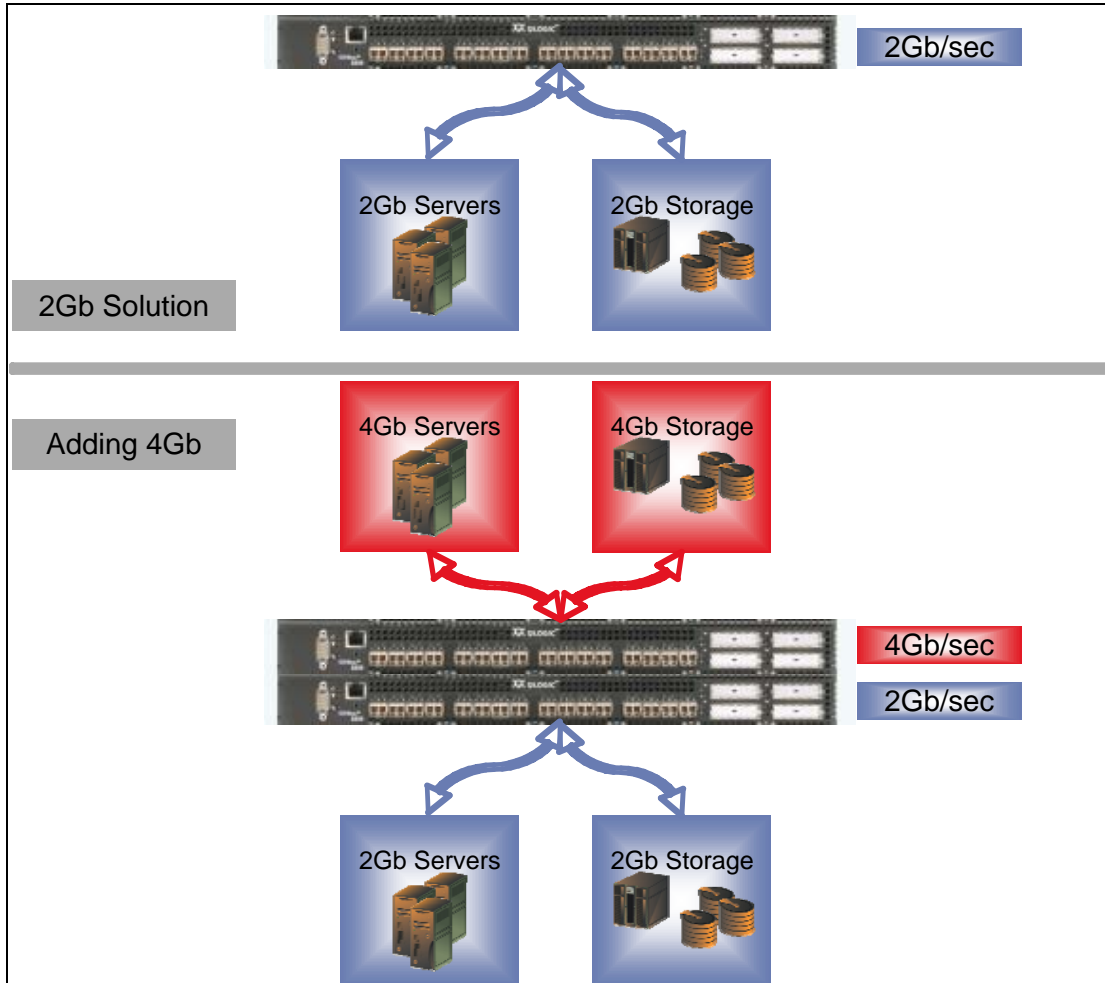
QLogic Fibre Channel switches, like the SANbox 5602, can be stacked and managed as a single entity. This ensures configuration consistency across multiple switches. It also lowers overall Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) by eliminating costly fabric issues due to misconfiguration and repetitive management tasks. As technology becomes available, e.g., 8Gb, new switches are added to the stack and continue to be managed from a single point of control.

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Technology Refresh and Seamless Migration

By definition, a stackable architecture allows customers to mix and match capabilities and manage them as a single entity.

The following figure shows, for example, how customers utilizing a 2Gb SANbox stackable switch can easily migrate to 4Gb ability by simply stacking another switch. Unlike the situation with traditional fixed port switches, no reconfiguration of the attached server and storage devices is needed and the upgrade is performed **non-disruptively**.



None of the 2Gb server or storage devices was moved or disrupted when the new 4Gb capability was added. This approach protects existing SAN investment for future capabilities. For example, migration to 8Gb/sec capability can be added quickly by a simple, non-disruptive addition to the stack.

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The Seamless Migration Path

The on-going cost of maintenance and upgrades easily exceeds the initial acquisition and implementation cost of SAN solutions. The ideal solution is to provide an architecture that allows for a simple, non-disruptive migration path to add new capabilities to the existing infrastructure.

Benefits

The stackable Fibre Channel switch portfolio from QLogic delivers a seamless migration path with no premium for the ability to upgrade and expand in future.

These switches have the following major benefits:

- Non-disruptive addition of new switches in the stack.
- Preservation of server and storage ports as the stack is expanded.
- Management of the stack as a single entity with mix-and-match capabilities, e.g., 2Gb, 4Gb, high-availability model, etc.
- Common code base across all stackable switch models.
- Scaling the capacity of the solution, in a cost-effective and manageable manner.
- Centralized data management, storage, and restoring.

For more information on QLogic stackable switch solutions, visit www.qlogic.com.