What to connect to the FC interface

Overview

An FC interface connects to a node (server or disk) or FC switch for transmitting and receiving FC frames. To connect to an FC interface of a peer device, you must use an FC interface.

Key Takeaways

Fibre Channel (FC) interfaces connect servers and storage devices in SANs using high-speed, lossless data links, with physical FC ports and connectors enabling reliable communication.

Overview of Fibre Channel Interfaces

Fibre Channel is a high-speed protocol primarily used to connect servers to storage in Storage Area Networks (SANs), supporting data rates from 1 Gbps up to 128 Gbps over optical fiber or copper cabling.

F

C interfaces can be physical ports on switches or servers or virtual FC (vFC) interfaces on modern switches, allowing flexible SAN connectivity.

F

C Port TypesN_Port (Node Port): Located on servers or storage devices, connecting directly to an FC switch. F_Port (Fabric Port): Found on FC switches, connecting to N_Ports to form a point-to-point link. E_Port (Expansion Port): Connects two FC switches to extend the fabric.

Other Modes: Include NP, TE, TF, TNP, SD, and Auto, depending on switch capabilities.

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F

C Connection TopologiesPoint-to-Point: Direct connection between a server and a storage device, simple but limited in scalability. Arbitrated Loop: Supports up to 126 devices in a loop, allowing shared access. Switched Fabric: Uses FC switches to interconnect multiple servers and storage devices, providing high scalability and redundancy.

Dual-fabric designs are common for fault tolerance.

F

C ConnectorsFC interfaces use FC connectors (Ferrule Core Connectors), which feature a 2. 5 mm ceramic ferrule and a threaded design for secure, low-loss connections. These connectors are ideal for single-mode fiber and high-speed SAN environments.

While historically common, FC connectors are now less favored in high-density deployments, often replaced by LC or SC connectors, but they remain reliable for SAN applications.

Virtual FC Interfaces

Virtual F

C (vFC) interfaces allow a physical Ethernet or FC port to host multiple virtual FC connections, often used in Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) deployments. vFC interfaces operate in trunk mode, supporting multiple VSANs, and are configured similarly to physical FC ports, though some features like SAN port channels and buffer-to-buffer credits are not supported.

Addressing and Identification

Each F

C interface is identified by a World Wide Name (WWN), a globally unique 64-bit address, and an FC ID, a 24-bit address used within the fabric. Domains, areas, and ports are structured hierarchically to manage large SANs efficiently. SummaryFC interface connections are critical for high-speed, reliable SAN communication.

They involve physical or virtual ports, specific connector types, and fabric topologies that ensure scalability, redundancy, and efficient data transfer. Understanding port types, connector standards, and interface modes is essential for configuring and maintaining robust SAN environments.

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Article Content

Configuring FC interfaces

An FC interface connects to a node (server or disk) or FC switch for transmitting and receiving FC frames. To connect to an FC interface of a peer device, you must use an FC interface. An FC

Understanding Interfaces on an FCoE-FC Gateway

One or two blocks of six proxy N_Port (NP_Port) interfaces to connect to FC switch fabric ports (F_Ports). Each FC fabric is local to the gateway on which you configure it.

Example for Configuring an FCF (FC Interfaces)

FCF functions as the access switch and connects the storage device Array through its uplink interfaces, and directly connects to ServerA through its downlink interface, as shown in Figure 2-35.

Configuring an FC Interface

Before configuring an FC interface, connect an FC optical module to the FC interface. If the LINK indicator is steady green, the FC interface is Up. # Switch 10GE1/21/1 to an FC interface. ... # After

Understanding Fibre Channel | Junos OS | Juniper Networks

An FC switch is a Layer 3 network switch that is compatible with the FC protocol, forwards FC traffic, and provides FC services to the components of the FC fabric.

SAN provisioning with FC

WWPNs identify each LIF in an SVM configured to support FC. These LIFs use the physical FC ports in each node in the cluster, which can be FC target cards, UTA

Commands for managing FC adapters

You can use FC commands to manage FC target adapters, FC initiator adapters, and onboard FC adapters for your storage controller. The same commands are used to manage FC adapters for the

Cisco MDS 9000 Series Interfaces Configuration Guide, Release 9.x

This chapter provides information about Fibre Channel interfaces, its features, and how to configure the Fibre Channel interfaces. Your software release might not support all the features

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