



BROCADE FC10-6 BLADE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q What features are supported with the Brocade® FC10-6 blade?

A The Brocade 10 Gbit/sec product overview is shown below.

Feature	Brocade DCX® Backbone	Brocade 48000 Director
Maximum 10 Gbit/sec ports in a domain	48	48
Maximum 10 Gbit/sec ports in a single system	48	48
FICON® support	Yes	Yes
10 Gbit/sec link speed	Yes	Yes
Fixed 10 Gbit/sec link speed	Yes	Yes
Inter-Switch Link (ISL) Trunking	No	No
Class 2 or 3 service support	Yes	Yes
Fibre Channel ports	E_Port only	E_Port only
SWL, LWL, and ELWL (40 km and 80 km) XFP media	Yes	Yes
Hardware-enforced zoning at the port level	Yes	Yes
Independent buffers allocated to each port to support maximum distance at each port	Yes	Yes

Note: The Brocade FC10-6 blade operates within the Brocade DCX Backbone and Brocade 48000 Director.

Q What can the 10 Gbit/sec Fibre Channel blade be used for?

A For organizations with dark fiber or DWDM 10 Gbit/sec links, the Brocade FC10-6 blade enables them to fully utilize 10 Gbit/sec links via dark fiber or DWDM. In most cases today, a leased 10 Gbit/sec link is underutilized because organizations can transmit only 4 Gbit/sec Fibre Channel traffic over a 10 Gbit/sec connection.

Q Which DWDM vendor hardware has been tested with the Brocade FC10-6 blade?

A Ciena and Adva 10 Gbit/sec DWDM have been tested and work with the Brocade FC10-6 blade. When material and resources become available, Brocade plans to test Nortel and possibly other vendors' DWDM hardware.

Q Does DPS work over 10 Gbit/sec ISLs or DWDM?

A Yes. Dynamic Path Selection (DPS) works across 10 Gbit/sec ISLs and DWDM connections in the same manner that it works across 1, 2, 4, and 8 Gbit/sec ISLs.

Q Is ISL Trunking supported over 10 Gbit/sec?

A Each 10 Gbit/sec ISL is a single connection. ISL Trunking is not supported.

Q Does the Brocade FC10-6 blade interoperate with other 10 Gbit/sec director blades?

A At this time, the Brocade FC10-6 blade connects via E_Ports to other Brocade FC10-6 blades. There are no connections supported to other 10 Gbit/sec Fibre Channel ports.

Q How is the Brocade FC10-6 blade managed?

A The Brocade FC10-6 blade is managed utilizing the same tools and CLI commands that are used today for Brocade 1, 2, 4, and 8 Gbit/sec products. Brocade Enterprise Fabric Connectivity Manager (EFCM), Brocade Fabric Manager, Brocade Web Tools, and the Brocade CLI all support 10 Gbit/sec utilizing the same commands used for other Fibre Channel links.

Q Is there any local switching on the Brocade FC10-6 blade?

A There are two local switch groups on the blade. Ports 0-2 and Ports 3-5 are locally switched with no data transferred over the backplane.

Q Is there any over-subscription when Brocade FC10-6 ports transfer data over the backplane?

A Each local switching group of three ports on the Brocade FC10-6 blade is over-subscribed to the backplane at a 1.125:1 ratio. This means that three ports within the 0-2 and 3-5 port groups can switch over the backplane simultaneously at 89 percent of the 10 Gbit/sec port speed. Any local switching will increase the total switching capacity of the blade and potentially enable all six ports on the blade to switch at 10 Gbit/sec.

Q What is the maximum distance supported on each of the Brocade FC10-6 ports?

A Each of six ports in a Brocade FC10-6 blade supports 100 km independently (accounting for buffer overheads on a theoretical distance of 120 km).

Q What media types are supported on the Brocade FC10-6 blade?

A The Brocade FC10-6 blade utilizes XFP media in SWL, LWL, and two versions of ELWL (40 km and 80 km). Media are ordered separately and individually, and the SKUs can be found in the Brocade DCX Backbone and Brocade 48000 CSD.

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