A Flexible, Easy-to-Use Switch for a Variety of SAN Environments

As the value and volume of business data continue to rise, organizations need technology solutions that are easy to implement and manage, and that can grow and change with minimal disruption. The Brocade® 5100 Switch is designed for rapidly growing storage requirements in mission-critical environments—combining 1, 2, 4, and 8 Gbit/sec Fibre Channel technology in configurations of 24, 32, or 40 ports in an efficiently designed 1U package. As a result, it provides low-cost access to industry-leading SAN technology as well as “pay-as-you-grow” scalability for consolidating storage and maximizing the value of virtual server deployments.

The Brocade 5100 features a flexible architecture that operates seamlessly with existing Brocade switches through native E_Port connectivity into Brocade Fabric OS® (FOS) or M-Enterprise OS (M-EOS)® environments. With the highest port density of any midrange enterprise switch, the Brocade 5100 is designed for a broad range of SAN architectures. The evolutionary design consumes less than 2.5 watts of power per port for exceptional power and cooling efficiency, and features consolidated power and fan assemblies to improve environmental performance and reduce ownership costs. These capabilities help make the Brocade 5100 a cost-effective building block for standalone networks or the edge of enterprise core-to-edge fabrics.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Delivers full 8 Gbit/sec 1:1 performance for up to 40 ports in an energy-efficient, optimized 1U form factor
• Offers best-in-class port density and scalability for midrange enterprise SAN switches along with redundant, hot-pluggable components and non-disruptive software upgrades
• Protects existing device investments with auto-sensing 1, 2, 4, and 8 Gbit/sec capabilities and native operation with Brocade and Brocade M-Series fabrics
• Features Ports on Demand capabilities for fast, easy, and cost-effective scalability from 24 to 40 ports in 8-port increments
• Provides Adaptive Networking services, such as Quality of Service (QoS), to help optimize application performance in consolidated, virtual environments
• Supports Fibre Channel Integrated Routing for selective device sharing while maintaining remote fabric isolation for higher levels of scalability and fault isolation
• Utilizes the Brocade EZSwitchSetup wizard to simplify installation and management, and is Microsoft Simple SAN-compatible

* Brocade M-EOS fabrics are McDATA switches and directors running McDATA Enterprise OS in McDATA Fabric mode or McDATA Open Fabric mode.
INDUSTRY-LEADING PERFORMANCE
To support mission-critical environments, the Brocade 5100 provides best-in-class performance for midrange SAN switches. It features a non-blocking architecture with as many as 40 ports concurrently active at 8 Gbit/sec full duplex to provide an aggregate bandwidth of 680 Gbit/sec. The Brocade 5100 also enables organizations to use 4 Gbit/sec SFPs today and upgrade to 8 Gbit/sec SFPs when required.

The Brocade 5100 utilizes ASIC technology featuring five 8-port groups. Within these groups, an Inter-Switch Link (ISL) trunk can supply up to 68 Gbit/sec of balanced data throughput (see Figure 1). In addition to reducing congestion and increasing bandwidth, enhanced Brocade ISL Trunking utilizes ISLs more efficiently to preserve the number of usable switch ports.

Additional performance capabilities include the following:
- 32 virtual channels on each ISL enhance QoS traffic prioritization and anti-starvation capabilities at the port level to avoid performance degradation.
- Exchange-based Dynamic Path Selection (DPS) optimizes fabric-wide performance and load balancing by automatically routing data to the most efficient available path in the fabric (see Figure 2). It augments ISL Trunking to provide more effective load balancing in certain configurations. In addition, DPS can balance traffic between the Brocade 5100 and Brocade M-Series devices enabled with Brocade Open Trunking.

ENTERPRISE-CLASS AVAILABILITY FOR BUSINESS CONTINUANCE
The Brocade 5100 provides a reliable foundation for disaster recovery and business continuance by employing enterprise-class availability features such as hot-swappable, redundant, and integrated fan and power supply assemblies. Moreover, hot code load and activation help maximize application uptime with faster system upgrades and maintenance to reduce the dependency on scheduled outages. Combined with a wide range of diagnostic and monitoring functions, these capabilities help provide a highly available SAN environment.

To support SAN extension, the Brocade 5100 enables servers and storage devices to reside 600 kilometers apart or more (up to 3400 kilometers), enabling organizations to create highly available, high-performance environments.
clustered systems that support the most sophisticated business continuity and disaster recovery initiatives.

**ADAPTIVE NETWORKING SERVICES**

The Brocade 5100 utilizes Brocade Adaptive Networking services, a suite of tools for optimizing fabric behavior and ensuring ample bandwidth for mission-critical applications. These tools currently include QoS, Ingress Rate Limiting, Traffic Isolation, and Top Talkers.

By assigning zones a high, medium, or low priority, QoS allocates bandwidth in the event of congestion to expedite high-priority traffic and keep all traffic flowing. Ingress Rate Limiting restricts data flow from less-critical hosts at preset bandwidths. Traffic Isolation assigns high-bandwidth data flows to specific ISLs. And Top Talkers measures the top bandwidth-consuming traffic in real time for a specific physical or virtual device, or end to end across the fabric.

**SUPERIOR ROI AND INVESTMENT PROTECTION**

The Brocade 5100 utilizes the same Fabric OS that supports the entire Brocade product family—from the 8-port Brocade 300 Switch to the 768-port Brocade DCX™ Backbone. This helps ensure forward and backward compatibility among Brocade solutions while simplifying maintenance and field upgrades. Moreover, organizations can manage the Brocade 5100 with existing management applications such as Brocade Enterprise Fabric Connectivity Manager (EFCM) and Brocade Fabric Manager.

**INTEGRATED ROUTING**

As an option for connecting switches in a fabric, the Brocade 5100 provides Fibre Channel Integrated Routing capabilities. Integrated Routing leverages the latest generation of Brocade ASICs to provide native Fibre Channel Routing on a per-port basis rather than limiting routing to special-purpose routing switches. Integrated Routing uses EX_Ports to import/export devices between fabrics, enabling selective device sharing while maintaining remote fabric isolation for higher levels of scalability and fault isolation.

**OPEN SAN MANAGEMENT**

By networking Fibre Channel switches such as the Brocade 5100 under a common platform, Fabric OS simplifies management through standard interfaces and support for third-party management applications. The Brocade 5100 supports switch management through a command line interface, Brocade Web Tools, EFCM, or Fabric Manager.

To facilitate deployment, the Brocade 5100 integrates easily into heterogeneous environments with operating systems such as Windows NT, UNIX, Linux, Solaris, and AIX, as well as virtual server environments. It is also designed to provide FICON® support on a flexible port-by-port basis in IBM System z environments. FICON-ready capabilities include FICON intermix modes, cascaded FICON fabrics, and CUP support for monitoring tools.

**HIGHER FABRIC SECURITY FOR CRITICAL INFORMATION**

The Brocade 5100 is designed for the highest level of fabric security to help organizations safeguard their critical information. It utilizes Brocade Advanced Zoning as well as advanced port and switch Access Control Lists (ACLs) to simplify administration and significantly increase control over data access. To simplify management access security, the Brocade 5100 supports Active Directory with LDAP.

**MAXIMIZING INVESTMENTS**

To help optimize technology investments, Brocade and its partners offer complete solutions that include education, support, and services. For more information, contact a Brocade sales partner or visit www.brocade.com.

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**BROCADE 5100 SPECIFICATIONS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systems Architecture</th>
<th>Fabric latency</th>
<th>Maximum frame size</th>
<th>Frame buffers</th>
<th>Classes of service</th>
<th>Port types</th>
<th>Data traffic types</th>
<th>Media types</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fibre Channel ports</strong></td>
<td>1.063 Gbit/sec line speed (full duplex); 2.125 Gbit/sec line speed (full duplex); 4.25 Gbit/sec line speed (full duplex); auto-sensing of 1, 2, 4, and 8 Gbit/sec port speeds; optionally programmable to fixed port speed; speed matching between 1, 2, 4, and 8 Gbit/sec ports</td>
<td>Locally switched ports 700 ns with no contention, cut-through routing at 8 Gbit/sec</td>
<td>2048 dynamically allocated, 1692 maximum per port</td>
<td>Class 2, Class 3, Class F (inter-switch frames)</td>
<td>FL_Port, F_Port, M_Port (Mirror Port), E_Port, EX_Port (Fibre Channel Integrated Routing); self-discovery based on switch type (U_Port); optional port type control</td>
<td>Fabric switches supporting unicast, multicast (255 groups), and broadcast</td>
<td>4 Gbit/sec: Requires Brocade hot-pluggable, Small Form-factor Pluggable (SFP), LC connector; 4 Gbit/sec Short-Wavelength Laser (SWL); 4 Gbit/sec Long-Wavelength Laser (LWL); 4 Gbit/sec Extended Long-Wavelength Laser (ELWL); distance depends on fiber-optic cable and port speed</td>
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<td><strong>Scalability</strong></td>
<td>Full fabric architecture with 239 switches maximum</td>
<td>2112-byte payload</td>
<td>680 Gbit/sec; 40 ports × 8.5 Gbit/sec (line rate) × 2 (full duplex)</td>
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<td><strong>Certified maximum</strong></td>
<td>Brocade FOS fabric: 56 domains, 19 hops</td>
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<td>Single Brocade M-EOS fabric: 31 domains, 3 hops</td>
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<td>Larger fabrics certified as required; consult Brocade or OEM SAN design documents for configuration details</td>
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<td><strong>Performance</strong></td>
<td>Frame-based trunking with up to eight 8 Gbit/sec ports per ISL trunk with optional license; up to 68 Gbit/sec per ISL trunk (8 ports × 8.5 Gbit/sec [line rate])</td>
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<td>Exchange-based load balancing across ISLs with DPS included in Fabric OS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ISL Trunking</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Aggregate bandwidth</strong></td>
<td>680 Gbit/sec; 40 ports × 8.5 Gbit/sec (line rate) × 2 (full duplex)</td>
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