

A Deeper Look into the Inner Workings and Hidden Mechanisms of FICON Performance

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- Session Number - **17506**



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A deeper look into the Inner Workings and Hidden Mechanisms of FICON Performance

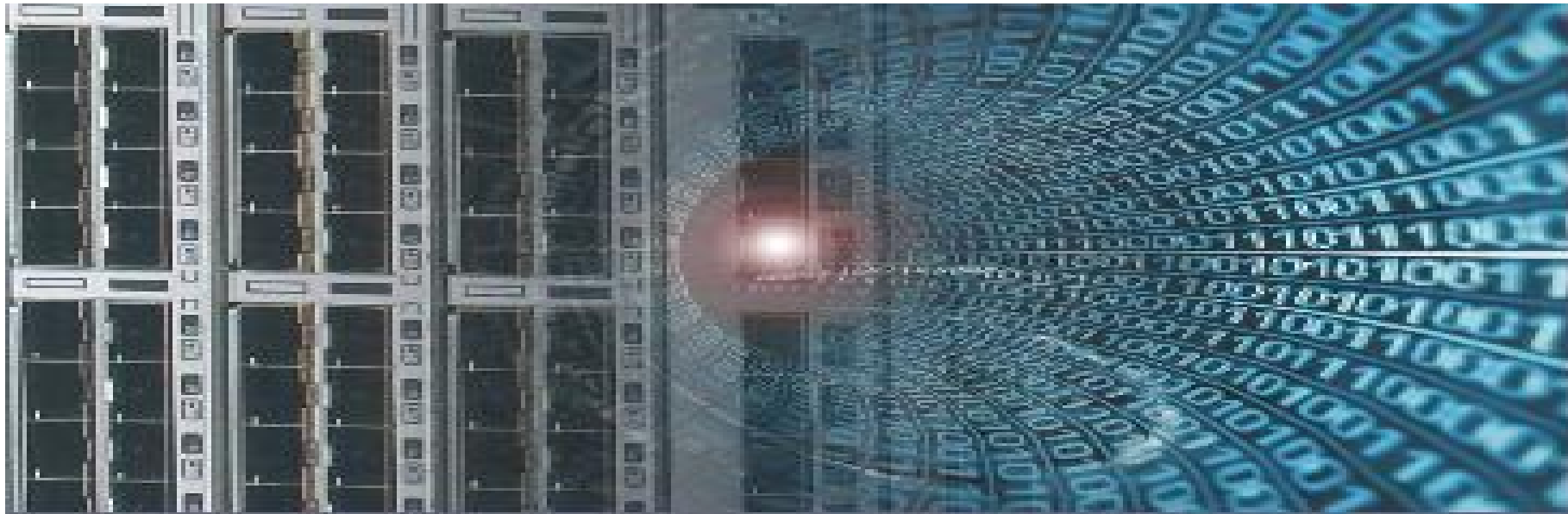
This technical session goes into a fairly deep discussion on some of the design considerations of a FICON infrastructure.

- Among the topics this session will focus on is:
 - Switch Firmware
 - Buffer Credit Flow Control
 - Fabric Congestion, Backpressure and Slow Drain Devices
 - Buffer Credit Starvation
 - Data Encoding, Forward Error Correction and Compression/Encryption

NOTE: Please check for the most recent copy of this presentation at the SHARE website as I make frequent updates.

This Section

- Switch Firmware
- Hardware Support



Switch Firmware

Switching devices run it – and it evolves as technology evolves!



- If a chassis is the body of a switch then the central processing unit (CPU) is the brain and the firmware code is the intelligence residing within that brain on that switch.
- It is the firmware that issues requests out to the rest of the “body” and then monitors and reacts to all of the “sensory information” coming back in to it
- Each switch must have an appropriate release of firmware intelligence in order to run all of the features and functions of the switch:
 - Brocade’s firmware is called **Fabric Operating System** or Fabric OS or more commonly just **FOS**.
 - Cisco’s firmware is called **Nexus Operating System (NX-OS)** or **NxOS**.
- Both vendors firmware is used to control the features and functions of their FC and IP SAN products. It is how vendors deliver choice and solutions to customers across multiple generations of products. In a nutshell, firmware helps a switch do what it is supposed to do!
- **Current FICON Firmware:** **Brocade – FOS 7.4.0a**
Cisco – NxOS 6.2(11c)



Previous Generations of IBM Mainframes

End-of-Life For Switch Support Information

- **z9** is not supported on Brocade or Cisco at current firmware releases!
- z9 was supported by Brocade FOS in Sept 2007
 - For Brocade, FOS 5.3 was the first FOS to support z9
 - For Brocade, FOS 7.2.1d is the last FOS to support z9
 - For Cisco, NxOS 6.2(5a) is the last NxOS release to support z9
 - There are now FOS and NxOS releases beyond those above
- **z10** is not supported on Brocade or Cisco at current firmware releases!
- z10 was supported by Brocade FOS in June 2008
 - For Brocade, FOS 6.1.0c was the first FOS to support z10
 - For Brocade, FOS 7.3.1b is the last FOS to support z10
 - For Cisco, NxOS 6.2(5a) is the last NxOS release to support z10
 - There are now FOS and NxOS releases beyond those above

Be very careful of what mainframes are active in your environment and choose the appropriate release of vendor firmware that fully supports all those devices when attached to an I/O infrastructure fabric.



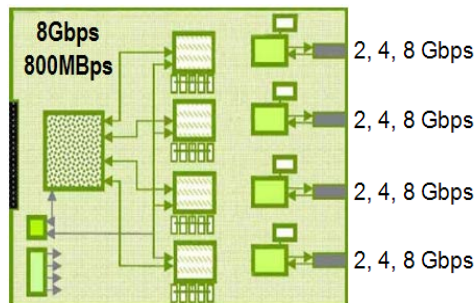
This Section

- How FICON uses Buffer-to-Buffer Credits
- Determining Buffer Credits Required



FICON Channel Card Buffer Credits (BBC)

FICON Express8

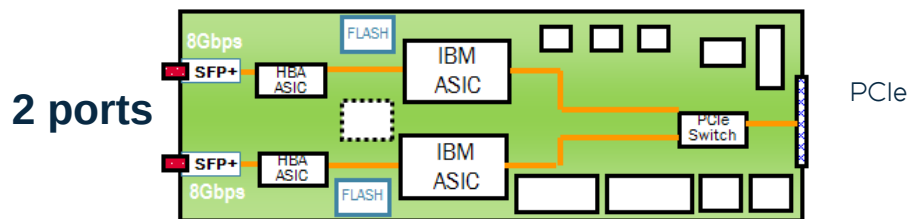


4 ports

- 40 Buffer Credits per FX8 port

- 11.0km @ 16G full frame / port (2048 bytes)
- 5.3km @ 16G half frame / port (1024 bytes)
- 4.6km @ 16G 870 byte payloads

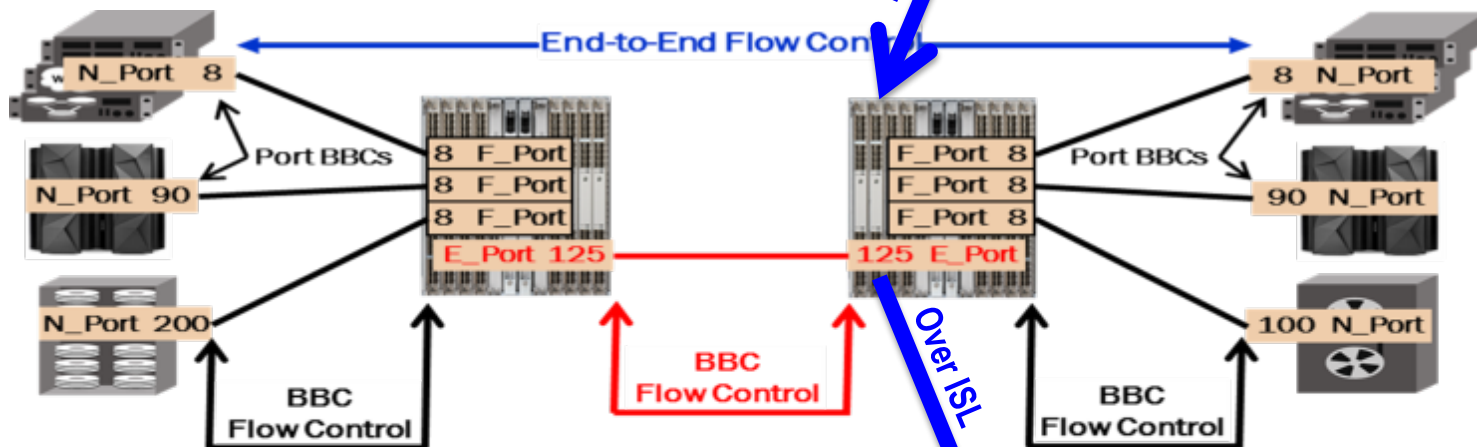
FICON Express8S and 16S



- 40 Buffer Credits per FX8S port

- 90 Buffer Credits per FX16S port

- 11.0km @ 16G full frame / port (2048 bytes)
- 5.3km @ 16G half frame / port (1024 bytes)
- 4.6km @ 16G 870 byte payloads



Brocade Gen 5 Buffer Credits Available on Director Ports:

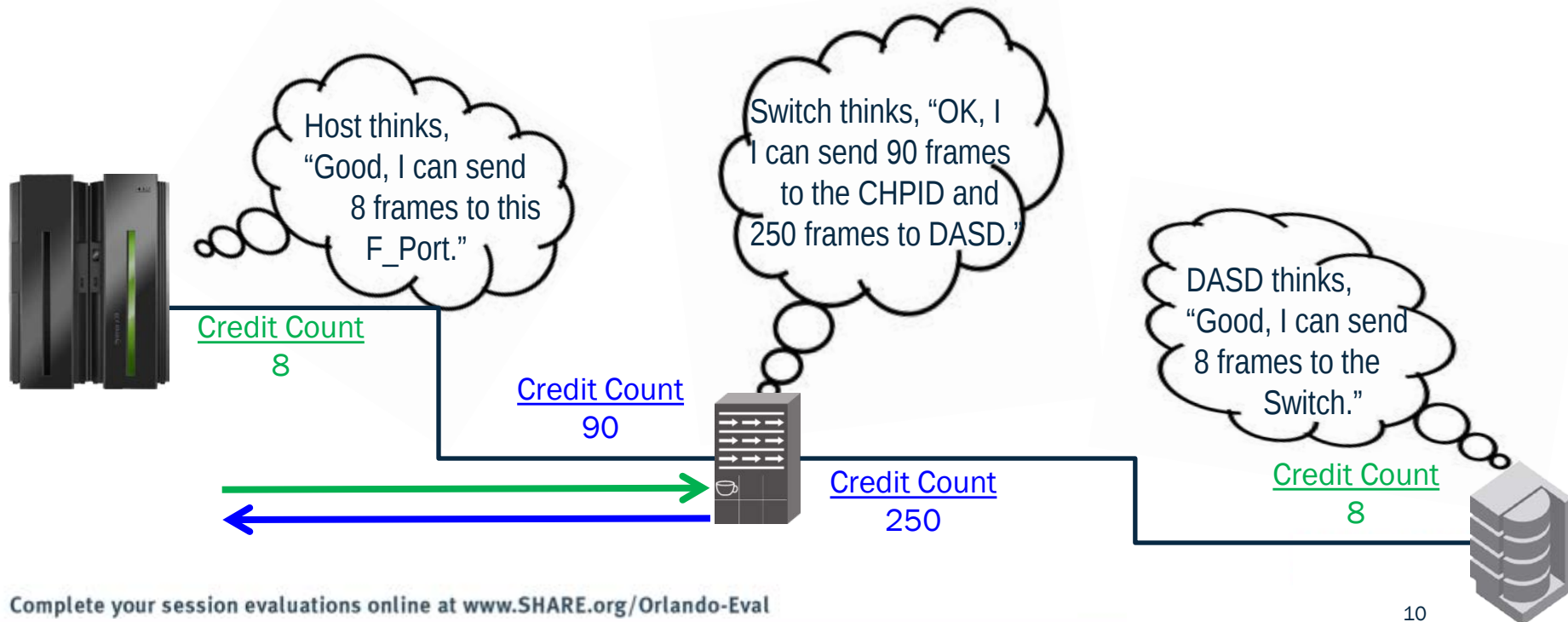
FC16-32, 32 port connectivity blade:	With QoS – 5,188 BBCs per port
	Without QoS – 5,408 BBCs per port
FC16-48, 48 port connectivity blade:	With QoS – 4,480 BBCs per port
	Without QoS – 4,960 BBCs per port



Buffer-to-Buffer Credits (BBC)

How they get set - same for FCP and FICON

- At initialization, the 2 ports on each side of a link establish BBC counts:
 - Receiver tells the transmitter the number of frames the receiver can handle
- Each port on different ends of the link can support different BBC values:
 - BBC does not have to be symmetrical (but do make ISLs symmetrical!)
- If a port does not have a buffer credit available, it cannot send a frame:
 - Buffer Credit Count has reached zero on the Transmitter (tx)
- This Mechanism provides the frame's flow control and limits frame drops

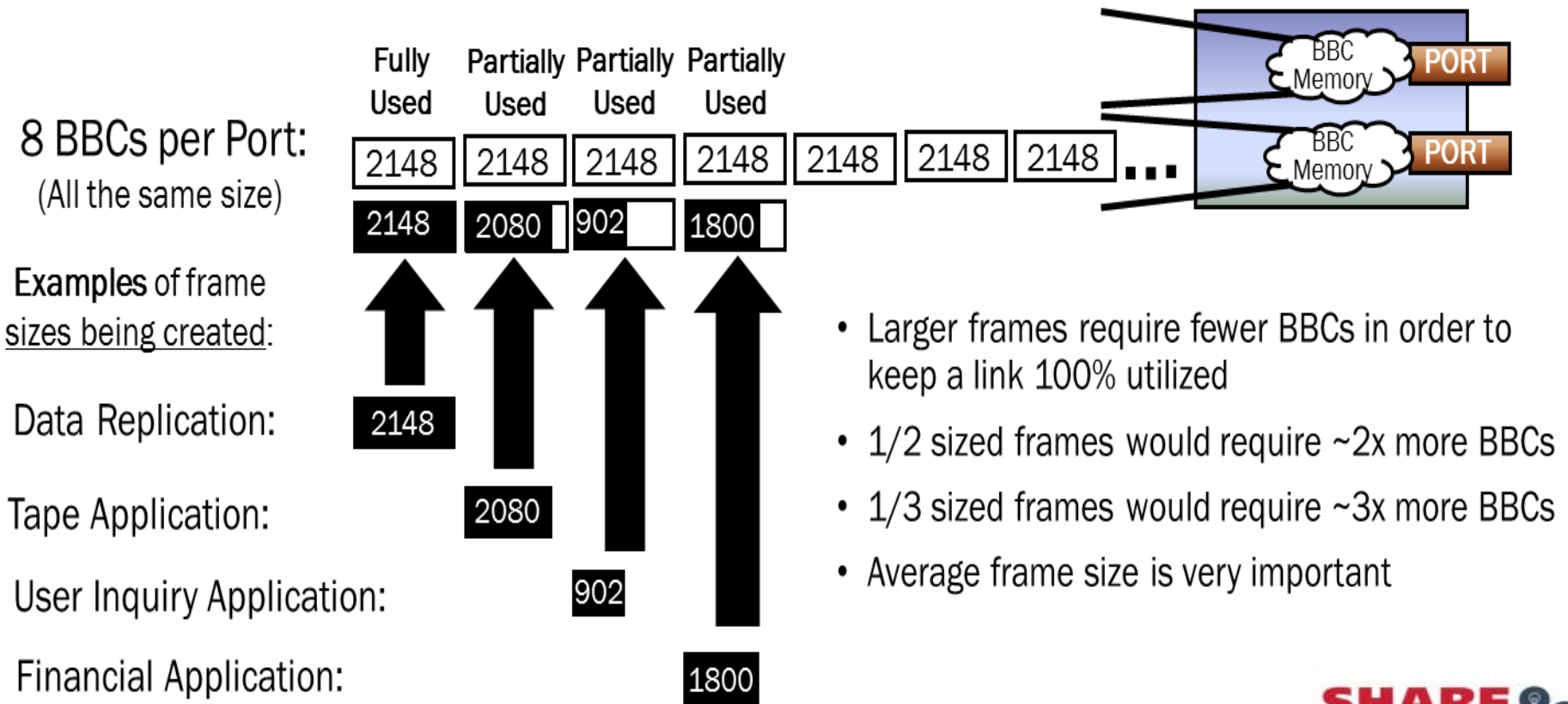




Buffer to Buffer Credits

Buffer Credit Memory is always 2,148 bytes but BBCs vary in size

- Each and every frame requires up to 2,148 bytes of BBC memory in order to store the frame just before it is sent across the link to the receiver
- Actual frame sizes vary widely but, when stored in BBC memory, always consume a full buffer credit

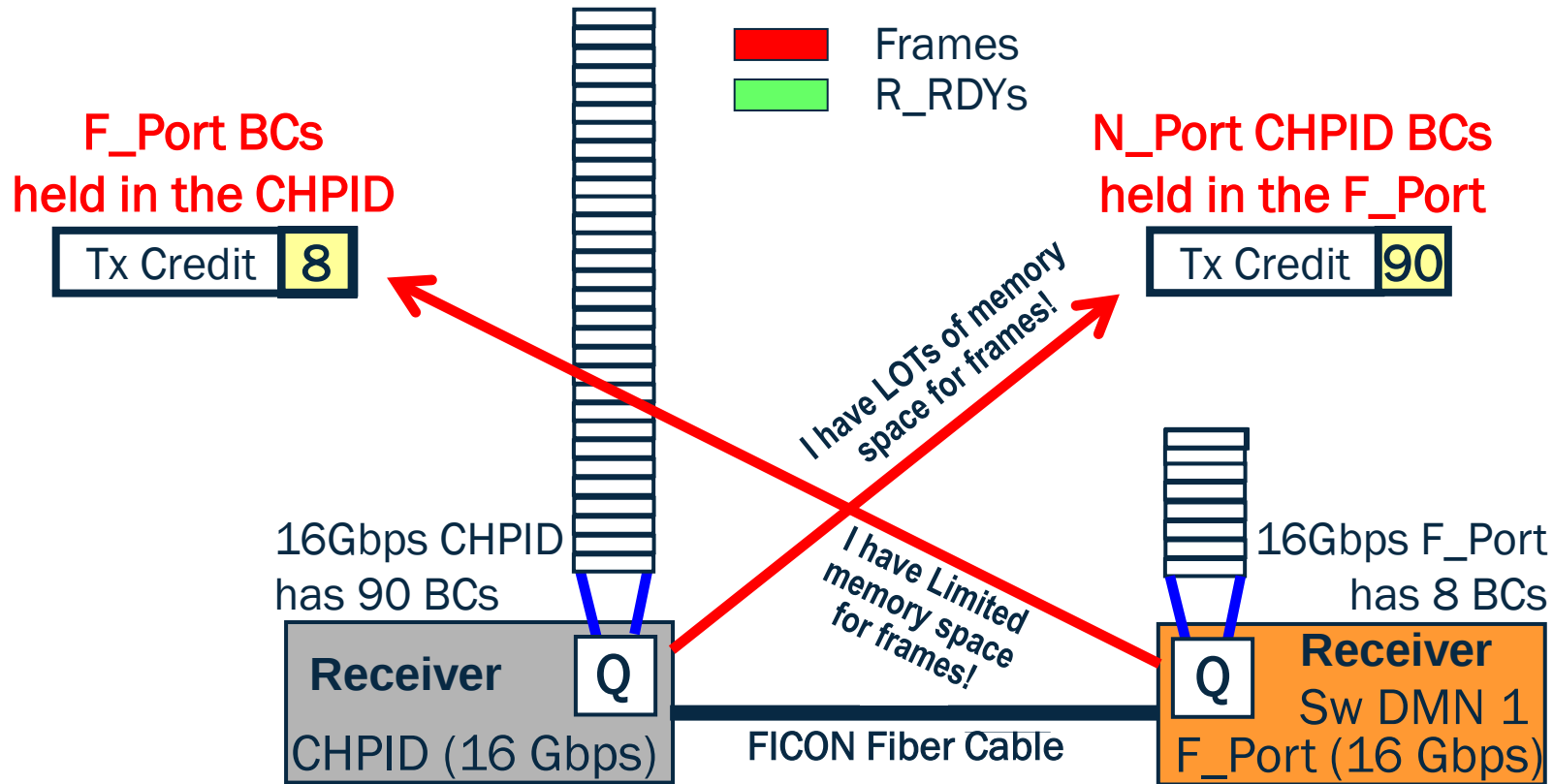




Buffer-to-Buffer Credits

Buffer-to-Buffer flow control

- After initialization, each port knows how many buffers are available in the queue at the other end of the link – the transmitter is controlled by this
 - This value is known as Transmit (Tx) Credit
 - The purpose is to keep the transmitter from overrunning the receiver

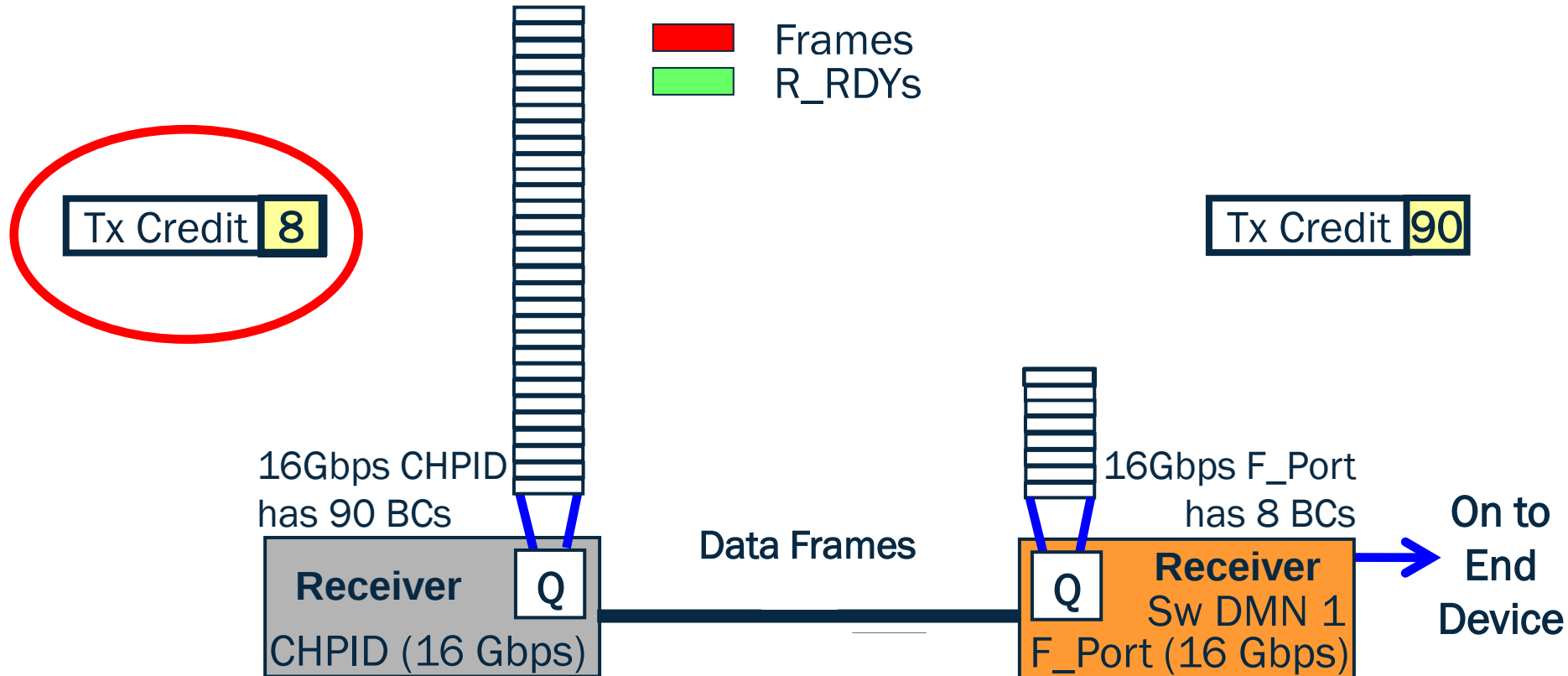




Buffer-to-Buffer Credits

Buffer-to-Buffer flow control

- Tx Credit is **decremented** by one for every frame sent from the CHPID
- No frames may be transmitted after Tx Credit reaches zero
- Tx Credit is **incremented** by one for each R_RDY received from F_Port

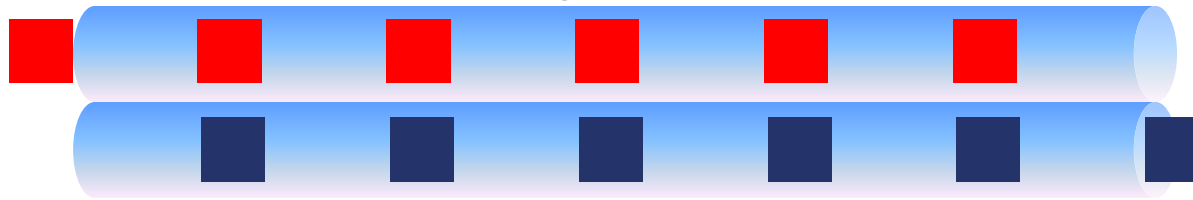


Buffer-to-Buffer Credits (BBC)

An Example Showing Several Buffer Credit Deployment Scenarios

16 Gbps Link running more like an 8 Gbps Link

Start Of
Frame x →

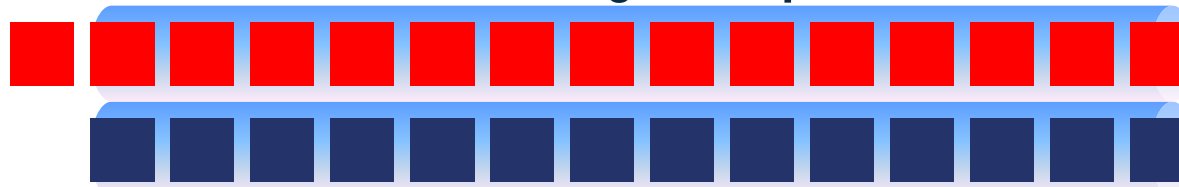


← R_RDY or
VC_RDY
Acknowledgements
(Acks do not use BBCs)

Ample BB Credits

Well Running 16 Gbps Link

SOFx →



← R_RDY or
VC_RDY Acks

8 x less BB Credits, still ample

2 Gbps Link

SOFx →



If 870 bytes. requires
.82 km/frame

← R_RDY or
VC_RDY Acks

- 4 Gbps, 870 byte frames, require .41 km of link distance/frame
- 8 Gbps, 870 byte frames, require .20 km of link distance/frame
- 16 Gbps, 870 byte frames, require .10 km of link distance/frame

This Section

- Congestion and Backpressure Overview
- Slow Draining Devices



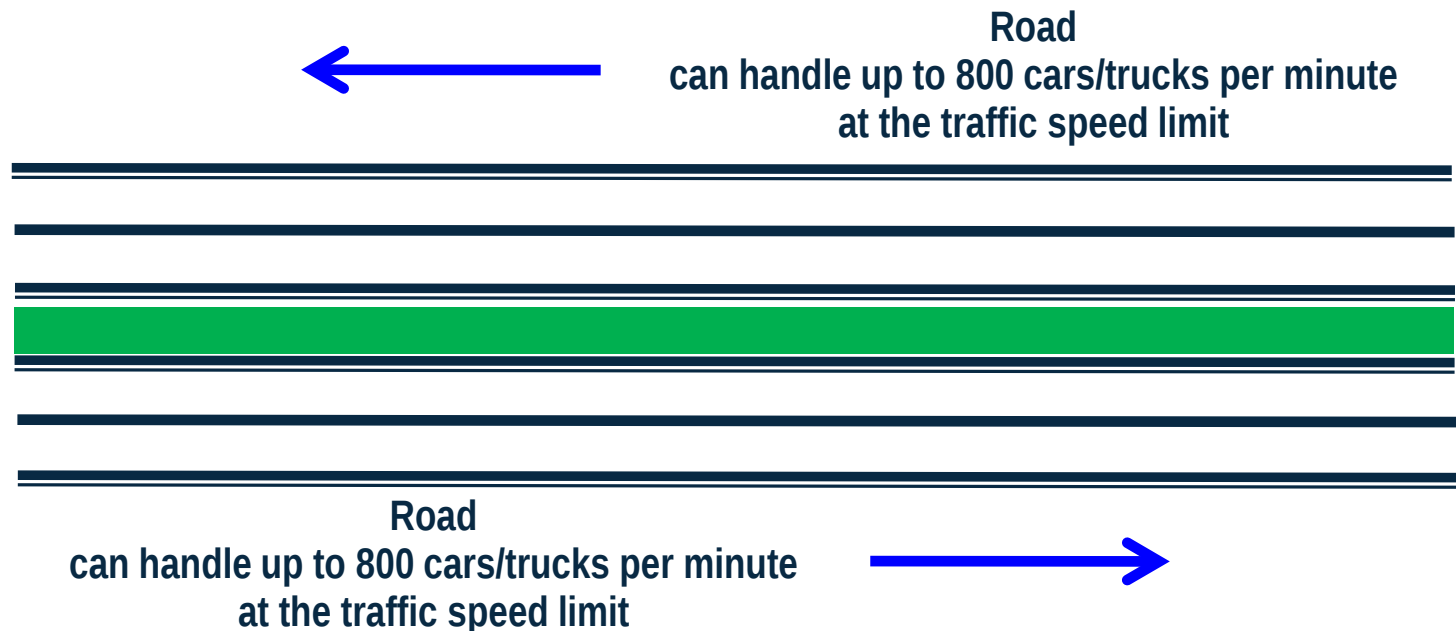


Congestion and Backpressure Overview

These two conditions are not the same thing

- **Congestion** occurs at the point of restriction
- **Backpressure** is the effect felt by the environment leading up to the point of restriction

I will use an Interstate highway example to demonstrate these concepts





Congestion and Backpressure Overview

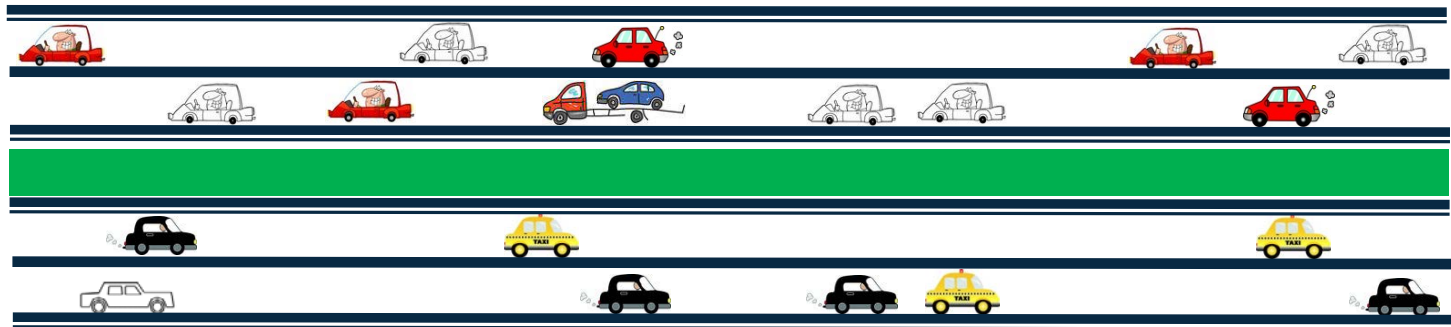
- **No Congestion and No Backpressure**
 - The highway handles up to 800 cars/trucks per minute and **less than** 800 cars/trucks per min are arriving
- Time spent in queue (behind slower traffic) is minimal
 - Traffic is flowing very well

No Congestion and No Backpressure

10am – 3pm



Road
can handle up to 800 cars/trucks per minute
so the traffic can run up to the speed limit



Road
can handle up to 800 cars/trucks per minute
so the traffic can run up to the speed limit

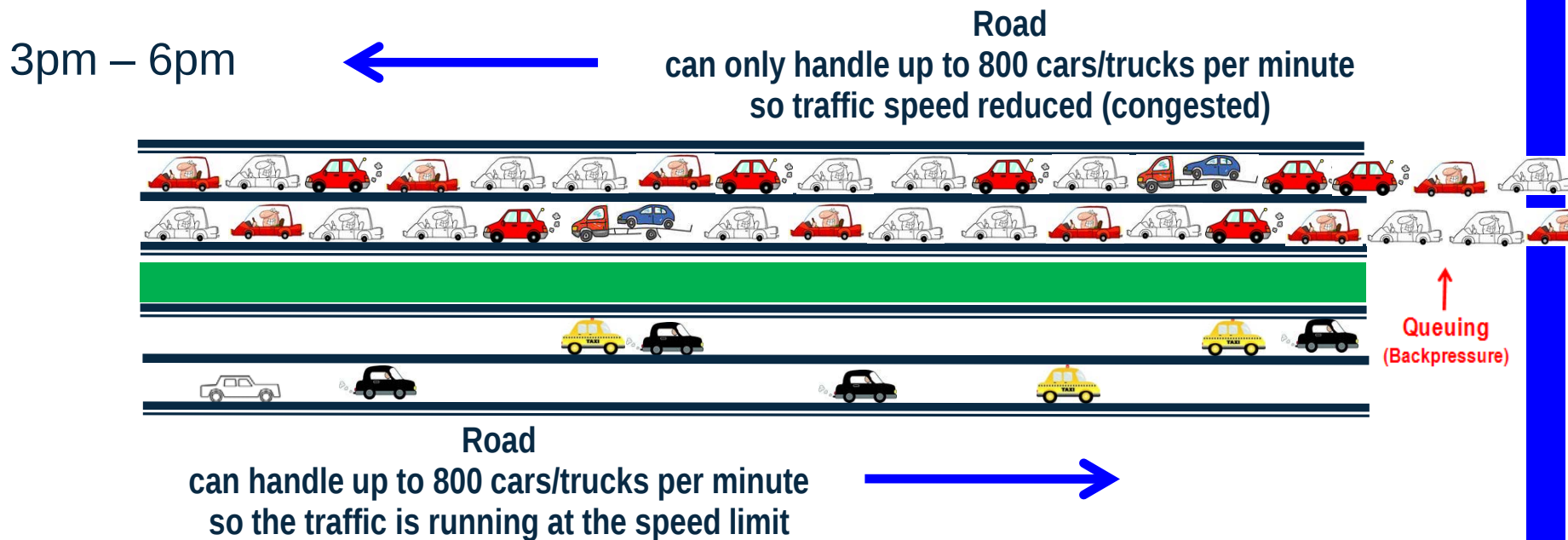




Congestion and Backpressure Overview

- **Congestion**
 - The highway handles up to 800 cars/trucks per minute and **more than** 800 cars/trucks per min are arriving
- Trip time (Latency) and vehicle spacing (BBCs consumed) increases
 - No more vehicles can be placed onto this road
- **Backpressure** is experienced by cars slowing down and queuing up

Congestion and Backpressure





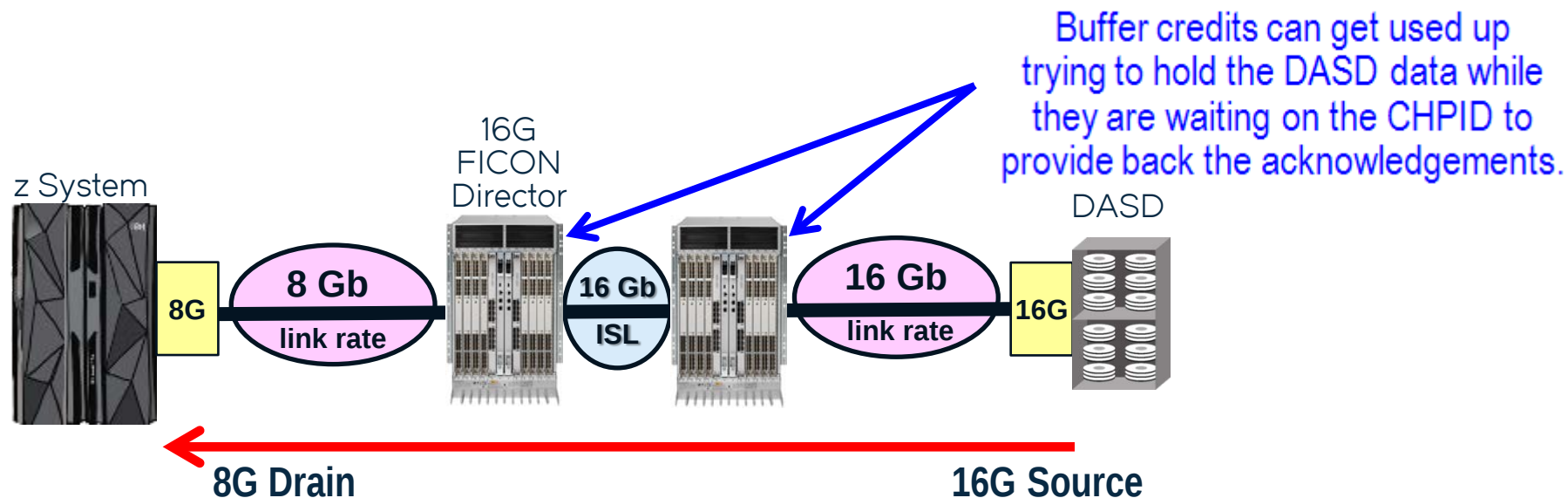
Slow Draining Devices can also jam up a path

Think about police cars, side-by-side, going 55 MPH, slowing all traffic

- Slow draining devices are receiving ports that cannot accept the amount of data flowing to them so they actively respond to slow down the link:
 - They do not return Buffer Credit acknowledgements at link rate
 - Data flowing to these devices use up all the BBCs along the path
 - Finally the transmitter runs out of buffer credits – cannot transmit the next frame
 - It will only send a frame after an acknowledgement is received – gets 1 BBC
 - I/O on the data path is now running only at the speed of the slow draining device
- It is very important to note that this slow down can spread into the fabric and can affect unrelated flows in the fabric trying to use common links
- **What causes slow draining devices?**
- The most common cause is within the storage device, CHPID or the server itself.
- It often happens because a target port has a slower link rate (e.g. 2G, 4G, 8G) than the I/O source port (e.g. 4G, 8G, 16G) or the Fan-In from the rest of the environment overwhelms the target port.

Slow Draining Devices – 16G DASD

16G DASD is available today – implementing it could cause slow drains!



- This is potentially a very poor performing, infrastructure!
- DASD is about 90% read, 10% write. So, in this case the "drain" of the pipe is the 8Gb CHPID and the "source" of the pipe is the 16Gb storage port.
- The Source can out perform the Drain!
- This can cause congestion and back pressure towards the CHPID. The switch port leading to the CHPID becomes a slow draining device.
- Let us look at this process in more detail!



Congestion and Back Pressure (watch out for ISLs!)

Too many customers will be putting 16G DASD onto 8G CHPIDs (slow drain)

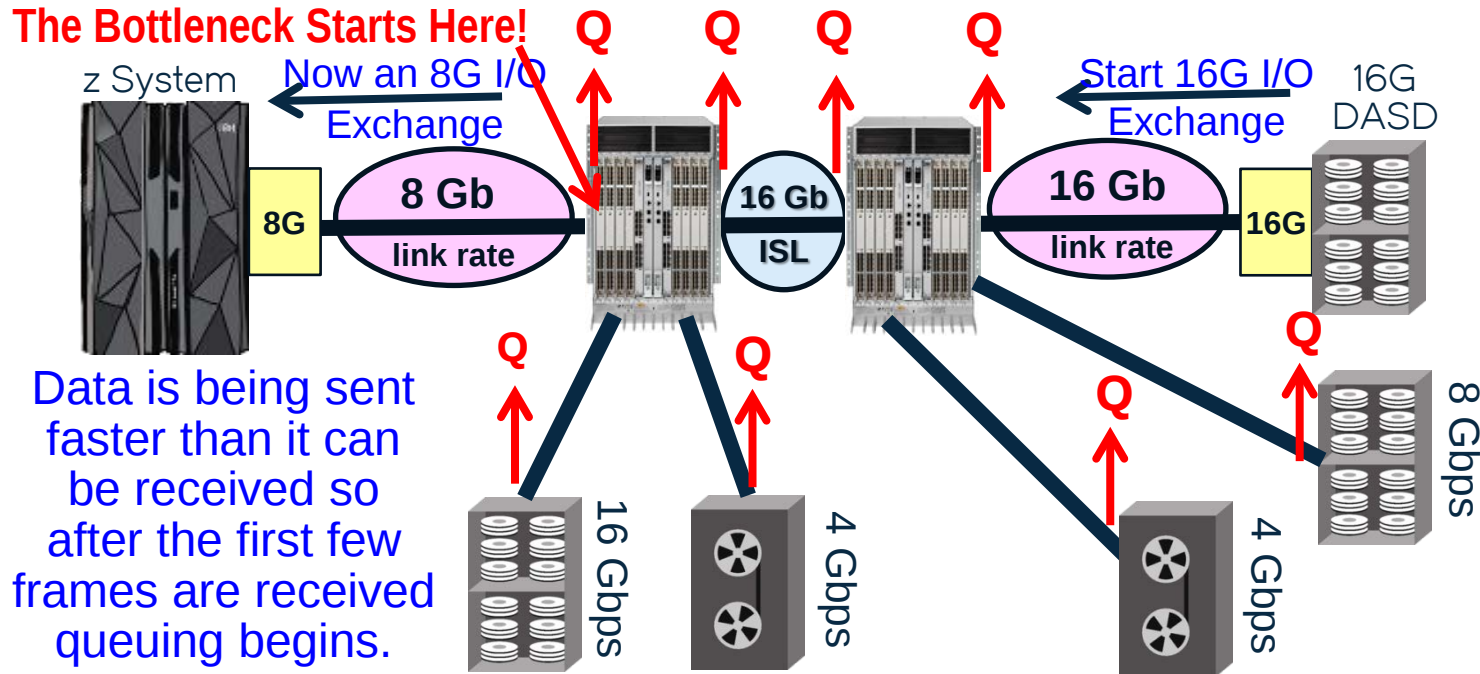


Once an ISL begins ingress port queuing then quite a bit more backpressure can build up in the fabric because so many applications are depending on that ISL link



Buffer Credit queuing will create back-pressure on the channel paths.

The Bottleneck Starts Here!



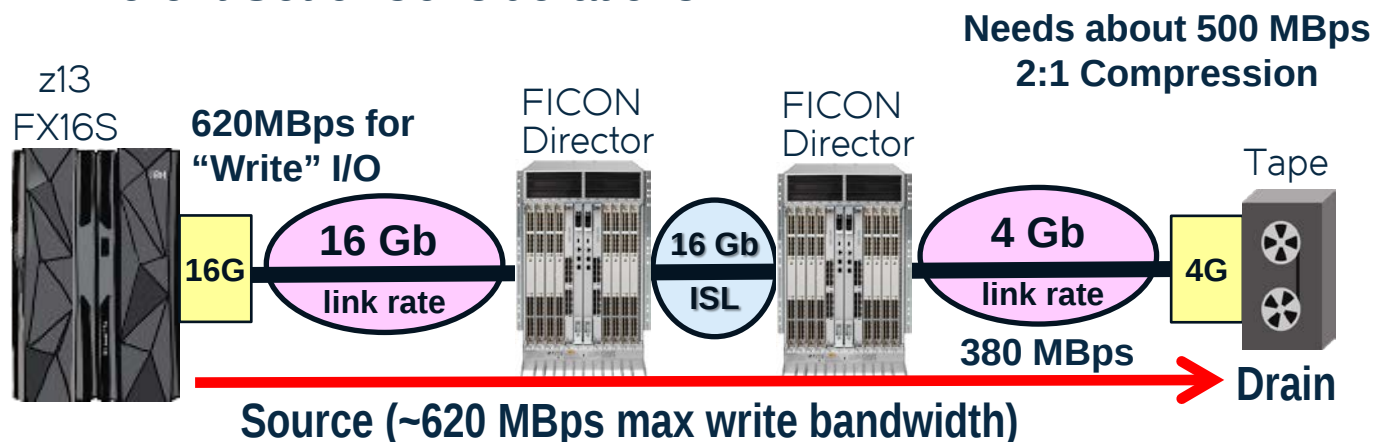
This example assumes that all of the I/O traffic is going to the one CHPID or replication of data is going across the ISL

The reason that this is not more of a problem is because DASD I/O is “bursty”

- There is a simple representation of a single CHPID connection
- Of course that won't be true in a real configuration and the results could be much worse and more dire for configuration performance

Physical Tape Drives in a Fabric

A Different Set of Considerations



BUT...

If 8G Tape runs at 500 MBps (2X) it will take 1 GBps to feed it and the best CHPID is ≤ 620 MBps so compression ratio will be low and maybe Start/Stop!

- 4G tape **WILL BE** a slow drain – Tape is about 90% write and 10% read on average
- The FX8S/16S using Command Mode FICON can transfer (write) ~620MBps
- BUT... a 4G Tape interface handles only about 380MBps ($400\text{MBps} * .95 = 380\text{MBps}$)
- AND...the maximum bandwidth 4G tape needs to accept and compress is 504 MBps (at 2:1 compression) for Oracle (T10000D – 252 MBps head speed) and about 500 MBps (at 2:1 compression) for IBM (TS1140 – 250 MBps head speed)
- So a single CHPID attached to a 380 MBps, 4G physical tape interface:
 - Can stream ONLY 1 IBM tape/CHPID ($620 / 380 = 1.63$) - poor compression on 1
 - Can stream ONLY 1 Oracle tape/CHPID ($620 / 380 = 1.63$) - poor compression on 1

This Section

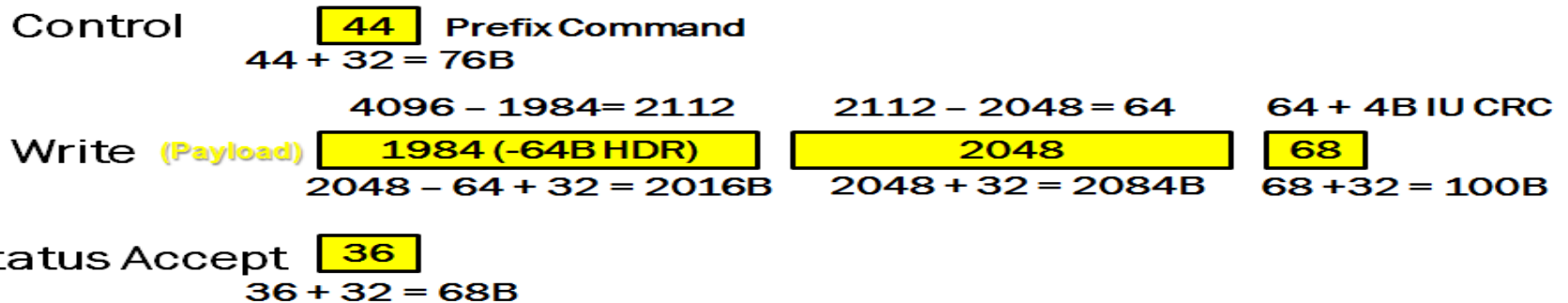
- Determining How Many Buffer Credits Are Required
- RMF Reports for Switched-FICON



Buffer Credits – required on every FC link!

Why FICON Never Averages a Full Frame Size

- There are three metrics that are required to determine the number of buffer credits required for a link – absolutely necessary for ISL links of long length:
 - The speed of the link (pretty easy to figure out)
 - The cable distance of the link (DWDM can make this harder to obtain)
 - The average frame size (historically, the most difficult metric to determine)
- Average frame size** is the hardest to determine – compression can even change it!
 - RMF 74-7 records or the *portbuffershow* CLI command – find Avg. Frame Size (Tx)
 - You will find that FICON just never averages full frame size
 - Below is a simple FICON 4K write that demonstrates average frame size



4K will not fit into 2 BBCs because of headers for FC as well as the SB3 protocol that is used and the 64 byte FICON header that is placed into the payload field of the 1st frame of every FICON exchange.

$$\text{Average} = (76 + 2016 + 2084 + 100 + 68) / 5 = 869 \text{ Bytes}$$

Buffer Credits really needed for ISLs over distance!

The Impact of Average Frame Size on Buffer Credits – example is 50 km

A distance of 50KM with 100% link utilization				Additional	2Gbps	4Gbps	8Gbps	10Gbps	16Gbps
SOF, Header, CRC, EOF	Payload	Total Frame Bytes (Average Frame Size)	Smaller than full frame by xx%	Compression and a little head room	Buffer Credis Required 8b10b	Buffer Credis Required 8b10b	Buffer Credis Required 8b10b	Buffer Credis Required 64b66b	Buffer Credis Required 64b66b
36	2112	2148	0.00%	NO	56	105	204	254	402
				2.2 : 1	N/A	N/A	442	551	877
36	1824	1860	13.41%	NO	64	121	235	292	464
				2.2 : 1	N/A	N/A	509	635	1012
36	1114	1150	46.46%	NO	99	191	376	469	746
				2.2 : 1	N/A	N/A	820	1023	1633
36	964	1000	53.45%	NO	113	219	432	538	857
				2.2 : 1	N/A	N/A	942	1175	1877
36	834	870	59.50%	NO	129	251	495	617	984
				2.2 : 1	N/A	N/A	1081	1350	2156
36	476	512	76.16%	NO	214	422	837	1044	1667
				2.2 : 1	N/A	N/A	1833	2290	3660
36	164	200	90.69%	NO	538	1069	2132	2663	4257
				2.2 : 1	N/A	N/A	4682	5851	9358

Obtaining the best FICON reporting

Obtain RMF reports on the switched-FICON infrastructure



Control Unit Port (CUP) provides users with an ability to monitor and manage FICON fabrics and cascaded fabrics. RMF, Systems Automation.

Also, some z/OS functions use CUP for communications and control.

- Long ago IBM made a decision that any resource that could impact performance and I/O predictability must be reported on by RMF.
- One such impactful resource is buffer credits.
- However, IBM chose to only report on buffer credits within RMF when switches are deployed to handle the I/O infrastructure.
- So a user must deploy switched-FICON and then that user can deploy and enable the CUP feature in order to get this data into RMF:
 - RMF 74-7 records

Switched-FICON Lets You Use CUP

Control Unit Port Is A Great Tool for FICON



- CUP code is part of a switches firmware:
 - Used to provide FICON Director Reports in RMF (buffer credits, frame size, etc.)
 - Used for in-band communication with Systems Automation
 - Supports Prohibit Dynamic Connectivity Mask (PDCMs)
 - Supports Dynamic Channel Path Management (DCM)
 - Provides Service Information Messages (SIM) to the z/OS console for FICON device hardware failures
 - Provides CUP Diagnostics support
 - Supports IBM's z/OS Health Checker
- Since each vendor writes their own CUP code they have complete freedom to provide capabilities such as RMF Reporting and CUP Diagnostics as well as providing enriched support for IBM's zHealth Check
- It is recommended that every FICON switch should have CUP enabled

RMF 74-7 FICON Director Activity Report

FICON DIRECTOR ACTIVITY

PAGE 1

```

z/OS V1R8                SYSTEM ID ABCD                START 04/12/2009-04.30.00  INTERVAL 000.15.00
                        RPT VERSION V1R8 RMF            END   04/12/2009-04.45.00  CYCLE 1.000 SECONDS
IODF = A2  CR-DATE: 03/27/2009  CR-TIME: 18.43.51  ACT: ACTIVATE
SWITCH DEVICE: 032B  SWITCH ID: 2B  TYPE: 006140  MODEL: 001  MAN: MCD  PLANT: 01  SERIAL: 00000HIJKLMN
PORT  -CONNECTION-  AVG FRAME  AVG FRAME SIZE  PORT BANDWIDTH (MB/SEC)  ERROR
ADDR  UNIT  ID  PACING  READ  WRITE  -- READ --  -- WRITE --  COUNT
05  CHP-H  05  0  849  1436  8.63  17.34  0
07  CHP  6B  1  1681  1395  50.87  10.32  0
09  CHP  15  0  833  1429  11.96  20.49  0
0C  CHP-H  64  0  939  1099  0.39  0.50  0
0D  CHP  6B  0  1328  1823  3.56  12.73  0
0F  CHP-H  66  0  1496  1675  1.85  2.61  0
10  CHP  64  0  644  1380  0.03  0.13  0
13  CHP-H  19  0  907  885  0.58  0.45  0
16  CU  C800  0  1241  738  20.97  5.72  0
    CU  CA00  0  70.10  3.82  0
1A  CHP  15  0  1144  1664  0.65  1.18  0
1B  CHP  0D  0  510  1759  0.12  1.72  0
1E  CHP-H  05  0  918  894  0.59  0.45  0
1F  CHP  21  0  1243  1736  0.97  1.70  0
20  CU  E900  0  1429  849  17.66  8.85  0
    CU  E800  0
    CU  E700  0
22  CHP  10  0  923  1753  0.55  2.78  0
23  CHP  54  0  1805  69  20.80  7.30  0
24  CHP  64  0  89  1345  0.00  0.00  0
27  CHP  6B  0  1619  82  0.01  0.00  0
28  SWITCH  95  270  998  789  50.32  10.56  0
2B  CHP  70  0  69  2022  0.00  0.71  0
    
```

Fabric with
zHPF Enabled

Indicator of
Potential Buffer Credit
Starvation

Average Frame
size Rx and Tx
(buffer credits)

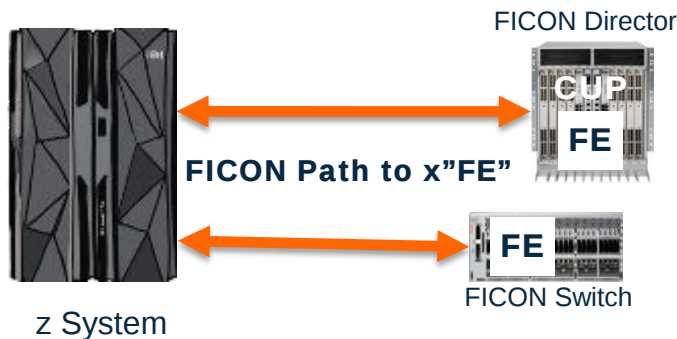
Indicator of how relevant
Pacing Delay and Avg.
Frame Size is to performance

Buffer Credit Starvation

Detecting Problems such as Buffer Credit Starvation

Produce the FICON Director Activity Report by creating the RMF 74-7 records, but this is only available when utilizing switched-FICON!

- Running Control Unit Port (CUP) per switching device allows RMF to access the CUP port – always x"FE" – to provide switch statistics back to RMF at its request



- Analyze the column labeled AVG FRAME PACING for non-zero numbers. Each of these represents the number of times a frame was waiting for 2.5 microseconds or longer in its port but the BBC count was at zero so the frame could not be sent

FICON DIRECTOR ACTIVITY

z/OS V1R8

SYSTEM ID PRD1

START 04/12/2009-04.30.00

END 04/12/2009-04.45.00

INTERVAL 000.15.00

CYCLE 1.000 SECONDS

PAGE 1

IODF = A2 CR-DATE: 03/27/2009 CR-TIME: 16.43.51 ACT: ACTIVATE

SWITCH DEVICE: 032B SWITCH ID: 2B TYPE: 006140 MODEL: 001 MAN: MCD PLANT: 01 SERIAL: 00000131656G

PORT	-CONNECTION-	AVG FRAME	PACING	READ	WRITE	PORT BANDWIDTH (MB/SEC)	ERROR
ADDR	UNIT	ID					COUNT
05	CHP	05	0	849	1436	8.63	17.34
07	CHP-H	6B	0	1681	1395	0.87	0.32
09	CHP	15	7	833	1429	11.96	20.49
0C	CHP-H	64	0	939	1099	0.39	0.50
0D	CHP	6B	1	1328	1823	3.56	12.73
0F	CHP-H	66	0	1496	1675	1.85	2.61
10	CHP	64	0	644	1380	0.03	0.13
13	CHP-H	19	0	907	885	0.58	0.45
16	CHP	12	0	1241	1738	0.97	1.72
17	CHP	0B	0	685	1688	0.10	0.82
1A	CHP	15	0	1144	1664	0.65	1.18
1B	CHP	0D	0	510	1759	0.12	1.72
1E	CHP-H	05	0	918	894	0.59	0.45
1F	CHP	21	0	1243	1736	0.97	1.70
20	CU	E900	0	1429	849	17.66	8.85
	CU	E800					
	CU	E700					
22	CHP	10	0	923	1753	0.55	2.78
23	CHP	54	0	1805	69	0.80	0.00
24	CHP	64	0	89	1345	0.00	0.00
27	CHP	6B	0	1619	82	0.01	0.00
28	CHP	95	27	918	1589	10.32	30.56
2B	CHP	70	0	69	2022	0.00	0.71

FICON Director Activity Report With Frame Delay

Using Buffer Credits is how
FC does Flow Control,
also called "Frame Pacing"

F I C O N D I R E C T O R A C T I V I T Y										PAGE	1
z/OS V1R8			SYSTEM ID ABCD			START 04/12/2009-04.30.00			INTERVAL 000.15.00		
			RPT VERSION V1R8 RMF			END 04/12/2009-04.45.00			CYCLE 1.000 SECONDS		
IODF = A2 CR-DATE: 03/27/2009			CR-TIME: 18.43.51			ACT: ACTIVATE					
SWITCH DEVICE: 032B			SWITCH ID: 2B			MODEL: 001 MAN: MCD PLANT: 01			SERIAL: 0000SHIJKLMN		
PORT -CONNECTION-			TYPE: 006140			PORT BANDWIDTH (MB/SEC)			ERROR		
ADDR	UNIT	ID	AVG FRAME PACING	AVG FRAME SIZE	READ	WRITE	-- READ --	-- WRITE --	COUNT		
05	CHP-H	05	0	849	1436		8.63	17.34	0		
07	CHP	6B	1	1681	1395		50.87	10.32	0		
09	CHP	15	0	833	1429		11.96	20.49	0		
0C	CHP-H	64	0	939	1099		0.39	0.50	0		
0D	CHP	6B	0	1328	1823		3.56	12.73	0		
0F	CHP-H	66	0	1496	1675		1.85	2.61	0		
10	CHP	64	0	644	1380		0.03	0.13	0		
13	CHP-H	19	0	907	885		0.58	0.45	0		
16	CU	C800	0	1241	738		20.97	5.72	0		
	CU	CA00					70.10	3.82	0		
1A	CHP	15	0	1144	1664		0.65	1.18	0		
1B	CHP	0D	0	510	1759		0.12	1.72	0		
1E	CHP-H	05	0	918	894		0.59	0.45	0		
1F	CHP	21	0	1243	1736		0.97	1.70	0		
20	CU	E900	0	1429	849		17.66	8.85	0		
	CU	E800									
	CU	E700									
22	CHP	10	0	923	1753		0.55	2.78	0		
23	CHP	54	0	1805	69		20.80	7.30	0		
24	CHP	64	0	89	1345		0.00	0.00	0		
27	CHP	6B	0	1619	82		0.00	0.00	0		
28	SWITCH	95	270	998	789		50.32	10.56	0		
2B	CHP	70	0	69	2022		0.00	0.71	0		

In the last
15 minutes



This port had a
frame to send
but did not
have any
Buffer Credits
left to use
to send them.

And this
happened
270 times
during the
interval.

Link Utilization was Moderate
so this should get our attention!

And this is
an ISL Link!

Indicators of Buffer Credit Starvation

Fabric with zHPF Enabled



Frame Delay Does Not Mean There Is A Problem

Check for C3 Discards and Frame Delay

- When experiencing performance problems that might be BBC related:
 - Correlate “time at zero buffer credits” along with Class 3 (C3) discards
 - C3 discard: a port cannot deliver a frame before the Hold Time is exceeded
 - Often as long as 500 milliseconds (ms) or half a second
 - When the hold time value is exceeded then that frame is dropped from the port by the switch port and the I/O must be re-driven – too many of these is BAD!
 - One of the reasons for C3 discards to occur is running out of buffer credits.
 - Fabric congestion could also result in this situation.
- Other CLI commands are available to provide additional information that will be useful when determining if real buffer credit issues exist. For Brocade:
 - *portstatshow*
 - *framelog*
 - *porterrshow*
- So a user can pretty easily figure out if there is a potential problem (e.g. BBC at zero for longer than 2.5 μ s) or a really big problem (e.g. C3 discards occurring at 200-500 milliseconds) but not too much in between! That “in-between” 2.5 μ s and 500 ms takes some real troubleshooting!

This Section

- Data Encoding
- Forward Error Correction (FEC)
- Compression and Encryption on ISLs

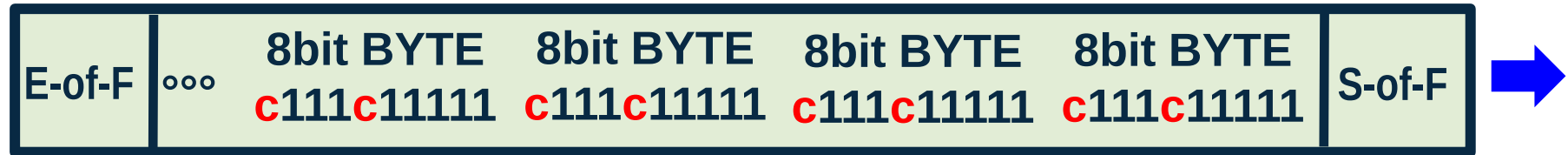




Data Encoding – Patented by IBM

8b/10b compared to 64b/66b

8b/10b (since 1950s but patented in 1983)

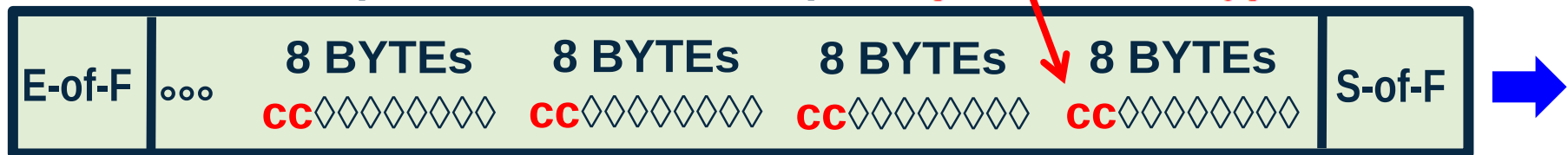


Payload Area of Frame – up to 2112 bytes of data

8b/10b: Each 8 bit Byte becomes a 10 bit Byte or ~20% overhead

64b/66b (available since 2003)

Sync Header – copy/save hi-order bit



Payload Area of Frame – up to 2112 bytes of data

64b/66b: Two check bits are added after every 8 Bytes or ~3% overhead

- At the end of every 32, eight byte groups, we have collected 32 hi-order ck bits
- This is a 32 bit check sum to enable Forward Error Correction to clean up links
 - 1/2/4 and 8Gbps will always use 8b/10b data encoding
 - 10Gbps and 16Gbps will always use 64b/66b data encoding



Forward Error Correction (FEC)

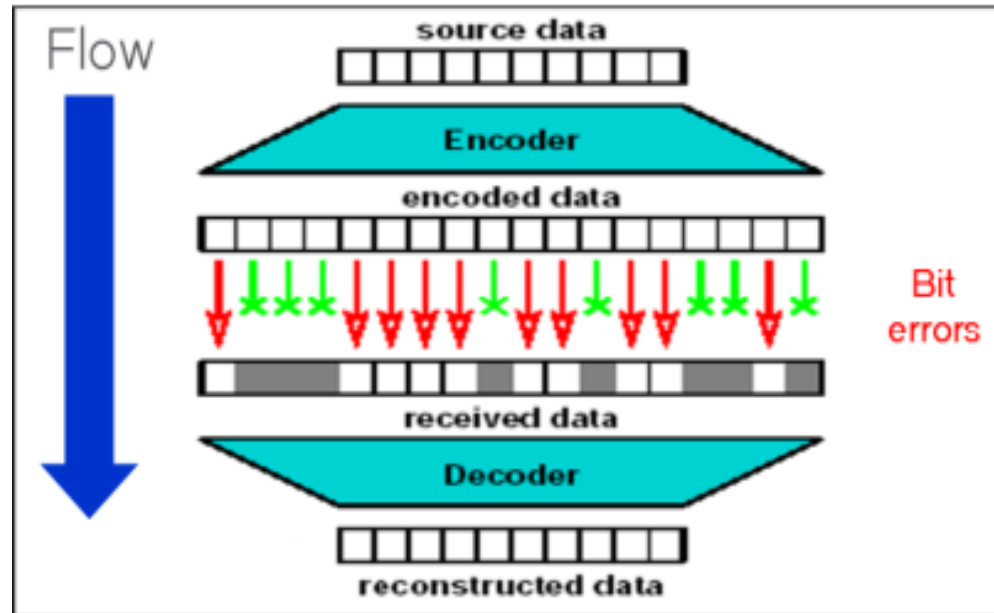
Enhances transmission reliability and thus performance

- 16 Gbps devices can recover from bit errors on a 10 Gb or a 16 Gb data stream (64b/66b encoding)
- Corrects up to 11 bit errors per each 2,112 bits in a frame transmission:
 - Makes as many as 11 bit corrections per each 264 bytes of frame data
- Almost like adding additional power (db) to a link
- Each vendor of 16 Gbps devices can decide how they want, or do not want, to support FEC on their interfaces



Forward Error Correction (FEC)

For 16G ISLs, FICON Express16S (FX16S) CHPIDS and 16G DASD



- FEC allows FICON channels to operate at higher speeds, over longer distances, with reduced power and higher throughput
- Those paths retain the same reliability and robustness that FICON has historically been known to provide at slower data rates
- FEC is for ISLs, 16G channels and also for IBM DS8870 DASD currently:
 - EMC, HDS and Oracle have yet to announce their plans to support 16G FEC

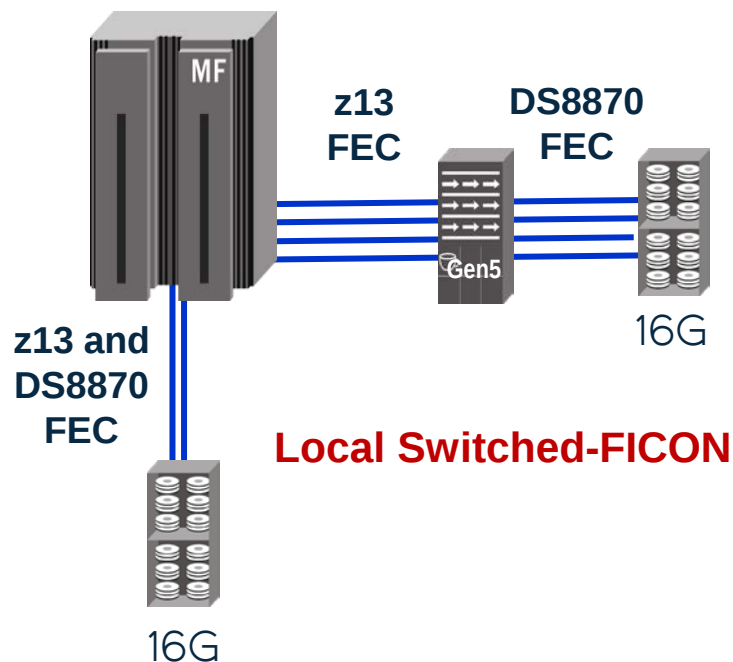


Forward Error Correction (FEC)

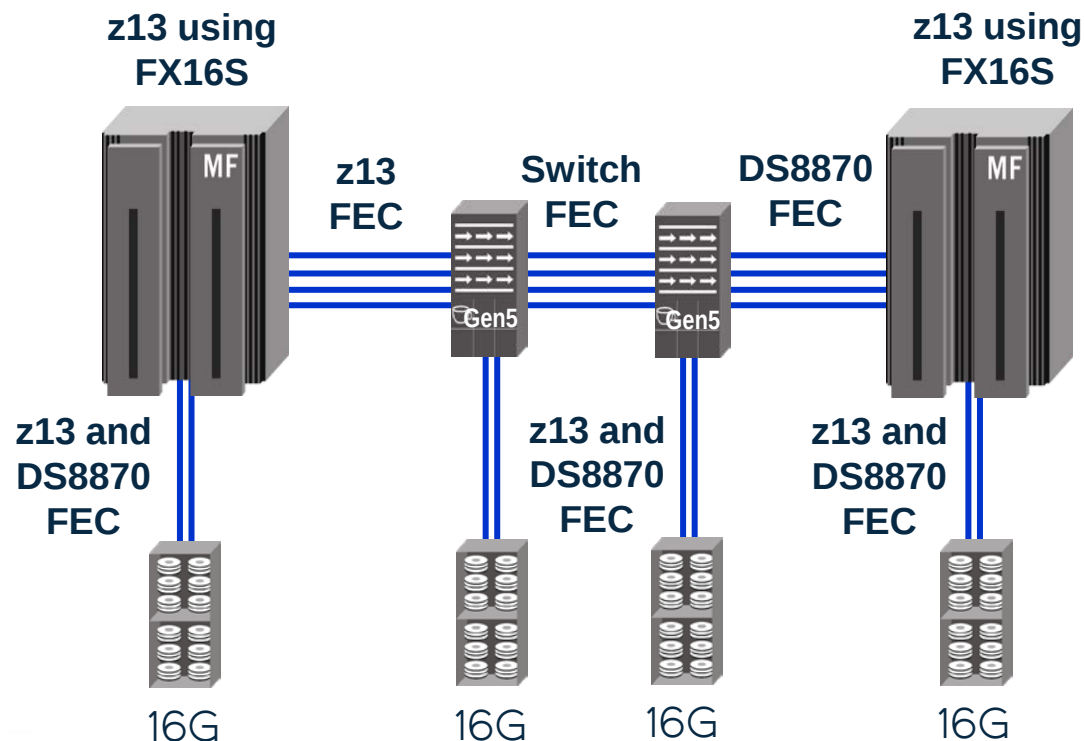
And FICON Express16S CHPIDS and IBM DS8870

Here is a of diagram to show how FEC is deployed with z13 and 16G switching.

z13 using FX16S



Cascaded Switched-FICON



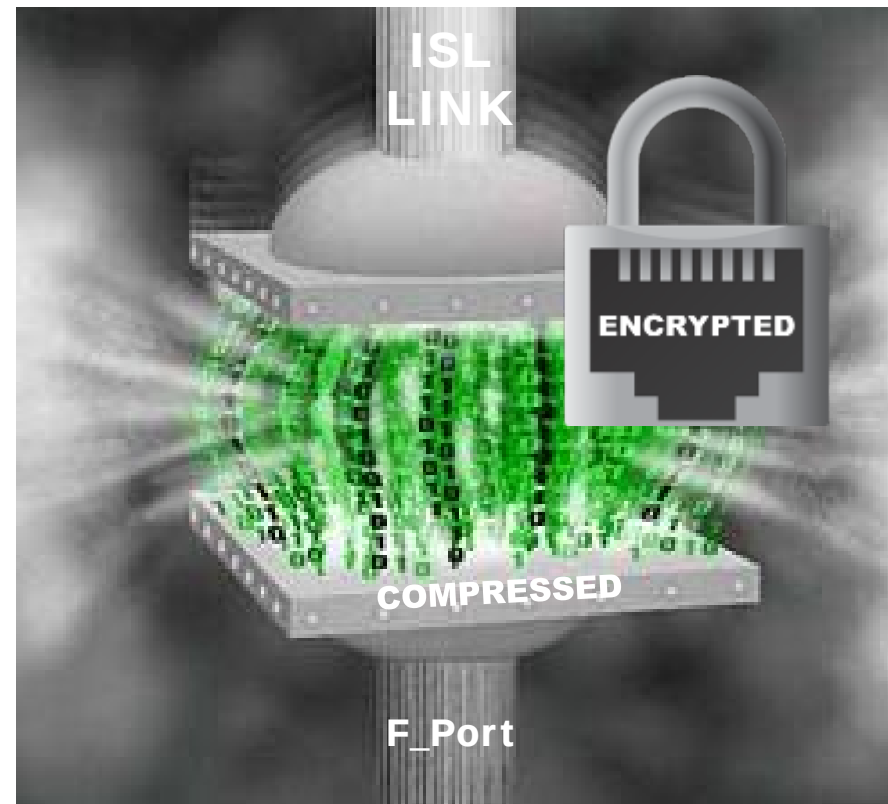


Compression and Encryption on ISL Links

Better site-to-site security across ISLs – for In-Flight Data Only

This is in-flight switch-to-switch encryption and compression

- Secure Transfers with Encryption:
 - Encrypts data, at any speed, for 16 Gbps FC ports on Gen 5 Directors:
 - Uses AES-GCM algorithm for both authentication and encryption
 - Uses 256-bit encryption key
- Compression for Network Efficiency:
 - 2:1 compression on ISL data
 - Uses LZO algorithm
- When compression is enabled, the number of buffer credits required will at least double on that ISL link
- Requires no license and can be used together or separately or not at all





My Next Presentation:

z13 and Brocade Resilient, Intelligent and Synergistic I/O Processing



Wednesday August 12, 2015 -- 4:30pm to 5:30pm -- Session 17503



Please Fill Out Your Online Evaluations!!

Thank You For Attending Today!



QR Code

This was session:

17506

And Please Indicate in the evaluation if there are other presentations you would like to see us present in this track at SHARE!

Your
Eval



My Reaction!

- 5: “Aw shucks. Thanks!”**
- 4: “Mighty kind of you!”**
- 3: “Glad you enjoyed this!”**
- 2: “A Few Golden Nuggets!”**
- 1: “You Got a nice nap!”**

Monday August 3, 2015 – 11:15 am to 12:15 pm – Session 17506