Session 17525

z/VM Virtual Switch: Advanced Topics

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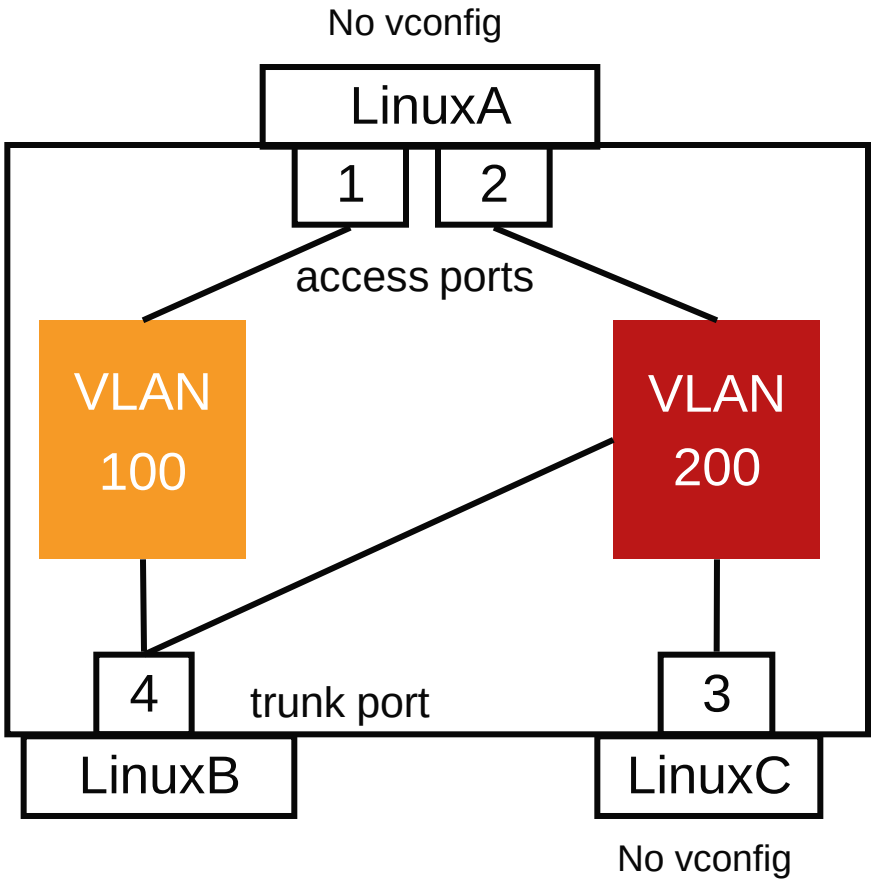
Agenda

- Port-based authorization
- Link aggregation (channel bonding)
- Shared Link Aggregation port groups
- HiperSocket Bridge
- Virtual Ethernet Port Aggregator (VEPA)
- SNMP MIB

Port-based VSWITCH access list

- Explicit port definitions
  - Admin-assigned port number
  - Each is associated with one or more VLAN ids
  - Each is reserved for a specific user ID
  - Port type
  - SET VSWITCH GRANT not used
- If user has more than one reserved port, must select via PORTNUM on COUPLE command



Port-based VSWITCH access list

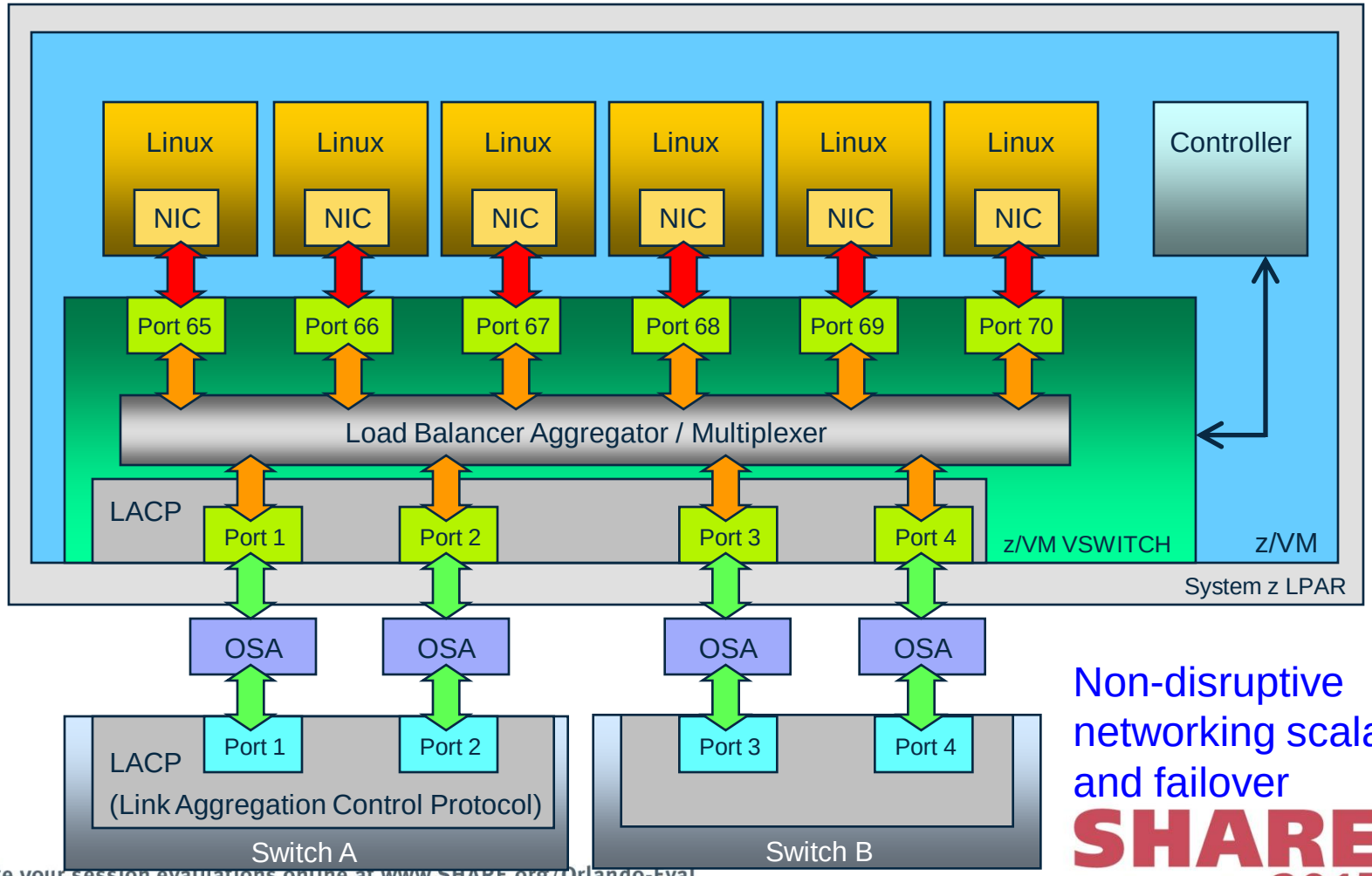
```
define vswitch vsw1 portbased vlan aware native none
set vswitch vsw1 portnumber 1 userid LINUXA
set vswitch vsw1 portnumber 2 userid LINUXA
set vswitch vsw1 portnumber 3 userid LINUXC
set vswitch vsw1 portnumber 4 userid LINUXB porttype TRUNK
set vswitch vsw1 vlanid 100 add 1     4
set vswitch vsw1 vlanid 200 add   2 3 4

LINUXA:  NICDEF 4E0 TYPE QDIO
         NICDEF 5E0 TYPE QDIO
         COMMAND COUPLE 4E0 TO SYSTEM VSW1 PORTNUM 1
         COMMAND COUPLE 5E0 TO SYSTEM VSW1 PORTNUM 2

LINUXB:  NICDEF 4E0 TYPE QDIO LAN SYSTEM VSW1
           + vconfig eth0.100
           + vconfig eth0.200

LINUXC:  NICDEF 4E0 TYPE QDIO LAN SYSTEM VSW1
```

IEEE 802.3ad Link Aggregation



Non-disruptive networking scalability and failover

IEEE 802.3ad Link Aggregation

- Binds multiple OSA-Express ports into a single pipe
  - Up to 8 OSA ports per virtual switch
  - Increases Virtual Switch total bandwidth
  - Provides seamless failover in the event of a failed OSA, switch port, cable, or switch
  - Only supported for Layer 2 VSWITCHes
  - Virtual NIC is limited to bandwidth of single OSA

- With “virtual chassis” support from switch vendor, can even handle physical switch outage

IEEE 802.3ad Link Aggregation

- Define an OSA port group
  - SET PORT GROUP name JOIN E100 E200.P1
- DEFINE VSWITCH … ETHERNET GROUP name
- OSA ports cannot be shared with other VSWITCHes or LPARs unless using IBM z13 and z/VM 6.3

Multi-VSWITCH Link Aggregation Port Groups

- IBM z13 exclusive!

- Provides a single point of control for OSA Port management across multiple VSWITCHes sharing the same physical port group.

- Requires two new system constructs
  - Global VSWITCH - Provides the mechanism for a Virtual Switch to span multiple z/VM LPARs within a CPC.
  - Inter-VSWITCH Link (IVL) - Provides management and data communications between Global VSWITCHes within the same or other z/VM instances.

Shared Link Aggregation Port Groups

- VSWITCHes are in communication with each other using a registered multicast group
- Port group can be used by different VSWITCHes
- Configuration changes are propagated to all z/VM systems sharing the port group
- You can manage the port group from any z/VM system connected to it
- Systems cooperate to balance traffic flow

The IVL Domain

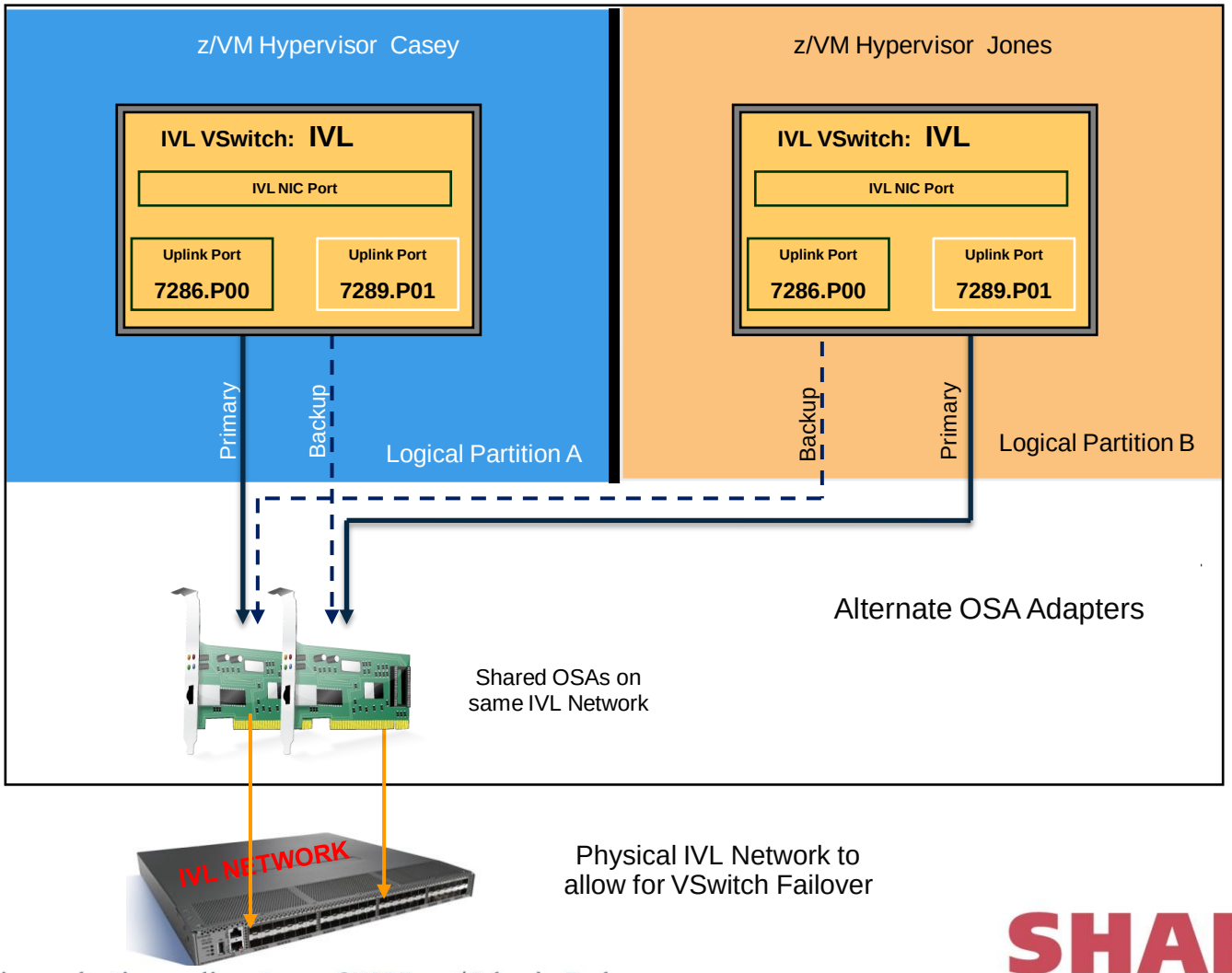
- An IVL domain is a group of up to 16 z/VM LPARs on a CPC
- All z/VM Hypervisors sharing the same physical port group must be members of the same IVL domain
- A z/VM LPAR can be a member of exactly one IVL domain
- The IVL domain is established through an IVL VSWITCH
  - One per z/VM LPAR
- Up to 8 IVL Domains can share a single LAN segment
- The bandwidth required by the IVL is minor, consisting of management and LAG data recovery communications.

IVL VSWITCH

- **DEFINE VSWITCH name {options}**
  - TYPE IVL
  - DOMAIN A through P
  - VLAN vid
  - Conventional RDEV list or exclusive port GROUP

- Remember to provide OSA port redundancy for IVL!

IVL Network Configuration Domain B VLAN 8



IVL Controls

- **SET VSWITCH name IVLPORT {option}**
  - VLAN - Change the VLAN ID associated with the IVL
  - RESET - Terminate and recreate the IVL port connection
  - PING - Tests connectivity between z/VM hypervisors in the same IVL domain
    - SET VSWITCH IVL IVLPORT PING ALL
  - HEARTBEAT TIMEOUT - Adjusts how often the local z/VM system confirms connectivity with the other domain members

Create the Shared Port Group

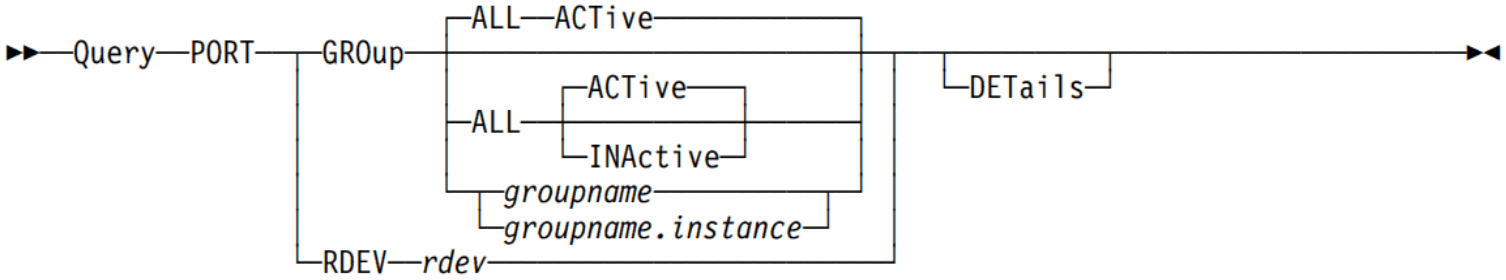
- **SET PORT GROUP name LACP ACTIVE SHARED**
- **SET PORT GROUP name JOIN rdev1.port rdev2.port**

- Device numbers can be any device number on the chpid

- The z/VM Control Program will select the device numbers to be used on the target adapter.

- z/VM will automatically propagate Shared Port Group information to all active IVL Members in the same IVL domain (B, in this example)

Port Group Verification

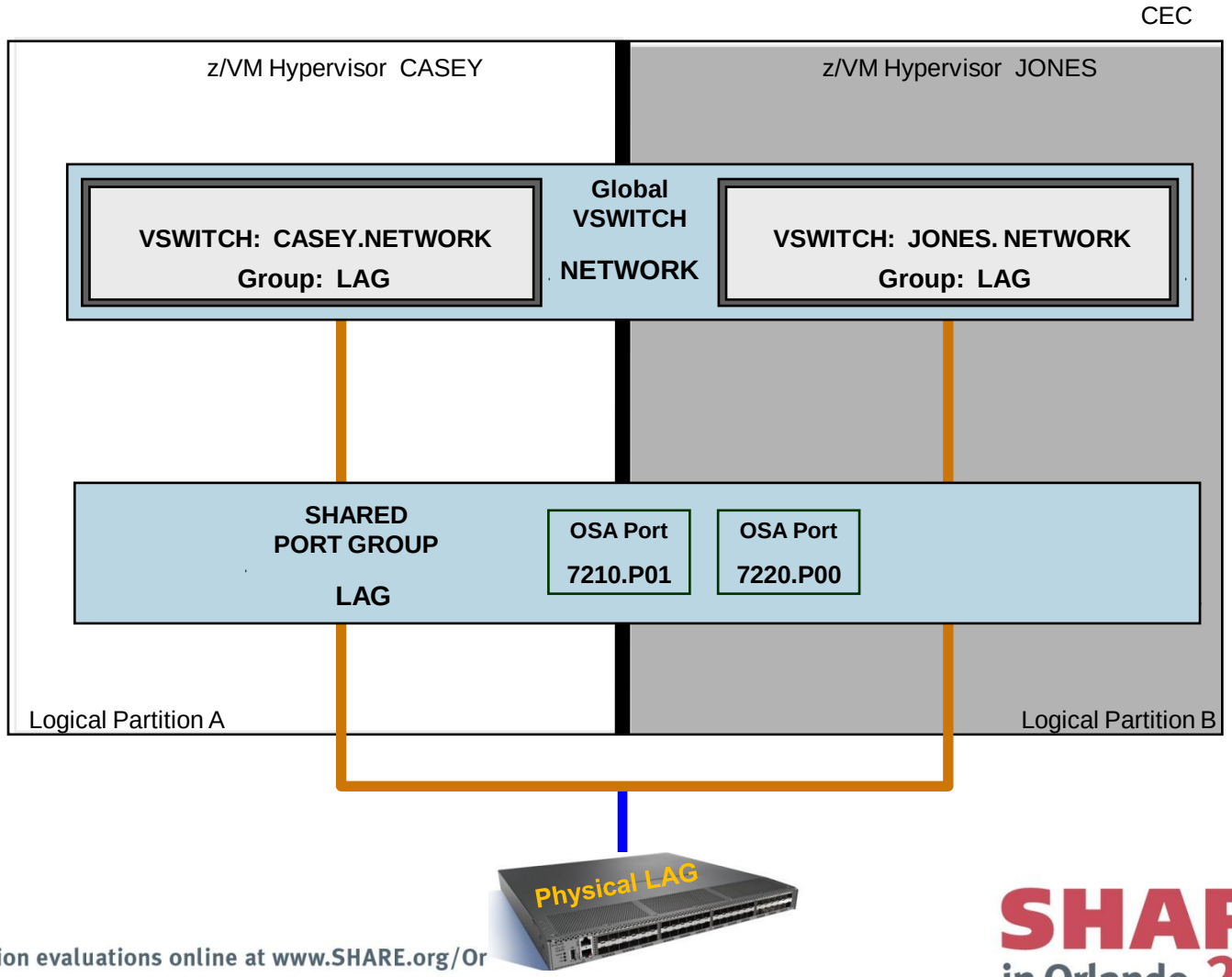


- ALL
  Return all active port groups defined in the system
- ACTIVE
  Return only those port groups associated with a virtual switch
- INACTIVE
  Return only those port groups NOT associated with a virtual switch
- GROUP groupname
  Return only the specified port group
- GROUP groupname.instance
  Return only the specified port group instance
- RDEV
  Return only information for the specified real device
- DETAILS
  Return additional information

Define a Global VSWITCH

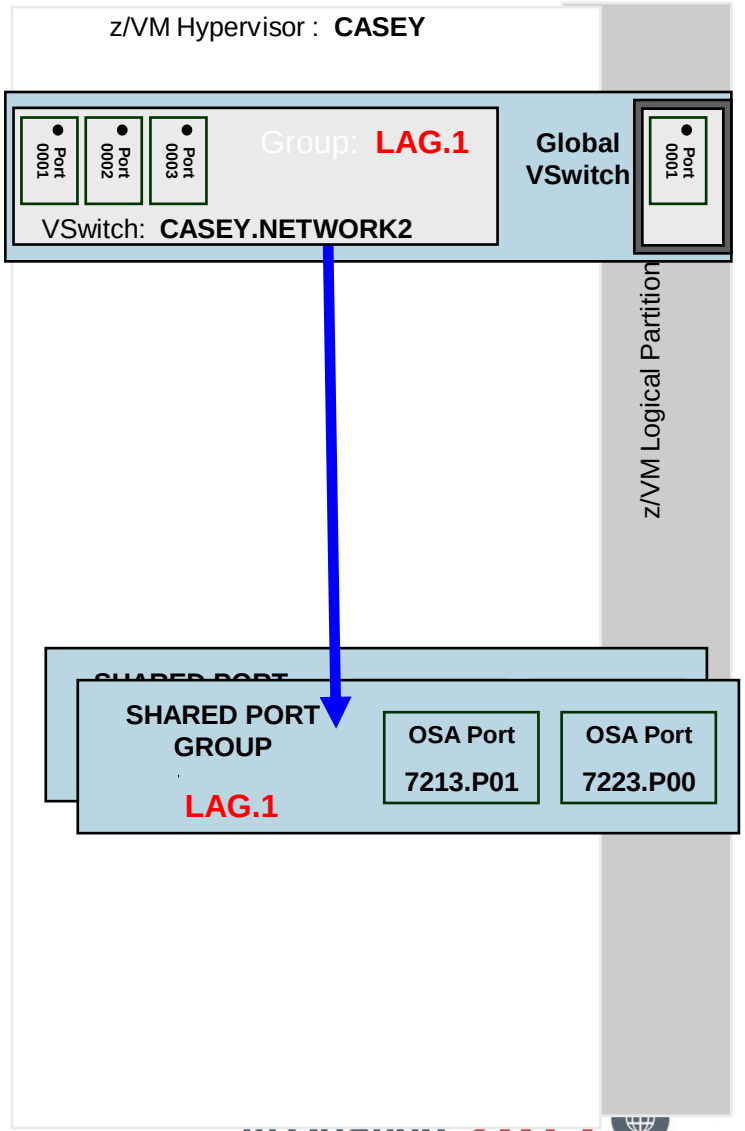
- **DEFINE VSWITCH name GLOBAL ETHERNET GROUP group**
- A Global VSWITCH is a virtual switch which can span multiple z/VM instances through the IVL Network and which shares the same physical port group.
- Must be defined with the same name in all sharing LPARs
- A Global ID (systemid.vsw_name) is generated by the control program
- Multiple Global VSWITCHes can be defined per z/VM LPAR
- An instance of a Shared Port Group is created when it is configured to a virtual switch (group.0).

Multi-VSwitch LAG Configuration



Sharing A LAG within the Same z/VM Hypervisor

- DEFINE VSWITCH NETWORK2
  GLOBAL ETHERNET GROUP LAG
- LAG.0 is the base instance of a Shared Port Group and is the only instance propagated to other IVL Members within the same domain.
- A second instance of the shared Port Group is created (LAG.1) when it is configured to a second vswitch. It remains local to the defining system.
- Up to four port group instances can be defined within an LPAR.
- The only difference between the base and its other instances are the device numbers allocated for each adapter within the LAG.
- z/VM will automatically allocate an OSA triplet for each adapter within in the group from the available devices in the LPAR.



Best Practices for Link Aggregation

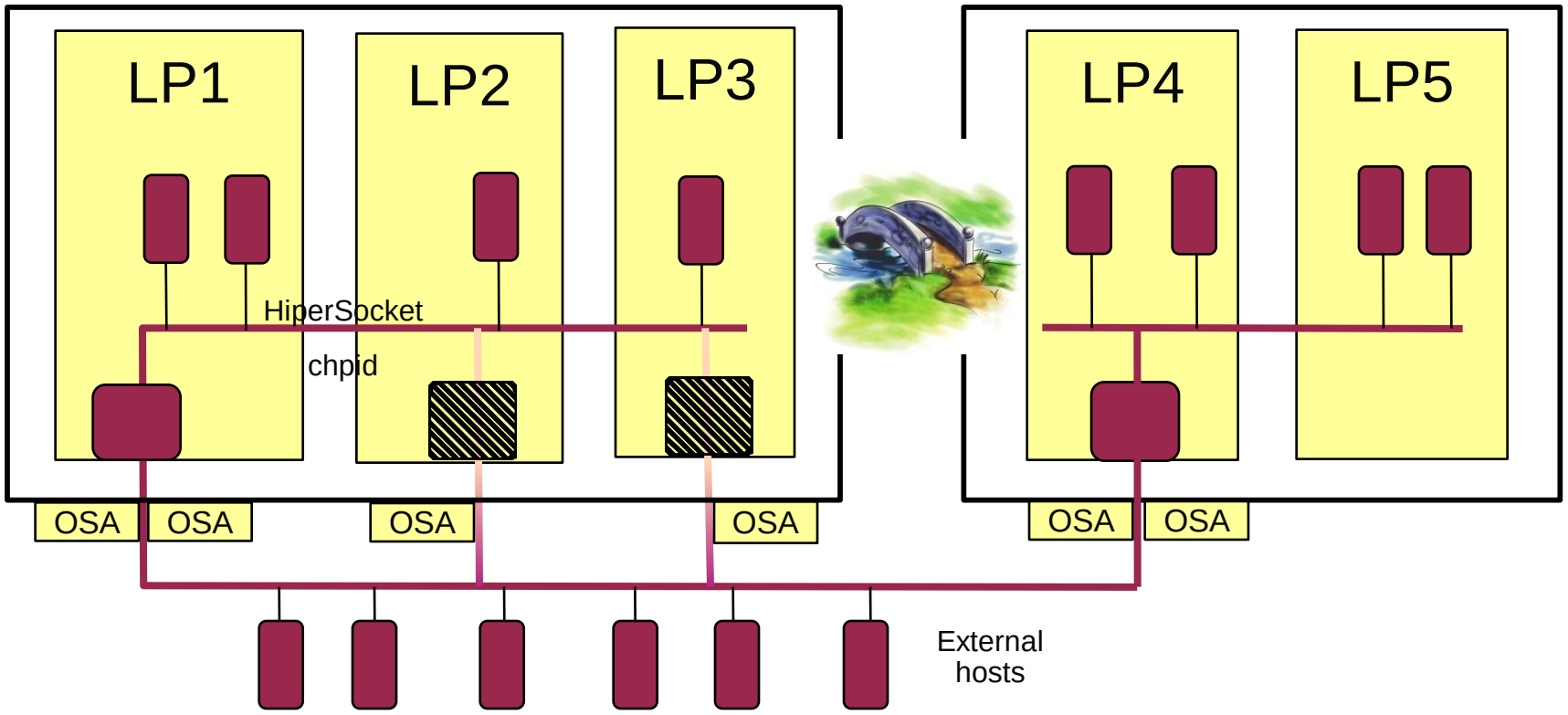
- Use a pair of switches that support “virtual chassis”
  - Provides cross-switch link aggregation port group
  - Plug each switch into separate power source
- Use two OSA ports on different PCHIDs
  - Each one plugged into one of the two switches
  - Separate back-planes to ensure separate power supply
- Provides continuous operation in case of
  - Single-source power failure
  - Switch reboot (e.g. maintenance)
  - Switch port failure
  - OSA port failure
  - OSA firmware upgrade
  - Cable failure

HiperSocket Virtual Switch Bridge

- Connect HiperSocket LAN to ethernet LAN without a router
  - Same subnet as ethernet LAN

- Full redundancy
  - Up to 5 bridges per CPC (CEC)
  - Automatic failover with optional failback
  - Each bridge can have more than one OSA uplink (typical)

HiperSocket Virtual Switch Bridge



- One active bridge per LPAR
- Path MTU discovery support
  - Large frames inside
  - Smaller frames outside

HiperSocket Virtual Switch Bridge

- DEFINE VSWITCH switch
- (all the traditional keywords)
- ETHERNET
  BRIDGEPORT RDEV hipersocket_rdev [PRIMARY]

- The HiperSocket device must be on a CHPID defined in the IOCP with CHPARM=x4

- CP DEFINE CHPID …. EXTERNAL_BRIDGED is available for dynamic I/O

VEPA - Virtual Ethernet Port Aggregator

6.3

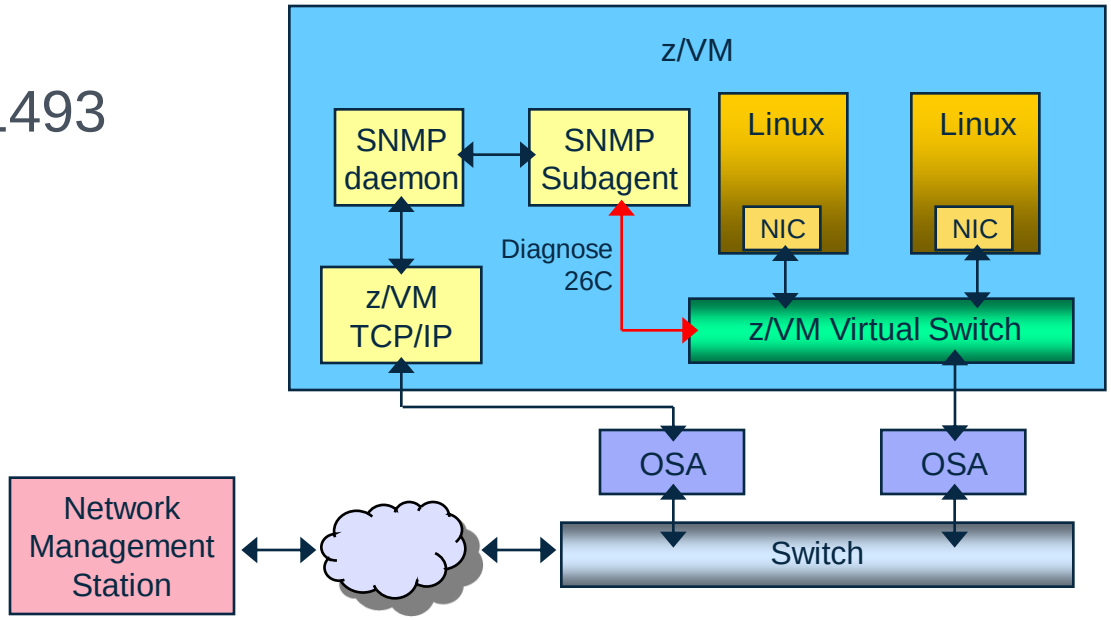
- IEEE 802.1Qbg relaxes prohibition on packet reflection
  - Frames now allowed to be "reflected" back to the origin port
  - Physical switch receives all guest-to-guest traffic
  - Enables use of external packet filtering and monitoring
  - No hardware configuration required

- SET VSWITCH … VEPA ON | OFF
  - VEPA and ISOLATE are mutually exclusive
    - VEPA implies isolation
  - VSWITCH will verify external switch support

z/VM Virtual Switch SNMP MIB

- Integrates VSWITCH into standards-based switch management and monitoring tools

- SNMP subagent provides bridge MIB data
  - Defined by RFC 1493



Diagnostics

- CP QUERY VMLAN
  - to get global VM LAN information (e.g. limits)
  - to find out what service has been applied
- CP QUERY VSWITCH ACTIVE
  - to find out which users are coupled
  - to find out which IP addresses are active
- CP QUERY NIC DETAILS
  - to find out if your adapter is coupled
  - to find out if your adapter is initialized
  - to find out if your IP addresses have been registered
  - to find out how many bytes/packets sent/received

Diagnostics – Discarded packets

- Uplink port (CP's perspective)
  - QUERY VSWITCH ACTIVE
  - RX: VSWITCH definition does not match physical port definition (trunk vs, access)
  - TX: Overrun on the OSA. Link is too slow. Use faster OSA or link aggregation.

- Virtual NIC (guest perspective)
  - QUERY NIC USER <userid> <vdev>
  - RX: Packets are arriving faster than the guest can consume them
  - TX: Packet cannot be delivered to destination
    - Unauthorized VLAN ID on virtual trunk port
    - Untagged frame on virtual trunk with NATIVE NONE
    - Guest configured as VLAN-aware (vconfig), but has virtual access port
    - Overrun target guest

Summary

- Use IEEE VLANs to simplify configuration
- Use Link Aggregation for best availability
- Integrate into SNMP-based monitoring solutions
- Port-based or User-based configuration style
- The latest technologies

Support Timeline

z/VM 6.3	▪ Shared link aggregation port groups ▪ VEPA ▪ SET VSWITCH SWITCHOVER
z/VM 6.2	▪ Port-based configuration provides separate VLAN per virtual access port ▪ HiperSocket bridge
z/VM 6.1	▪ Uplink port can be OSA or guest ▪ zEnterprise Ensemble (IEDN and INMN) ▪ VLAN UNAWARE, NATIVE NONE
z/VM V5	▪ Virtual and physical port isolation ▪ z/VM TCP/IP support for Layer 2 ▪ Link aggregation ▪ SNMP monitor ▪ Virtual SPAN ports for sniffers ▪ Virtual trunk and access port controls ▪ Layer 2 (MAC) frame transport ▪ External security manager access control
z/VM V4	▪ Layer 3 (IPv4 only) Virtual Switch with IEEE VLANs ▪ Guest LAN with OSA and HiperSocket simulation

References

- Publications:
  - z/VM CP Planning and Administration
  - z/VM CP Command and Utility Reference
  - z/VM Connectivity

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