



HP FlexFabric: New Technology Layer for the Converged Infrastructure Architecture

Overview

As organizations deploy virtual architectures, they are finding the time required to provision a new virtual machine sharply limits their ability to take advantage of the benefits of virtualization. Multiple hierarchical networks and the separate administration teams that support them are limiting IT responsiveness and escalating costs.

Tighter orchestration between network administrators and server administrators is necessary to improve time-to-service, and network convergence is necessary to reduce costs. Today's storage and networking resources must also become more scalable and fully virtualized to match the growth of virtualized servers and their dynamic requirements. The goal is to make any resource shareable and expandable to meet new and changing application demands. A data center fabric must enable rapid, automated change, instead of the manual intervention required today.

HP FlexFabric connects thousands of servers and storage solutions to a virtualized, high-performance and low-latency network. It is a "wire once" network fabric connecting compute, network and storage resources on demand. This enables businesses to thrive in an increasingly unpredictable economy by providing data center environments with elasticity – the ability to stretch and snap back to meet rapidly changing needs.

A technology layer of the new [HP Converged Infrastructure architecture](#), FlexFabric merges the technology, management tools and partner ecosystems of [HP ProCurve](#) and [HP Virtual Connect](#) (VC) solutions. This shifts network intelligence from the core closer to the server edge to improve performance, utilization and flexibility. For the first time, network connections and capacity can be fully virtualized from the edge to the core to deliver "network as a service," allowing resources to be accessed "on the fly."

HP FlexFabric enables customers to:

- Achieve break through cost structures
- Improve business agility and gain faster time to service
- Ensure investment protection for existing data center networks

Wire-once, dynamic assembly – always predictable

As organizations expand their virtual architectures, tighter orchestration between network administrators and server administrators is necessary to better manage connectivity and reduce costs.

HP FlexFabric technology delivers that integration while consolidating multiple protocols into a single network fabric to dramatically lower network complexity and costs. This wire-once approach converges Ethernet data and storage networks onto one fabric. As a result, customers can easily adapt connections and performance to meet changes in

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workload demands.

Key customer benefits

- Lowered costs by consolidating server connectivity and reducing the size of the network infrastructure, including the number of switches.
- Elimination of costly and time consuming change management processes, while reducing the number of error-prone or conflicting configuration steps.
- Coordination of connection design and management into a single system with flexible automation and orchestration capabilities. This allows connections to be instantly migrated as applications move across different resources or between data centers.
- Improved, predictable performance and quality of service by dynamically scaling capacity to match application demands “on the fly.” Customers can provision storage area network (SAN) and local area network (LAN) resources in advance and enable them as needed.

Industry standards for multivendor support

HP FlexFabric is based on industry standards and offers a modular design to support multivendor solutions. Customers can leverage their current environments with new HP solutions and processes for building a converged infrastructure, including network management and application deployment.

More information about the HP Converged Infrastructure architecture and the key role of HP FlexFabric is available at www.hp.com/go/convergedinfrastructure.

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