

NVMF-302-1: Benefits and Use Cases for NVMe-oF

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NVMe Transports

NVMe Transports

Memory

Data & Commands/Responses use shared memory

Example:

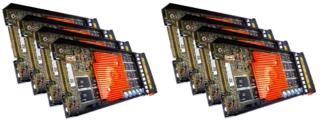
PCI Express

Message Commands/Responses use Capsules Data may use Capsules or Messages Commands/Responses use Capsules Data may use Capsules or Shared Memory Examples: Fibre Channel, TCP (InfiniBand, RoCE, iWARP) Fabric Message-Based Transports

Capsule = Encapsulated NVMe Command/Completion within a transport message **Data** = Transport data exchange mechanism (if any)



NVMe on Arrays

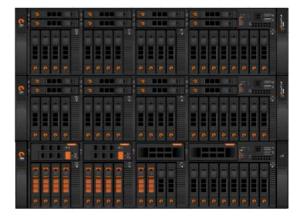


Chassis PCIe









NVMe Backend PCIe/NVMe-oF

NVMe Frontend NVMe-oF



Backend NVMe transport examples

PCIe

 Good for connectivity within a chassis, outside of the chassis it has challenges (hardware, scale, operations)

NVMe/RoCE

- Uses same transport model as PCIe (direct memory) and mitigates challenges
- Pure Storage has been shipping NVMe/RoCE on the backend as DirectFlash Shelf to scale capacity since 2018

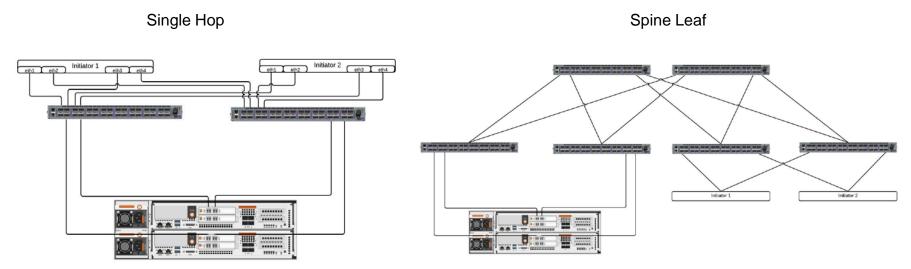


Frontend NVMe transport examples

- NVMe/RoCE
 - Leverages Ethernet. Use cases include front end and back end deployments. Customer applications tend to be disaggregated POD designs
- NVMe/FC
 - Mature Fabric easy path to adoption for customers who want to leverage existing FC operations model
- NVMe/TCP
 - Generic Ethernet connectivity. Use cases include designs that leverage data network and storage network



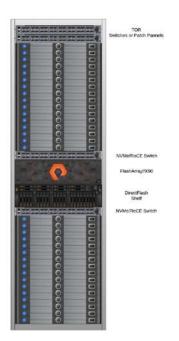
Frontend NVMe Ethernet topologies



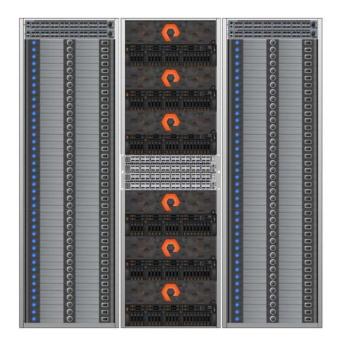


Disaggregated Designs

Rack Design



POD Design





Customer/Market Observations

- The OS ecosystem for NVMe-oF is still developing
- Many Fibre Channel customers are looking to adopt NVMe/FC on existing infrastructure
- Some customers are looking to move to an all Ethernet data center fabric
- NVMe/RoCE is works well in disaggregated rack and pod deployment scenarios
- NVMe/TCP is gaining mindshare and poised to be very popular in less determinstic Ethernet environments



Q & A