



## Data Center Networks and Fibre Channel Over Ethernet (FCoE)

By Silvano Gai

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Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) is a transport standard that takes Fibre Channel (FC) frames and encapsulates them within an enhanced Ethernet network. FCoE retains Fibre Channel upper-level protocol features such as data integrity checking and flow control, but not its cables and interfaces. Fibre Channel is designed as a channel interface. That is, it guarantees lossless delivery of frames with a predictable latency. Does FCoE run on standard Ethernet? No. Standard 10/100, 1 Gb or 10 Gigabit Ethernet (10 GbE) isn't a lossless technology and doesn't have the functionality -- flow control, guaranteed delivery, etc -- associated with a channel interface like parallel SCSI, Fibre Channel, FICON or ESCON. FCoE Fibre Channel over Ethernet. FCRB FCF over RBridge. FIP FCoE Initialization Protocol. The previous subsections focused on the data plane, i.e., storage data exchanges transported over an FCoE encapsulation. FCoE also requires control and management traffic that is used for initializing sessions (i.e., FIP), distributing routing information (i.e., FSPF), and administering and managing fabric. Unified ports that support traditional Ethernet, Fibre Channel (FC), and Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE). Well if FCoE runs over regular Ethernet, that why does it support "Ethernet and Fibre Channel over Ethernet"? This is why I am curious as to whether FCoE will run on any Ethernet switch and these switches just support "bonus" features, or if you do indeed require a specialist switch. FCoE doesn't run over regular Ethernet though, it requires Data Centre Ethernet/Bridging - an evolution of Ethernet that is only currently supported on a very limited number of, typically high-end, switches such as Cisco's Nexus range. THIS is a great, and surprisingly short, book that would pretty much tell you everything you'd need to know about the subject - I'd recommend it. Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) solves the problem of organizations having to run parallel network infrastructures for local area networks and storage area networks. FCoE is short for Fibre Channel over Ethernet. Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) solves the problem of organizations having to run parallel network infrastructures for their local area networks (LANs) and their storage area networks (SANs). As a result, they have to operate separate switches, host bus adapters (HBAs), network interface cards (NICs) and cables for each of these networks. Even utilizing a virtualization solution like VMware can actually increase the number of network adapters required to carry traffic out of the servers. FCoE Reduces Cards and Cabling. Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) © 2011 Storage Networking Industry Association. All Rights Reserved. FCoE Initialization Protocol (FIP). FCoE is made for a Data Center Fabric - Not applicable for the Outfacing Network T11.3's FC-BB-6 Ad-Hoc Working Group accepted VN2VN for the next specification. Look for VN2VN to provide viable FCoE SANs for the Entry/Low-End IT Environment Will be seen to be competitive with iSCSI, especially with the SW version of FCoE.