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Jason Nolet, Brocade Vice President of Data Center and Enterprise Networking, describes how the Brocade® VDX™ product family is helping organizations deploy Ethernet fabrics as a way to increase their business agility.

## Simplifying Networks through Ethernet Fabrics

**The Brocade VDX product family reduces network costs and complexity while improving business agility.**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As organizations around the world face growing business demands, they are increasingly turning to virtualization as a way to implement flexible cloud-based architectures. Unfortunately, their classic Ethernet networks often lack the performance and scalability to support the cloud model. As a result, they are seeking innovative technologies that streamline the migration to this new world.

Brocade is leading this transformation by helping organizations build cloud-optimized networks that offer a wide range of business advantages. By pioneering the use of Ethernet fabrics based on the Brocade VDX product family, Brocade has revolutionized the role of the network in mission-critical enterprise environments.

### **MAXIMIZING THE BENEFITS OF VIRTUALIZATION**

As data center IT organizations attempt to align their technology decisions with their business objectives, they are reassessing the role of their network infrastructures. In most cases, they are discovering that they need greater agility when deploying and scaling their resources, higher performance and reliability to meet new service requirements, and better operational efficiency to reduce costs and complexity.

These growing business demands are driving the expansion of virtualization across the data center, as well as the move to cloud-based architectures. Unfortunately, classic Ethernet networks often present significant obstacles to achieving these objectives.

For instance, Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) and excessive broadcast traffic limit Layer 2 network performance and scalability. Because virtual machine mobility runs at Layer 2,

## BROCADE VCS TECHNOLOGY

- » Reduces network layers
- » Simplifies virtualization
- » Enables Ethernet fabrics
- » Facilitates cloud deployment

**Ethernet fabrics extend data center capabilities to the entire network.**

**Fabric-based network architectures are the foundation for the cloud.**

application portability is constrained within a small number of servers. Adding more Virtual Machines (VMs) per server places additional stress on the network. Moreover, complexity results from single-path networks, and a multitude of switches to configure and manage can quickly become a costly burden.

### A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO NETWORKING

The Brocade VDX product family addresses these challenges. Utilizing innovative Brocade VCS™ technology, Brocade VDX switches enable the industry's first true Ethernet fabrics, revolutionizing Ethernet and cloud-optimized networking. Brocade VDX switches help organizations scale their virtualized data centers without increasing network complexity, maximize network performance and resiliency, and achieve limitless VM mobility. These switches also provide a flexible, open, and hypervisor-agnostic fabric to meet emerging business demands.

The first offerings in the Brocade VDX family are the Brocade VDX 6720 Data Center Switches, the highest-performing 10 Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) edge switches for enterprise data centers. Available in 24-port and 60-port models, Brocade VDX 6720 switches deliver 10 GbE wire-speed connectivity and ultra-low latency, enabling end-to-end convergence of both LAN and SAN traffic.

These new switches are built from the ground up on Brocade sixth-generation ASICs and field-proven operating system technology. They also feature built-in Ports on Demand (PoD) capabilities that support cost-effective growth as organizations expand their data centers over time. The low power consumption of the switches helps to reduce operational expenses and maximize data center efficiency.

### THE FOUNDATION FOR THE CLOUD

Whether organizations want to enhance their classic Ethernet architectures, deploy flatter scale-out Ethernet fabrics for server virtualization, or implement LAN and SAN convergence, the Brocade VDX product family provides a powerful yet flexible solution.

The Brocade VDX family is based on the Brocade One™ strategy, an innovative approach to networking designed to deliver unmatched simplicity, non-stop networking, application optimization, and investment protection. Leveraging these types of benefits, organizations can utilize Brocade solutions to revitalize their business with Ethernet fabrics designed for cloud-optimized networking.

To learn more, visit [www.brocade.com](http://www.brocade.com).

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