Product Brief





Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter XL710

Extending Intel® Virtualization Technology beyond server virtualization to the network with hardware optimizations and offloads for the rapid provisioning of networks in an agile data center



Key Features

- Supports 4x10GbE or 1x40GbE configurations¹
- PCI Express (PCIe) v3.0, x8
- Exceptional low power adapters
- Network Virtualization offloads including VxLAN, GENEVE, NVGRE, MPLS, and VxLAN-GPE with Network Service Headers (NSH)
- Intel® Ethernet Flow Director for hardware based application traffic steering
- Data Plane Development Kit (DPDK) optimized for efficient packet processing
- Excellent small packet performance for network² appliances and Network Functions Virtualization (NFV)
- Intelligent offloads to enable high performance on servers with Intel® Xeon® Processors
- I/O virtualization innovations for maximum performance in a virtualized server

Overview

The Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter XL710 offers dual port 40GbE, and is backwards compatible to 10GbE.

The Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter XL710 is part of the Intel® Ethernet 700 Series Network Adapters. These adapters are the foundation for server connectivity, providing broad interoperability, critical performance optimizations, and increased agility for Telecommunications, Cloud, and Enterprise IT network solutions.

- Interoperability Multiple speeds and media types for broad compatibility backed by extensive testing and validation.
- Optimization Intelligent offloads and accelerators to unlock network performance in servers with Intel® Xeon® processors.
- Agility Both Kernel and Data Plane Development Kit (DPDK) drivers for scalable packet processing.

Built on more than 35 years of continuous Ethernet innovations, the Intel® Ethernet 700 Series delivers networking performance across a wide range of network port speeds through intelligent offloads, sophisticated packet processing, and quality open source drivers.

All Intel® Ethernet 700 Series Network Adapters include these feature-rich technologies:

Flexible and Scalable I/O for Virtualized Infrastructures

Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT), delivers outstanding I/O performance in virtualized server environments.

I/O bottlenecks are reduced through intelligent offloads such as Virtual Machine Device Queues (VMDq) and Flexible Port Partitioning, using SR-IOV with a common Virtual Function driver for networking traffic per Virtual Machine (VM), enabling near-native performance and VM scalability. Host-based features supported include:

VMDq for Emulated Path: VMDq, enables a hypervisor to represent a single network port as multiple network ports that can be assigned to the individual VMs. Traffic handling is offloaded to the network controller, delivering the benefits of port partitioning with little to no administrative overhead by the IT staff.

SR-IOV for Direct Assignment: Adapter-based isolation and switching for various virtual station instances enables optimal CPU usage in virtualized environments.

- Up to 128 VFs, each VF can support a unique and separate data path for I/O related functions within the PCI Express hierarchy.
- Use of SR-IOV with a networking device, for example, allows the bandwidth of a single port (function) to be partitioned into smaller slices that can be allocated to specific VMs or guests, via a standard interface.

Intel® Ethernet Adaptive Virtual Function (Intel® Ethernet AVF): Customers deploying mass-scale VMs or containers for their network infrastructure now have a common Virtual Function (VF) driver. This driver eases SR-IOV hardware upgrades or changes, preserves base mode functionality in hardware and software, and supports an advanced set of features in the Intel® Ethernet 700 Series.

Flexible Port Partitioning (FPP)

FPP leverages the PCI-SIG SR-IOV specification. Virtual controllers can be used by the Linux host directly and/or assigned to virtual machines.

- Assign up to 63 Linux host processes or virtual machines per port to virtual functions.
- •Control the partitioning of per port bandwidth across multiple dedicated network resources, ensuring balanced QoS by giving each assigned virtual controller equal access to the ports bandwidth.

Network administrators can also rate limit each of these services to control how much of the pipe is available to each process.

Enhanced Network Virtualization Overlavs (NVO)

Network virtualization has changed the way networking is done in the data center, delivering accelerations across a wide range of tunneling methods.

VXLAN, GENEVE, NVGRE, MPLS, and VXLAN-GPE with NSH Offloads: These stateless offloads preserve application performance for overlay networks, and the network traffic can be distributed across CPU cores, increasing network throughput.

Greater Intelligence and Performance for NFV

Dynamic Device Personalization (DDP) customizable packet filtering, along with enhanced Data Plane Development Kit (DPDK), support advanced packet forwarding and high efficient packet processing for both Cloud and Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) workloads.

- DDP enables a method to change the packet processing pipeline by applying a profile package to the Intel® Ethernet 700 Series Network Adapter at runtime—resulting in improvements in throughput, latency and reduced CPU loads.
- DPDK provides a programming framework for Intel® processors and enables faster development of high-speed data packet networking applications.

Advanced Traffic Steering

Intel® Ethernet Flow Director (Intel® Ethernet FD) is an advanced traffic steering capability built into the adapter. It consists of a large number of flow affinity filters that direct receive packets by their flows to queues for classification, load balancing, and matching between flows and CPU cores.

Steering traffic into specific queues can eliminate context switching required within the CPU. As a result, Intel® Ethernet FD significantly increases the number of transactions per second and reduces latency for cloud applications like memcached.

Software Tools and Management

Intel® Ethernet Network Adapters support Dell's Lifecycle Controller. The Lifecycle Controller is coupled with the Dell Remote Access Card (DRAC) service processor to provide embedded system management. The Lifecycle Controller enables both local and remote access to manage initial setup and configuration of the BIOS settings on the platform, setup, and configuration of Intel Ethernet adapters, update of all the platform firmware, and the deployment of the operating systems.

Intel® Advanced Network Services (Intel® ANS) include new teaming technologies and techniques such as Virtual Machine Load-Balancing (VMLB) for Hyper-V environments. Intel ANS also provides a variety of teaming configurations for up to eight ports, and support for teaming mixed vendors' server adapters. Intel ANS includes support for 802.1Q VLANs, making Intel ANS one of the most capable and comprehensive tools for supporting server adapter teaming.

Features	Description	
General		
40 Gigabit Intel® Ethernet Controller XL710	• Industry-leading, energy-efficient design for next-generation 40 gigabit performance and multi-core processors	
QSFP+ Connectivity	• Supports QSFP connections for 40GBASE-SR4 and QSFP+ CR4 Direct Attach Copper physical media	
Low-profile	• Enables higher bandwidth and throughput from standard and low-profile PCIe slots and servers	
Load balancing on multiple CPUs	 Increases performance on multi-processor systems by efficiently balancing network loads across CPU core when used with Receive-Side Scaling (RSS) from Microsoft or scalable I/O on Linux. 	
Protect, Detect and Recover	• The Intel Ethernet 700 Series implements a design philosophy of platform resiliency with 3 attributes supporting the NIST Cybersecurity Framework: Protect, Detect and Recover. These attributes verify the firmware and critical device settings with built-in corruption detection and automated device recovery to retur the device to its originally programmed state.	
Support for most network operating systems	• Enables broad deployment for different applications.	
RoHS-compliant	• Complies with the European Union directive 2011/65/EU to reduce the use of hazardous materials.	
Time Sync (IEEE 1588, 802.1as)	• Enables networked Ethernet equipment to synchronize internal clocks according to a network master clock; endpoint can then acquire an accurate estimate of the master time by compensating for link latency.	
I/O Features for Multi-Core Processo	r Servers	
Intel® Ethernet Flow Director (Intel® Ethernet FD)	• An advanced traffic steering capability increases the number of transactions per second and reduces latency for cloud applications like Memcached.	
MSI-X support	Minimizes the overhead of interrupts. Load-balancing of interrupt handling between multiple cores/CPUs.	
Multiple Queues: 1,536 Tx and Rx queues per device	 Network packet handling without waiting for buffer overflow providing efficient packet prioritization. Actual number of queues will vary depending upon software implementation. 	
Tx/Rx IP, SCTP, TCP, and UDP checksum offloading (IPv4, IPv6) capabilities	Lower processor usage. Checksum and segmentation capability extended to new standard packet type.	
Virtualization Features		
Next-Generation VMDq	 Up to 256 maximum VMDq VMs supported. Offloads the data-sorting based on MAC addresses and VLAN tags, functionality from the Hypervisor to the network silicon, improving data throughput and CPU usage. 	
PCI-SIG SR-IOV Implementation (128 per device)	 Provides an implementation of the PCI-SIG standard for I/O Virtualization. The physical configuration of each port is divided into multiple virtual ports. Each virtual port is assigned to an individual VM directly by bypassin the virtual switch in the Hypervisor, resulting in near-native performance. Integrated with Intel® VT for Directed I/O (Intel® VT-d) to provide data protection between VMs by assigning separate physical addresses in the memory to each VM. 64/port for dual port. 	
Virtual Machine Load Balancing (VLMB)	• VMLB provides traffic load balancing (Tx and Rx) across VMs bound to the team interface, as well as fault tolerance in the event of switch, port, cable, or adapter failure.	
Advanced Packet Filtering	1536 exact matched packets (unicast or multicast). 512 hash entries each for unicast and multicast. Lower processor usage. Promiscuous (unicast and multicast) transfer mode support. Optional filtering of invalid frames.	
VLAN support with VLAN tag insertion, stripping and packet filtering for up to 4096 VLAN tags	Ability to create multiple VLAN segments.	
VxLAN, NVGRE, GENEVE, VxLAN-GPE+NSH, MPLS	Preserves application performance in network virtualized environments.	
Manageability Features		
Preboot eXecution Environment (PXE) Support	• Enables system boot up via the LAN (32-bit and 64-bit). • Flash interface for PXE image.	
Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI)	• Enables new technologies during the pre-OS boot process and addresses legacy BIOS limitations on hardware.	
Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) and Remote Network Monitoring (RMON) Statistic Counters	• Easy system monitoring with industry-standard consoles.	
Watchdog Timer	• Gives an indication to the manageability firmware or external devices that the controller or the software device driver is not functioning.	
Lifecycle Controller	• Local and remote access to BIOS setup and configuration on the platform and adapter.	
Specifications		
General		
Connections	Dual QSFP+ cages supporting Direct Attach Copper (DAC) Twinaxial cable and optical transceivers	
Network Standard Physical Layer Interfaces	IEEE802.3: 40GBASE-SR4 SFF-8431: 40GSFP+ CR4 (DAC), 40GSFP+ CR4 to 4x SFP+ (Breakout Cable)	

Technical Features	
Operating Temperature	0 °C to 55 °C (32 °F to 131 °F)
Air Flow	150 LFM minimun required
Storage Temperature	-40 °C to 70 °C (-40 °F to 158 °F)
Storage Humidity	Maximum: 90% non-condensing relative humidity at 35 °C
LED Indicators	LINK (solid) and ACTIVITY (blinking) LINK SPEED (green = 40Gbps; yellow = 10Gbps)

Adapter Features	
Data Rate Supported Per Port	Optical: 10GbE/40GbEDAC: 40GbE4x SFP+ Breakout Cable: 10GbE
Bus Type	PCI Express v3.0 (8 GT/s)
Bus Width	PCI Express x8
Interrupt Levels	INTA, MSI, MSI-X
Hardware Certifications	FCC B, UL, CE, VCCI, BSMI, CTICK, KCC
Controller	Intel® Ethernet Controller XL710-BM2

Power Consumption		
Speed	Typical Power	Maximum Power
Dual-port 40GBASE-CR4	3.6 W	4.0 W
Dual-port 40GBASE-SR4	4.9 W	5.6 W
Dual-port 40GBASE-LR4	8.5 W	9.5 W

Physical Dime	ensions	
Dimension	167mm x 69mm	

Product Order Codes for PowerEdge			
Description	SKU	Dell Tech	Intel MM#
XL710-QDA2, LP	Factory installed: 540-BBRM Customer kit: 540-BBRN	8DKFV	943112
XL710-QDA2, FH	Factory installed: 540-BBRF Customer kit: 540-BBRH	KF46X	943113

Supported Operating Systems (X86-64)		
Windows Server 2016		
Windows Server 2012 R2		
SLES 12 SP3		
VMware vSphere 2016 U1		
VMware ESXi 6.0 U3		

Intel® Ethernet Optics and Cables

Intel® Ethernet QSFP+ Optics and Cables provide unmatched flexibility for LAN and SAN networking. Intel Ethernet Optics undergo extensive compatibility testing for trouble-free interoperability, and deliver proven, reliable performance.

Dell Tech SKU	Intel MM#	Description
407-BBZU	952749	QFSP+ Optic SR, 1x 40GbE
XLDACBL1	920258	QSFP+ DA Cable 1 m
XLDACBL3	920344	QSFP+ DA Cable 3 m
XLDACBL5	920345	QSFP+ DA Cable 5 m

Dell Tech Backing Information

Standard one-year warranty.

To see the full line of Intel Ethernet Network Adapters visit www.dell.com or contact your Dell Technologies sales representative.

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The Intel® Ethernet Controller XL710 has a limit of ~49Gb/s total data throughput in each direction. Thus, when using a network adapter in an active/active (2x40GbE) configuration, the total data throughput will be ~49Gb/s shared across the two 40Gb ports

 $^{^2}$ The Intel® Ethernet Controller XL710 has a hardware packet processing limit for the entire device of ~37Mpps, which can limit total bidirectional packet processing for 40GbE operation depending on port configuration and packet size.