ConnectX®-4 Lx EN Card

50Gb/s Ethernet Adapter Card

1/10/25/40/50 Gigabit Ethernet Adapter Cards supporting RDMA, Overlay Networks Encapsulation/Decapsulation and more

ConnectX-4 Lx EN Network Controller with 1/10/25/40/50Gb/s Ethernet connectivity addresses virtualized infrastructure challenges, for today’s demanding markets and applications. Providing true hardware-based I/O isolation with unmatched scalability and efficiency, ConnectX-4 Lx provides a very cost-effective and flexible Ethernet adapter solution for Web 2.0, Cloud, data analytics, database, and storage platforms.

With the exponential increase in usage of data and the creation of new applications, the demand for the highest throughput, lowest latency, virtualization and sophisticated data acceleration engines continues to rise. ConnectX-4 Lx EN enables data centers to leverage the world’s leading interconnect adapter for increasing their operational efficiency, improving servers’ utilization, maximizing applications productivity, while reducing total cost of ownership (TCO).

ConnectX-4 Lx EN provides an unmatched combination of 1, 10, 25, 40, and 50GbE bandwidth, sub-microsecond latency and a 75 million packets per second message rate. It includes native hardware support for RDMA over Converged Ethernet, Ethernet stateless offload engines, Overlay Networks, and GPUDirect® Technology.

High Speed Ethernet Adapter

ConnectX-4 Lx offers the best cost-effective Ethernet adapter solution for 1, 10, 25, 40 and 50Gb/s Ethernet speeds, enabling seamless networking, clustering, or storage. The adapter reduces application runtime, and offers the flexibility and scalability to make infrastructure run as efficiently and productively as possible.

I/O Virtualization

ConnectX-4 Lx EN SR-IOV technology provides dedicated adapter resources and guaranteed isolation and protection for virtual machines (VMs) within the server. I/O virtualization with ConnectX-4 Lx EN gives data center administrators better server utilization while reducing cost, power, and cable complexity, allowing more virtual machines and more tenants on the same hardware.
Overlay Networks
In order to better scale their networks, data center operators often create overlay networks that carry traffic from individual virtual machines over logical tunnels in encapsulated formats such as NVGRE and VXLAN. While this solves network scalability issues, it hides the TCP packet from the hardware offloading engines, placing higher loads on the host CPU. ConnectX-4 Lx EN effectively addresses this by providing advanced NVGRE, VXLAN and GENEVE hardware offloading engines that encapsulate and de-capsulate the overlay protocol headers, enabling the traditional offloads to be performed on the encapsulated traffic for these and other tunneling protocols (GENEVE, MPLS, QinQ, and so on). With ConnectX-4 Lx EN, data center operators can achieve native performance in the new network architecture.

RDMA over Converged Ethernet (RoCE)
ConnectX-4 Lx EN supports RoCE specifications delivering low-latency and high-performance over Ethernet networks. Leveraging data center bridging (DCB) capabilities as well as ConnectX-4 Lx EN advanced congestion control hardware mechanisms, RoCE provides efficient low-latency RDMA services over Layer 2 and Layer 3 networks.

Mellanox PeerDirect®
Mellanox PeerDirect communication provides high efficiency RDMA access by eliminating unnecessary internal data copies between components on the PCIe bus (for example, from GPU to CPU), and therefore significantly reduces application run time. ConnectX-4 Lx EN advanced acceleration technology enables higher cluster efficiency and scalability to tens of thousands of nodes.

Storage Acceleration
Storage applications will see improved performance with the higher bandwidth ConnectX-4 Lx EN delivers. Moreover, standard block and file access protocols can leverage RoCE for high-performance storage access. A consolidated compute and storage network achieves significant cost-performance advantages over multi-fabric networks.

Distributed RAID
ConnectX-4 Lx EN delivers advanced Erasure Coding offloading capability, enabling distributed Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID), a data storage technology that combines multiple disk drive components into a logical unit for the purposes of data redundancy and performance improvement. ConnectX-4 Lx EN’s Reed-Solomon capability introduces redundant block calculations, which, together with RDMA, achieves high performance and reliable storage access.

Host Management
Mellanox host management and control capabilities include NC-SI over MCTP over SMBus, and MCTP over PCIe - Baseboard Management Controller (BMC) interface, as well as PLDM for Monitoring and Control DSP0248 and PLDM for Firmware Update DSP0267.

Software Support
All Mellanox adapter cards are supported by Windows, Linux distributions, VMware, FreeBSD, and Citrix XENServer. ConnectX-4 Lx EN supports various management interfaces and has a rich set of tools for configuration and management across operating systems.

Additionally, ConnectX-4 Lx provides the option for a secure firmware update check using digital signatures to prevent remote attackers from uploading malicious firmware images; this ensures that only officially authentic images produced by Mellanox can be installed, regardless whether the source of the installation is the host, the network, or a BMC.

Compatibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCI Express Interface</th>
<th>Operating Systems/Distributions*</th>
<th>Connectivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>– PCIe Gen 3.0 compliant, 1.1 and 2.0 compatible</td>
<td>– RHEL/centOS</td>
<td>– Interoperable with 1/10/25/40/50Gb Ethernet switches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– 2.5, 5.0, or 8.0GT/s link rate x8</td>
<td>– Windows</td>
<td>– Passive copper cable with ESD protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Auto-negotiates to x8, x4, x2, or x1</td>
<td>– FreeBSD</td>
<td>– Powered connectors for optical and active cable support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Support for MSI/MSI-X mechanisms</td>
<td>– VMware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– OpenFabrics Enterprise Distribution (OFED)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– OpenFabrics Windows Distribution (WinOF-2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**FEATURES**

**Ethernet**
- 50GbE / 40GbE / 25GbE / 10GbE / 1GbE
- IEEE 802.3bj, 802.3bm 100 Gigabit Ethernet
- 25G Ethernet Consortium 25, 50 Gigabit Ethernet
- IEEE 802.3ba 40 Gigabit Ethernet
- IEEE 802.3ae 10 Gigabit Ethernet
- IEEE 802.3az Energy Efficient Ethernet
- IEEE 802.3ap based auto-negotiation and KR startup
- Proprietary Ethernet protocols (20/40GBase-R2, 50GBase-R4)
- EEE 802.3ad, 802.1AX Link Aggregation
- IEEE 802.1Q VLAN tags and priority
- EEE 802.1Qaz (ETS)
- IEEE 802.1Qbg (PFC)
- IEEE 802.1Qbb (PFC)
- IEEE 802.1Qbx (PFC)
- IEEE 1588v2
- Jumbo frame support (9.6KB)

**Enhanced Features**
- Hardware-based reliable transport
- Collective operations offloads
- Vector collective operations offloads
- PeerDirect RDMA (aka GPU Direct communication acceleration)
- 64/66 encoding
- Extended Reliable Connected transport (XRC)
- Dynamically Connected transport (DCT)
- Enhanced Atomic operations
- Advanced memory mapping support, allowing user mode registration and remapping of memory (UMR)
- On demand paging (ODP) - registration free RDMA memory access

**CPU Offloads**
- RDMA over Converged Ethernet (RoCE)
- TCP/UDP/IP stateless offload
- LSO, LRO, checksum offload
- RSS (can be done on encapsulated packet), TSS, VLAN insertion/stripping, Receive flow steering
- Intelligent interrupt coalescence

**Storage Offloads**
- RAID offload - erasure coding (Reed-Solomon) offload

**Overlay Networks**
- Stateless offloads for overlay networks and tunneling protocols
- Hardware offload of encapsulation and decapsulation of NVGRE and VXLAN overlay networks

**Hardware-Based I/O Virtualization**
- Single Root I/OV
- Multi-function per port
- Address translation and protection
- Multiple queues per virtual machine
- Enhanced QoS for vNICs
- VMware NetQueue support

**Virtualization**
- SR-I0V: Up to 256 Virtual Functions
- SR-I0V: Up to 16 Physical Functions per port
- Virtualization hierarchies (e.g. NPAR)
  - Virtualizing Physical Functions on a physical port
  - SR-I0V on every Physical Function
  - 1K ingress and egress QoS levels
  - Guaranteed QoS for VMs

**Protocol Support**
- OpenMPI, IBM PE, OSU MPI (MVAPICH2), Intel MPI
- Platform MPI, UPC, Open SHMEM
- TCP/UDP, MPLS, VXLAN, NVGRE, GENEVE
- iSER, NFS RDMA, SMB Direct
- uDAPL

**Management and Control Interfaces**
- NC-SI over MCTP over SMBus
- NC-SI over MCTP over PCIe
- Baseboard Management Controller interface
- SDN management interface for managing the eSwitch
- PC interface for device control and configuration
- General Purpose I/O pins
- SPI interface to Flash
- JTAG IEEE 1149.1 and IEEE 1149.6

**Remote Boot**
- Remote boot over Ethernet
- Remote boot over iSCSI
- PXE and UEFI

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**Table 1 - Part Numbers and Descriptions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPN</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dimensions w/o Bracket</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCX4111A-XCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 10GbE single-port SFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tail bracket</td>
<td>14.2cm x 6.9cm (Low Profile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4121A-XCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 10GbE dual-port SFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4121A-XCHT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, with host management, 10GbE dual-port SFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, UEFI Enabled, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4111A-ACAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 25GbE single-port SFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4111A-ACUT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 25GbE single-port SFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, UEFI Enabled, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4121A-ACAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 25GbE dual-port SFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4121A-ACUT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 25GbE dual-port SFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, UEFI Enabled, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4131A-BCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 40GbE single-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX4131A-GCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 Lx EN network interface card, 50GbE single-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tail bracket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** All tall-bracket adapters are shipped with the tall bracket mounted and a short bracket as an accessory.

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350 Oakmead Parkway, Sunnyvale, CA 94085
Tel: 408-970-3400 • Fax: 408-970-3403
www.mellanox.com