ConnectX®-4 VPI Card

100Gb/s InfiniBand & Ethernet Adapter Card

Single/Dual-Port Adapter Cards supporting 100Gb/s with Virtual Protocol Interconnect®

ConnectX®-4 adapter cards with Virtual Protocol Interconnect (VPI), supporting EDR 100Gb/s InfiniBand and 100Gb/s Ethernet connectivity, provide the highest performance and most flexible solution for high-performance, Web 2.0, Cloud, data analytics, database, and storage platforms.

With the exponential growth of data being shared and stored by applications and social networks, the need for high-speed and high performance compute and storage data centers is skyrocketing.

ConnectX-4 provides exceptional high performance for the most demanding data centers, public and private clouds, Web 2.0 and Big Data applications, as well as High-Performance Computing (HPC) and Storage systems, enabling today’s corporations to meet the demands of the data explosion.

ConnectX-4 provides an unmatched combination of 100Gb/s bandwidth in a single port, the lowest available latency, and specific hardware offloads, addressing both today’s and the next generation’s compute and storage data center demands.

100Gb/s Virtual Protocol Interconnect (VPI) Adapter

ConnectX-4 offers the highest throughput VPI adapter, supporting EDR 100Gb/s InfiniBand and 100Gb/s Ethernet and enabling any standard networking, clustering, or storage to operate seamlessly over any converged network leveraging a consolidated software stack.

I/O Virtualization

ConnectX-4 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 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. 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 effectively addresses this by providing advanced NVGRE hardware offloading engines that encapsulate and de-encapsulate the overlay protocol headers, enabling the traditional offloads to be performed on the encapsulated traffic. With ConnectX-4, data center operators can achieve native performance in the new network architecture.
HPC Environments
ConnectX-4 delivers high bandwidth, low latency, and high computation efficiency for the High Performance Computing clusters. Collective communication is a communication pattern in HPC in which all members of a group of processes participate and share data.
CORE-Direct® (Collective Offload Resource Engine) provides advanced capabilities for implementing MPI and SHMEM collective operations. It enhances collective communication scalability and minimizes the CPU overhead for such operations, while providing asynchronous and high-performance collective communication capabilities. It also enhances application scalability by reducing the exposure of the collective communication to the effects of system noise (the bad effect of system activity on running jobs). ConnectX-4 enhances the CORE-Direct capabilities by removing the restriction on the data length for which data reductions are supported.

RDMA and RoCE
ConnectX-4, utilizing IBTA RDMA (Remote Data Memory Access) and RoCE (RDMA over Converged Ethernet) technology, delivers low-latency and high-performance over InfiniBand and Ethernet networks. Leveraging data center bridging (DCB) capabilities as well as ConnectX-4 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 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 EDR delivers. Moreover, standard block and file access protocols can leverage RoCE and InfiniBand RDMA for high-performance storage access. A consolidated compute and storage network achieves significant cost-performance advantages over multi-fabric networks.

Signature Handover
ConnectX-4 supports hardware checking of T10 Data Integrity Field / Protection Information (T10-DIF/PI), reducing the CPU overhead and accelerating delivery of data to the application. Signature handover is handled by the adapter on ingress and/or egress packets, reducing the load on the CPU at the Initiator and/or Target machines.

Standard 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 Monitor 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 VPI adapters support OpenFabrics-based RDMA protocols and software and are compatible with configuration and management tools from OEMs and operating system vendors.

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, 2.0 and 1.1 compatible&lt;br&gt;– 2.5, 5.0, or 8.0 GT/s link rate x16&lt;br&gt;– Auto-negotiates to&lt;br&gt;– x16, x8, x4, x2, or x1&lt;br&gt;– Support for MSI/MSI-X mechanisms</td>
<td>– RHEL/CentOS&lt;br&gt;– Windows&lt;br&gt;– FreeBSD&lt;br&gt;– VMware&lt;br&gt;– OpenFabrics Enterprise Distribution (OFED)&lt;br&gt;– OpenFabrics Windows Distribution (WinOF-2)</td>
<td>– Interoperable with InfiniBand or 1/10/25/40/50/100Gb Ethernet switches&lt;br&gt;– Passive copper cable with ESD protection&lt;br&gt;– Powered connectors for optical and active cable support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>MCX455A-ECAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 VPI adapter card, EDR IB (100Gb/s) and 50GbE, dual-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x16, tall bracket</td>
<td>14.2cm x 6.9cm (Low Profile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX456A-ECAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 VPI adapter card, EDR IB (100Gb/s) and 100GbE, dual-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x16, tall bracket</td>
<td>14.2cm x 6.9cm (Low Profile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX455A-FCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 VPI adapter card, FDR IB (56Gb/s) and 50GbE, single-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x16, tall bracket</td>
<td>14.2cm x 6.9cm (Low Profile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX456A-FCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 VPI adapter card, FDR IB (56Gb/s) and 50GbE, single-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x16, tall bracket</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX455A-FCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 VPI adapter card, FDR IB (56Gb/s) and 50GbE, single-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tall bracket</td>
<td>14.2cm x 6.9cm (Low Profile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCX454A-FCAT</td>
<td>ConnectX-4 VPI adapter card, FDR IB (56Gb/s) and 50GbE, dual-port QSFP28, PCIe3.0 x8, tail bracket</td>
<td>14.2cm x 6.9cm (Low Profile)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* This section describes hardware features and capabilities. Please refer to the driver and firmware release notes for feature availability.