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San Fiber Optic Switch Brand



Overview

Discover the best SAN fiber switches for 2026, including Gen 8 128G FC models and enterprise-grade solutions.

Key Takeaways

Leading SAN fiber optic switch brands include Brocade (Broadcom), Cisco, IBM, and Lenovo, offering high-performance, low-latency Fibre Channel connectivity for enterprise storage networks.Major SAN Switch Brands and Models



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1. Brocade (Broadcom) Brocade, now part of Broadcom, provides the Gen 7 Fibre Channel switch family, including the G710, G720, and G730 models. These switches are designed for high-performance SAN environments, supporting NVMe storage, low latency, and scalable fabrics. The G710 is ideal for small to mid-sized businesses with 8–24 ports, while the G720 and G730 offer ultra-dense configurations with up to 64 ports and advanced features like Ports on Demand (PoD) and SFP-DD transceivers for flexible connectivity . 2. Cisco Cisco's MDS series, such as the MDS 9124V, provides 64-Gbps 24-port Fibre Channel switches. These switches support high-speed connectivity for all-flash arrays, NVMe/FC workloads, and dense virtualized server environments. Key features include automatic zoning, nonblocking forwarding, hardware-assisted link encryption, and advanced diagnostics for ISL and HBA ports . 3. IBM IBM offers the SAN48C-7 switch, providing up to 48 Fibre Channel ports at 64 Gbps. It supports NVMe/FC workloads, centralized nonblocking arbitration for consistent low-latency performance, and redundancy in power and cooling. IBM switches include advanced analytics, telemetry, and fabric-wide Quality of Service (QoS) to enhance SAN reliability and scalability . 4. Lenovo Lenovo's ThinkSystem SAN Fibre Channel switches leverage Brocade technology to deliver enterprise-grade performance. These switches are designed for high-speed, low-latency SAN networks, offering easy scalability, intuitive management, and end-to-end compatibility. They are suitable for demanding workloads such as AI, virtual machine sprawl, and high-frequency trading .

Key Considerations for Choosing a SAN Switch
• Port Density and Bandwidth: Choose switches that match your storage and server connectivity needs, e.g., 24, 48, or 64 ports at 16G/32G/64G speeds.

• NVMe/FC Support: Ensure the switch supports NVMe over Fibre Channel for modern high-performance storage.

• Scalability: Look for features like Ports on Demand, stacking, or multi-switch fabric support.

• Reliability and Redundancy: Enterprise switches often include redundant power supplies, cooling, and advanced diagnostics.

• Management and Automation: Consider switches with intuitive management interfaces, telemetry, and automation capabilities for easier SAN administration. These brands and models represent the most widely adopted SAN fibre channel switches in enterprise environments, providing high performance, reliability, and future-proof scalability.

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List of Fibre Channel switches

Major manufacturers of Fibre Channel switches are: More complete list in Brocade Communications Systems article.

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