

# BROCADE AP7420



## STORAGE AREA NETWORK

## A High-Performance Platform for Storage Applications

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Utilizes an industry-standard API to provide reliable, scalable, and highly available services to storage applications
- Features a high-performance split-path architecture with hardware acceleration on every Fibre Channel port
- Provides a highly available design with failover-capable Data Path Controllers (DPCs) at every Fibre Channel port as well as dual-redundant power and cooling
- Leverages the T10 Fabric Application Integration Specification (FAIS) standard for data storage applications
- Supports the Brocade Multiprotocol Router, Brocade Data Migration Manager (DMM), and Brocade Application Resource Manager (ARM) solutions as well as leading OEM storage applications

The Brocade AP7420 is an industry-leading platform designed to maximize performance for a wide range of Storage Area Network (SAN) fabric applications. It features a unique architecture that separates the data and control paths, enabling the Brocade AP7420 to switch the majority of I/O commands—such as SCSI reads and writes—at the hardware level.

The Brocade AP7420 uses dedicated ASICs to switch the SCSI commands, so they do not have to traverse an operating system stack. Only the control commands and a small percentage of data path commands are handled by the control processing elements of the Brocade AP7420. As a result, it provides superior hardware acceleration compared to systems built on general-purpose processors and memory.

The Brocade AP7420 includes 16 Fibre Channel ports and two 1 Gigabit Ethernet ports. Each Fibre Channel port features a dedicated Fast Path Processor (FPP) that provides line-rate 2 Gbit/sec switching as well as data movement functionality. In turn, each FPP has three processors for a total of 48 processors to facilitate data movement. In addition, an 80 Gbit/sec ASIC between each FPP enables full line-rate speeds on each Fibre Channel port—accelerating performance for a wide range of fabric applications.

### INDUSTRY-STANDARD API SERVICES

The Brocade AP7420 utilizes the Brocade Storage Application Services (SAS) API, an implementation of the T10 FAIS standard for reliable, scalable, and highly available data storage applications. This approach removes a layer of complexity from the applications, minimizing development and test cycles to streamline time-to-market for high-value applications.

Key capabilities of the SAS API include:

- Wire-speed hardware acceleration for data movement features such as mirroring, snapshots, write-splitting, block copy, and Logical Block Address (LBA) remapping
- Reliability and security through error handling, data integrity, and Logical Unit Number (LUN) masking services
- Granular statistics for performance management
- Scalability and availability through multiple Data Path Controllers (DPCs) and port- or DPC-level availability with no single points of failure



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