

HP and ATTO Technology

Mac Connectivity to HP EVA Storage



ATTO Technology has developed the capability to enable high-availability and high-performance Fibre Channel connections from Mac workstations and servers to HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Arrays.

Integration highlights

- Dual- or quad-channel Fibre Channel host adapters used to connect Macs to the EVA
- Support for 4 Gb or 8 Gb FC
- Multi-pathing driver for Mac OS supports automatic failover, failback and load balancing
- Management Graphical User Interface (GUI) allows for configuring and monitoring all connection paths into the EVA
- Supports SAN connectivity using Apple Xsan or Quantum StorNext file systems

While many media and entertainment professionals prefer to use Apple workstations and servers because of their performance and the applications that run on them, they have struggled to find high-performance, high-available, feature-rich storage to connect to their Macs.

HP now supports Mac connectivity to the EVA

ATTO and HP have teamed to offer a high-end, completely redundant Mac connectivity solution designed to enhance workflow and increase productivity by keeping content available in real time for multiple users. A custom host adapter driver developed by ATTO allows the Apple operating system (OS) to recognize each Enterprise Virtual Array (EVA) controller as an independent device. This provides redundant Fibre Channel (FC) paths to the storage, assuring continued access to the data in case of a host bus adapter (HBA), path or controller failure. The driver also allows users to load balance or aggregate performance across multiple Fibre Channel connections to the storage—effectively doubling the throughput capabilities. Combined with the existing easy-to-manage storage virtualization capabilities of the HP EVA, customers now have a solution focused on less downtime, significantly increasing productivity with uninterrupted access to the storage media.

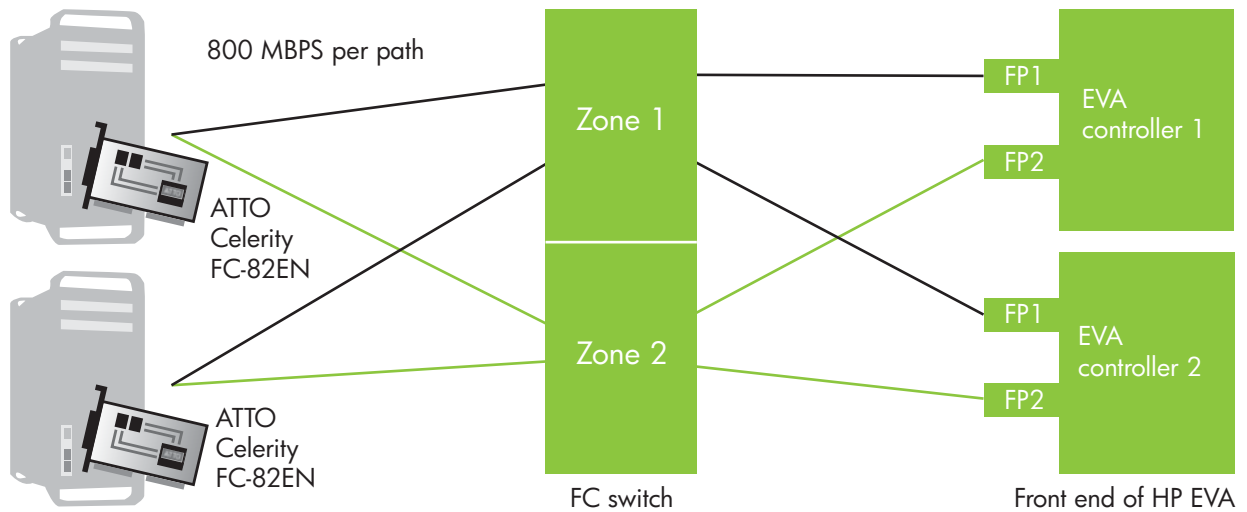
Solution benefits

- Connect Mac workstations and servers to enterprise storage – the HP StorageWorks EVA
- Increase productivity by allowing multiple Macs to share the EVA in a storage area network (SAN)
- Support heavier workloads by aggregating the bandwidth of multiple FC links
- Reduce downtime by providing multiple, redundant paths to the storage
- Simplify management when using the EVA to create a virtual pool of storage

How the integration works

During normal operation, load balancing is used to send data through both of the controllers for optimal performance. In the event of a front-end path failure, or if a controller needs to be taken off-line for field service, the ATTO Celerity HBA will route all traffic through the remaining path for continued access to the data. Once the controller is back online, data will again be load balanced across both ports without user intervention.





Certification environment

Hardware: ATTO Celerity 4 Gb Fibre Channel HBAs: FC-44ES and FC-42ES (quad or dual-channel PCIe), FC-42-XS (dual-channel PCI-X)

Hardware: ATTO Celerity 8 Gb Fibre Channel HBAs: FC-84EN and FC-82EN (quad or dual-channel PCIe 2.0)

Storage: HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array: HP EVA4X00 starter kit, EVA4X00, EVA6X00 or EVA8X00

Hardware: Apple Xserve, MacPro or Power Mac G5
Power PC workstations

OS: Mac OS 10.4.6 or higher

Software: ATTO Configuration Tool, Apple Xsan or Quantum StorNext file systems

About ATTO

ATTO's focused expertise in high-bandwidth digital media environments ensures that Celerity Fibre Channel host adapters are engineered for optimal performance. Celerity HBAs continually deliver uninterrupted data without dropping frames—critical to video transfers, even in high stress environments. In the past, technology limitations forced customers to choose between high performance, high availability or shared storage solutions. Mac professionals no longer have to make a choice. The ATTO Celerity Host Adapter and multi-pathing driver, along with the HP EVA, meet all of these requirements.

For more information

For more on HP and ATTO, visit www.attotech.com/solutions/hp or speak with an ATTO representative, phone 716.691.1999 ext. 241.

Technology for better business outcomes

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