

Tuesday, June 10. 2008

40 GBit/s Infiniband

Mellanox made the silicon available for 40 GBit/s Infiniband: 40gig InfiniBand arrives. This is an interesting development as this gives Infiniband a nice performance advantage over Ethernet. In the race for the dominant interconnect for single fabric datacenter this really important.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 12:45

Infiniband and Solaris? I can hardly think of anything more painful I tried this year!

Infiniband will never replace Ethernet. It is not designed for that, can't be redundant and will burn CPU-power.
Anonymous on Jun 10 2008, 18:33

Could you elaborate your findings with Infiniband and Solaris? I've worked twice with it in the last months and didn't find something especially painful ...

I think, used in conjunction with RDMA enabled protocols the load on CPU will be smaller than with a Ethernet. And of course you can create redundant links into the fabric.

Of course it won't substitute Ethernet for the campus network, but for the in-datacenter network this is a different story.
Anonymous on Jun 11 2008, 07:55

Which cards did you use? SDR, DDR or even connect-X?
We tried several cards, but just the old crappy PCI-X cards from Voltaire worked with Solaris10U5/ Opensolaris.

What did you do with the IB-stuff? MPI? SRP?

Trying to avoid SPOFs with Infiniband like synchronizing 2 subnet managers on different networks it is painful! I don't think switches with integrated subnetmanager can be configured like this.
Anonymous on Jun 11 2008, 11:46

Try to use Mellanox Cards, their driver is stable and the documentation is up to date
www.infinibandnews.com
Anonymous on Jul 2 2008, 14:16