Smarter technology for all

Lenovo

Brocade® 8G and 16G SAN has reached End-of-Life (EOL)

Refresh with Lenovo ThinkSystem SAN products to avoid the risks of an aging infrastructure

Maintaining aging networking infrastructure in your data center may be riskier than you expect.

Even if you have 8G and 16G switches and directors that are still covered by a support contract, the risk of the hardware failing due to the effects of heat, vibration and dust that build up over time, is a reality. More importantly, hundreds of security vulnerabilities are uncovered every year.

What happens if you fail a network security audit? Without access to the latest updates, you're leaving your infrastructure exposed and at risk.

All Brocade and Lenovo ThinkSystem 8G and 16G Fibre Channel SAN products have reached End-of-Life (EOL) and FOS End-of-Availability (EOA) dates and End-of-Support (EOS) date coming soon:
- Brocade 300 EOS: **March 2024**
- Brocade 8510, 6505 EOS: **April 2025**
- Brocade 6510 EOS: **June 2025**

Besides the increased risk of downtime and halt on enhancements after EOL, legacy products can pose other risks that you should consider.

In this quick overview, you'll learn more about these risks and why it pays to take action.

What are the risks if you wait to upgrade?

Reliability issues
Over time, heat, vibration and dust will impact hardware reliability that could cause disruptions or failures.

Interoperability issues
New servers and storage may not be compatible or may be limited to a subset of its features with older SAN products.

Security vulnerabilities
Patches to any recent security vulnerabilities will become limited over time, leaving you exposed and result in potential financial and legal ramifications.

Performance impact
EOL infrastructure can impede the performance capabilities of evolving workloads and NVMe-based storage. Gen 5 was released 10 years ago and was not designed for the demands of next-gen storage.

Modernizing your storage network with Gen 7 Fibre Channel delivers far more than just high speeds and low latency

With automated administrative routines and processes—you'll see dramatic savings in time typically spent troubleshooting issues, optimizing application performance, and maintaining high levels of security. Plus, it works seamlessly with older generations of Fibre Channel and allows you to run SCSI and NVMe in parallel, so you can migrate to the SAN of the future at your own pace.

Features	Gen 5 (16G)	Gen 6 (32G)	Gen 7 (64G)
Maximum supported speed	16G	32G	64G
Latency (local switching)	700 ns (w/o FEC)	780 ns	460 ns
Security: Trusted FOS, hardware-based root of trust, secure optics, secure licensing	X	X	✔
Traffic Optimizer	X	X	✔
Hardware Congestion Signalling	X	X	✔
NVMe Telemetry	X	Port-to-port	✔
Upgradable to next-generation technology	Not upgradable	X6 Director upgradeable to Gen 7	Mix Gen 6 and Gen 7 blades
Product Availability	**EOL: Now** **FOS EOA: Now** **EOS: April and June 2025**	**EOL: Now**	✔

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Set up a call today to discuss your specific needs with our data experts