

Passive Copper Objectives for 400GbE

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Outline

- Proposed objective
- Five criteria:
 - Compatibility
 - Distinct Identity
 - Broad Market Potential
 - Technical Feasibility
 - Economic Feasibility

Proposed Objectives

- Define a 16-lane 100 Gb/s PHY for operation over links consistent with copper twin-axial cables with lengths up to at least 5m.
- Define a 16 lane PHY for operation over a printed circuit board with a total channel insertion loss of ≤ 33 dB at 7.0 GHz
- Define a 16 lane PHY for operation over a printed circuit board or passive cabled backplane with a total channel insertion loss of ≤ 35 dB at 12.9 GHz.

Compatibility

Compatible with 802.3 MAC

Compatible with proposed 400G PCS

Compatible with 100G PCS

Compatible with FEC

Compatible with 802.3bj interfaces

Distinct Identity

- There is no standard that supports Ethernet on backplane or passive copper media at operating speeds of 400 Gb/s.
- The standard will define one PHY for twinaxial copper cables, one PHY for backplane applications targeting 'legacy' backplanes and one PHY for next generation low loss FR4 or cabled backplane media.

Broad Market Potential

- Ethernet has become widely deployed as a preferred backplane solution. Examples include Modular Servers and Enterprise and Telecom Network Equipment. Ethernet is also widely deployed over twinaxial copper cables for both intra-rack and inter-rack connections.
- Internet, cloud, and higher performance computing applications, along with advances in processors, server virtualization and converged networking, are driving the need for higher bandwidth inter and intra rack connections. Increasing the backplane data rate to 400 Gb/s and providing cost effective 400 Gb/s intra rack solutions are required to maintain pace with new demands.
- Cabled backplanes are an emerging market segment where extended length or performance are required beyond 'traditional' backplane design

Technical Feasibility

- Systems with an aggregate bandwidth of 400 Gb/s have been demonstrated and deployed in operational networks.
- Component vendors have presented data on the feasibility of the necessary components for this project.
- The reliability of Ethernet components and systems can be projected in the target environments with a high degree of confidence based on the following form factors:
 - 4xQSFP form factor
 - 4x CAUI4 electrical I/F
 - CDFP MSA form factor
 - Supports 16x25G electrical interface
 - 4xCAUI4/CAUI16

Economic Feasibility

- Prior experience in the development of backplane and twinaxial physical layer specifications for Ethernet indicates that the specifications developed by this project will entail a reasonable cost for the resulting performance
- 400 Gb/s backplane and twinaxial copper links will make it possible to achieve the desired density, power and cost targets for computer systems and network equipment.
- In consideration of installation costs, the project is expected to use proven and familiar media, including electrical backplanes, and twinaxial copper cabling technology.
- Network design, installation and maintenance costs are minimized by preserving network architecture, management, and software.

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