Trunking of Multiple Ethernet Links

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Motivation

- **Mid-life kicker for products**

- **Mid-life kicker for technology**

Feasible

- **10 Mb/s version shipped in '94 on Kalpana product line**

  – **on previously shipping silicon**

- **Demonstrated on various Cisco products**

- **Implementations range from S/W only to custom silicon**

CISCO SYSTEMS

Acceptable to Users

- **Etherchannel was a good differentiator for Kalpana**

- **Allows for quick performance upgrade before procurement of new hardware using new standards**

- **Fast Etherchannel tested at customer sites**

CISCO SYSTEMS

Interoperable

- **Demonstrated with products from different development paths**

Applications

- **Switch to Switch**

- **Switch to server**

- **Switch to router**

Challenges

- **Traffic distribution and balancing**

- **Incorrect/Inconsistent hookups**

- **Partial failure cases**

- **Presenting a single network presence for a station across multiple physical links**