

# 400G Architecture Considerations

IEEE 802.3 400G Study Group  
May 2013, Victoria, BC Canada  
Brad Booth, Dell

# 40G Observations

- Four lanes of 10G was extremely useful
  - Not everything required a 40G pipe
  - Ability to use break-out cables provided a level of “backwards compatibility”

Switch with QSFP+ 4x10G ports



Servers with  
10G ports

# 100G Possibilities

- Four lanes still remain extremely useful
  - Servers starting to need >10G of bandwidth
  - Multiple methods to merge physical lanes
    - Two 10G lanes muxed to become a 20G serial link
  - 20G is within the range of a 25G SERDES

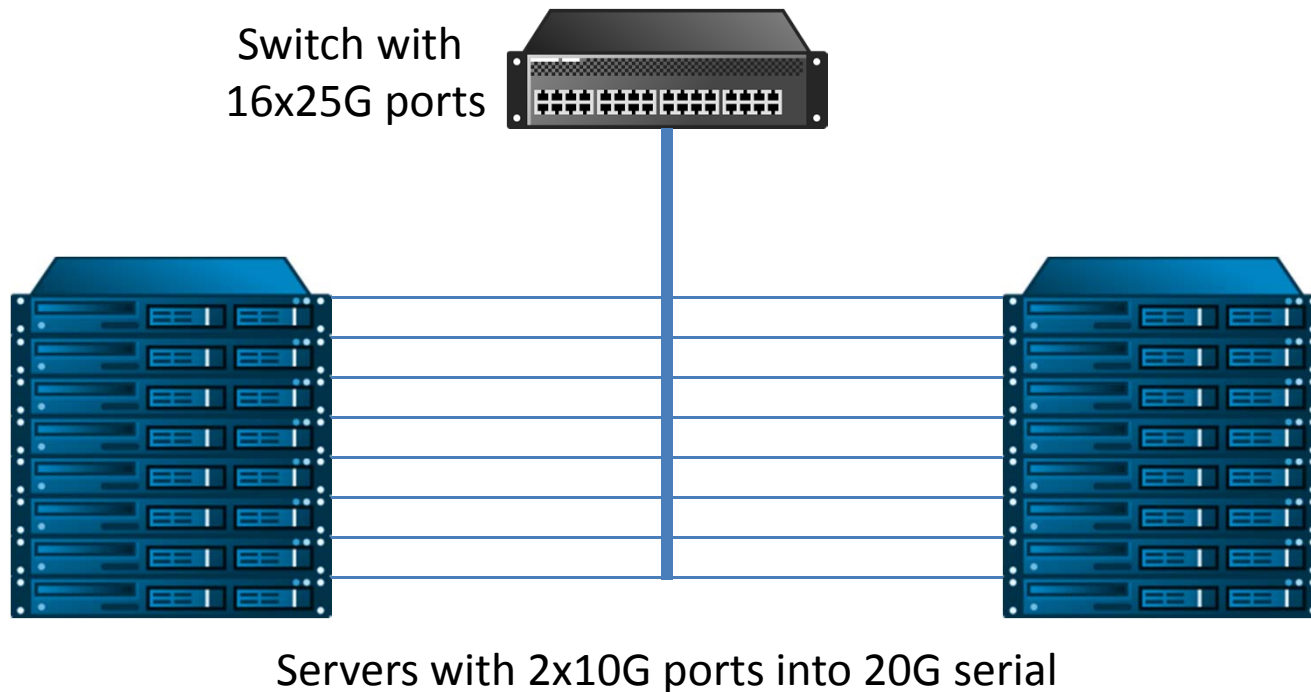
Switch with 4x25G ports



Servers with  
2x10G ports  
into 20G serial

# 400G Considerations #1

- Sixteen lanes at 25G technically possible today
  - Build off the upcoming 100G architecture



# 400G Considerations #2

- Eight lanes at 50G is a potential architecture
  - Servers could operate at 40G
  - Switch SERDES would need to handle dynamic range of 40-50G

Switch with  
8x50G ports



Servers with  
40G ports

# 400G Architecture

- While 4x10G was not specified, it was a natural outcome
- This is likely to occur again in future generations due to server speeds and switch port density requirements
- Objective not required to support this, but should take this into consideration for the project
- Inability to support these considerations could impact broad market potential

# Thank You!

- Questions?