

QuickLoop™ 2.0

An advanced Fabric service
for Fibre Channel Loops

QuickLoop offers a cost-effective path for Fibre Channel private-loop devices in legacy environments to migrate to a fully scalable Fabric to be used for a Storage Area Network (SAN). It supports Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop (FC-AL) devices within a Fabric. Best described as a capability to “Private Loop Fabric Attach,” this advanced service enables private-loop hosts and storage devices to attach to a Fabric without modifying host drivers.

When QuickLoop is used as an alternative to a hub-based solution, private-loop environments realize superior performance and fault management. For the SilkWorm® 2400 and 2800 switches, it is optional software.

Switching performance for private-loop environments

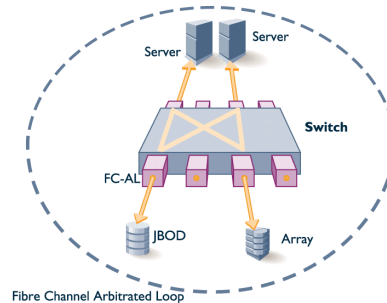
- A private loop is formed by logically connecting ports on up to two SilkWorm switches.
- Switch ports form *loplets*, which independently transfer data at 100 megabytes per second (MB/sec). Unlike hub-based environments, bandwidth is not shared, enabling full-bandwidth data transfers simultaneously on all ports.
- Data transfers are supported in parallel to different looplets. For example, in a multihost configuration, multiple hosts simultaneously transfer data. In a hub-based environment, only a single host transfers data at any one time.
- There can be a maximum of 126 devices for each private loop.
- Existing host drivers that are Private Loop Device Attach (PLDA) capable require no modification.

Migration to a full Fabric configuration

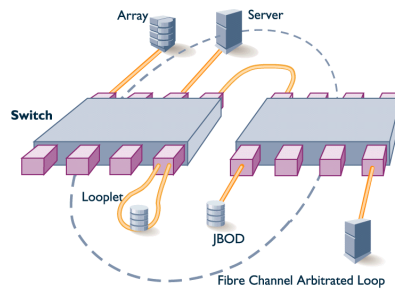
- All QuickLoop devices are registered in the Fabric. Public hosts can access all of them. Public hosts access QuickLoop devices as if they were directly attached to the Fabric.
- A Fabric supports several QuickLoops. A grouping of private loops, or islands, can consolidate into a single Fabric.
- For migration to a Fabric, a QuickLoop port is reconfigured to operate in Fabric Loop Attach (FLA) mode. Support for both Fabric and loop ports enable a mixed configuration. Migrating legacy environments gracefully to Fabrics provides investment protection.

Best-in-class reliability

- QuickLoop capabilities detect a faulty looplet and automatically remove the port from the Loop. The faulty looplet is continuously monitored. When the failed condition is cleared, the port is automatically enabled, minimizing impact of faulty looplets on production configurations.
- A looplet can also be taken out of service manually and reinstated transparently.



Enhanced performance for private direct-attached devices from multiple simultaneous data transfers



A logical grouping of private devices spanning two switches

Manageability for data center environments

- SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) facilities are available to monitor QuickLoop devices. End-to-end management via MIBs (Management Information Blocks—compliant with emerging standards) facilitate administration.
- An extensive set of trap definitions immediately alert administration of critical exception conditions.

See the BROCADE web site for related hardware and software data sheets.