



FAQ
***NEMONIX™ Engineering Gigabit Dual Port Ethernet
Controller for AlphaServer systems***

1. Why Gigabit Ethernet?

Today's demanding data transfers require higher and higher speeds to ease network congestion. In addition, most environments need to minimize CPU utilization for network overhead. The Nemonix Engineering line of Ethernet adaptors for HP OpenVMS does just that. Joining that lineup is a new AlphaServer adaptor Dual Port Gigabit Ethernet controller with a full 64 bit data path and PCI-X bus support. The pipeline gets widened to support higher throughput with less CPU utilization.

2. What AlphaServer platforms does this Gigabit Ethernet controller run on?

Today we have tested it to run on the AlphaServer DS, ES, and GS series. It should run on any AlphaServer that utilizes a 64 bit AlphaServer PCI or PCI-X bus including the ES47, ES80 and GS1280. We are also testing it on earlier models such as the 800, 1000, 1200, and 1400. While currently incompatible in those early 64 bit PCI bus configurations, we are making a modification to allow it to operate in these earlier systems as well.

3. Is this a true 64 Bit PCI-X option?

Yes! This card is a 64 bit PCI-X card but is fully backward compatible with 64 bit PCI33/66/100 slots on your AlphaServer.

4. What operating systems does this option support?

For now we are shipping this option configured to run on AlphaServers with HP OpenVMS Version 7.3-2 and above. Prior versions of HP OpenVMS may work, but are not supported by NEMONIX™ Engineering. In the near future we will have this hardware option and drivers available for Linux and Windows on Intel platforms also.

5. Will this card support failover on the Ethernet under HP OpenVMS?

Yes, the card has been tested to support failover should one of the connections fail. This gives you redundancy on the network without the cost of extra hardware in your systems.

6. Will you support HP TRU64 on AlphaServer?

At this time we have no plans to ship this card with HP TRU64 support. However, if a customer should have this requirement we will discuss it with them.

7. Do you have a Fiber variant of this card?

No, at this time we only have a copper variant. However, we can supply you with copper to fiber converters if you need this capability to integrate into an existing fiber network or for connections over long distances.

8. Do I need to do anything special to support Gigabit Ethernet in my 10/100 environment?

No, the NEMONIX™ Engineering Gigabit Ethernet card is fully compatible with your existing CAT 5 UTP backbone. No need to replace your existing infrastructure while you upgrade to Gigabit Ethernet for all your network needs. Of course you will need a Gigabit Ethernet switch to take advantage of the speeds that Gigabit Ethernet provides. Our new option is shipped with Auto Negotiation turned on and is set for Gigabit full duplex. Manual configuration of the board is supported if you do not have a network that supports Auto Negotiation.

9. Why should I buy this option?

Several reasons: 1. for slot limited AlphaServers, such as the DS10L and DS20L, this option gives you the availability of an extra Gigabit Ethernet port with the same footprint as a single port version. 2. Even in systems with 3 or more PCI slots, it opens up a PCI slot for another PCI option of your choice. 3. It gives AlphaServers the speed that comes with having Gigabit Ethernet rather than 100Mb Ethernet only. 4. If you are migrating to Integrity servers using OpenVMS, this option gives you configurability choices using multiple Gigabit Ethernet with your new servers.

10. What kind of performance can I expect to see?

The answer to this depends on the several things. It includes how you have configured your network, the other devices in your network, how your OS and applications are configured and what kind of system you have installed it in.

11. Will this controller work with AlphaServers running UCX™, DECnet™, TCP/IP, and Multinet™?

Yes, we have successfully tested the device to run in all four environments.

12. Will this card co-exist with my built in AlphaServer 10/100 Mb Ethernet controller?

Yes, both options will coexist with each other so that you can take advantage of all 3 Ethernet ports.

13. Do I need to do anything special to make this controller work in my AlphaServer?

No, we include driver and device support for this card when it ships. A simple one time command procedure at Installation time will configure your card for its lifetime in the network you install it on. Successive reboots require no additional manual intervention.

14. Why should I use the Dual port card rather than 2 single rail cards?

3 reasons: 1. Cost, two single DEGPA-TA Gigabit Ethernet controller cards would cost you more than a single dual Gigabit Ethernet card from Nemonix. Volume discounts apply to purchases of 6 or more. 2. Dual connectivity on a single card allows you to use your limited real estate better. 3. Performance is equal to having 2 single Gigabit cards installed.

15. How is this card different from any other dual Gigabit Ethernet card?

The card represents a full year effort including both Hardware and Software (drivers), between HP, BroadCom and NEMONIX™ Engineering to bring this card to market. That included hardware revisions to meet AlphaServer unique demands and OpenVMS driver engineering. Originally planned by HP and BroadCom, the effort was taken over by NEMONIX™ Engineering in the fall of 2004 at the request of HP. We continue to work with Broadcom and OpenVMS Engineering to ensure you the quality you have come to expect from your VAX and AlphaServer investments.

16. Who supports the NX-DEGX2-TA controller?

This is a Nemonix Engineering product. As such NEMONIX™ Engineering supports the controller.

The controller comes with a full 3 year warrantee. NEMONIX™ Engineering provides you with phone support for installation and troubleshooting should that be necessary for the life of the warrantee. If you prefer to have onsite installation, NEMONIX™ Engineering will arrange for a third party to install your card at an additional cost. In the unlikely event that you have a bad controller during the warrantee period, a new card will be shipped the same day.

Many of our options are maintained by HP and other third party service providers. If you desire to have your option on maintenance contract with your local service provider,

please contact them and we will work with them on your behalf. Sparing options are available.

17. Are there plans for future AlphaServer hardware options from NEMONIX™ Engineering?

Yes, as we have done with VAX for the past 20 years, we are planning a full range of PCI and PCI-X controllers to bring additional hardware features to AlphaServer system.

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