HPE C8R44A

Datasheet

Product Overview

- The HPE Storage Fibre Channel Switch B-series SN3600B offers a robust foundation for enterprise storage networks with advanced 32Gb Fibre Channel technology.

- Ideal for high-demand, virtualized, and consolidated data centers, it targets growing businesses, IT integrators, and end users seeking scalable SAN solutions.

- Key hardware includes up to 24 x 32Gb SFP+ ports in a compact 1U chassis, with support for 4, 8, 16, and 32Gbps Fibre Channel speeds as well as flexible Ports on Demand (PoD) licensing.

- Advanced features such as NVMe over Fabric readiness, Virtual Machine Identity with VM Insight, and Smart SAN for 3PAR zoning set it apart from entry-level SAN switches.

- It delivers simplified deployment with intuitive SAN management, PowerPack+ software, and fast configuration to reduce operational time and complexity.

- The SN3600B enables seamless growth, high reliability, and efficient management, delivering strong value for businesses focused on virtual infrastructure and future-ready storage fabric.

Product Highlights

- **Scalable High-Speed Connectivity:** Offers 32Gbps flash-ready performance with up to 24 ports in a space-saving 1U form factor for flexible deployments.

- **Investment Protection:** Supports interoperability with previous-generation FC switches, ensuring reduced upgrade costs and future-proof architecture.

- **Efficient Scaling:** Dynamic 8-port Ports on Demand (PoD) kits make scaling fast and economical without complex licensing or hardware swaps.

- **NVMe & VM Insight:** NVMe over Fabrics readiness and VM Insight provide low-latency, granular application visibility for virtualized, all-flash environments.

Detailed Features

C8R44A

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Component	Specification
Port Configurations	48, 72, and 96-port (increments of 24 via PoD licenses)
Port Types	Universal ports: E, F, M, D, EX
Form Factor	1U rack-mount
Performance	Up to 32Gbps per port
Scalability	Ports on Demand licensing

High-Performance Fibre Channel Platform

The SN3600B features 32Gbps Fibre Channel support, enabling bandwidth-demanding environments to meet fast-growing storage and application needs. Each port auto-senses 4/8/16/32Gbps, ensuring flexible upgrades and seamless integration into both legacy and next-gen SANs.

Flexible and Granular Scalability

Dynamic Ports on Demand (PoD) port upgrades in 8-port blocks allow enterprises to grow their SAN quickly. Start small with 8 ports and expand up to 96, optimizing capital investment while maintaining operational continuity and agility.

Future-Proof NVMe and VM Visibility

Native NVMe over Fabric readiness ensures low-latency, high-throughput connectivity for all-flash environments. Integrated VM Insight provides granular visibility into VM-level I/O flows, allowing admins to diagnose and optimize application performance in real time.

Smart, Centralized Management Tools

The HPE PowerPack+ software suite (including Fabric Vision, ISL Trunking, and Extended Fabric) empowers storage admins with proactive health monitoring, rapid troubleshooting, and smart orchestration for optimized SAN management.

Streamlined 3PAR Orchestration

Support for HPE Smart SAN automates Fibre Channel zoning and orchestration for 3PAR all-flash SANs. This reduces provisioning times from hours to minutes and centralizes streamlined zoning from the storage array, greatly reducing SAN deployment complexity.

Industry-Leading Reliability

With industrial-grade hardware, redundant power supplies, and energy-efficient 1U design, the SN3600B delivers maximum uptime. Real-time power monitoring also increases operational reliability and efficiency, supporting mission-critical workloads.

Inter-Switch Link Trunking for Bandwidth

Up to eight links can be combined into a single logical ISL, achieving 256Gbps (512Gbps full duplex) trunk bandwidth. This enables high-availability, efficient load balancing, and ensures zero data bottlenecks across SAN fabrics.

Ultra-Low Latency Switching

Leveraging cut-through frame switching and optimized port-to-port latency (<900 nanoseconds), the SN3600B is ideal for latency-sensitive applications and all-flash SAN deployments, ensuring rapid data delivery even at scale.

Technical Specifications

Product Specifications

Feature	Value
Dimensions (H x W x D)	86.74 x 429.25 x 609.75 mm (3.42 x 16.90 x 24.01 in)
Fibre Channel Ports	48, 72, and 96-port configurations (increments of 24 via PoD licenses), universal ports (E, F, M, D, EX)
Interoperability	8/8 SAN switch, 8/24 SAN switch, SN3000B, SN6000B, SN6500B, 1606 Extension SAN switch, SN4000B SAN extension switch, SN8000B 8-Slot SAN backbone director, SN8000B 4-Slot SAN director, Brocade 8Gb SAN switch for HPE BladeSystem c-Class, Brocade 16Gb SAN switch for HPE BladeSystem c-Class, Brocade 16Gb Fibre Channel SAN switch module for HPE Synergy
Port Speeds	Auto-sensing 4, 8, and 16 Gb/s
ISL Trunking	Frame-based trunking, up to 8x 16 Gb/s per trunk, 128 Gb/s per ISL trunk, exchange-based load balancing with DPS, no trunk group limit
Aggregate Bandwidth	1536 Gb/s
Fabric Latency	700 ns for locally switched ports; encryption/ compression 5.5 sec per node; FEC adds 400 ns between E_Ports

Feature	Value
Maximum Frame Size	2112-byte payload
Classes of Service	Class 2, Class 3, Class F (Inter-switch frames)
Port Types	D_Port (Diagnostic), E_Port, EX_Port, F_Port, M_Port (Mirror), U_Port (self-discovery), Access Gateway mode (F_Port and NPIV-enabled N_Port)
Data Traffic Types	Fabric switches supporting unicast
Media Types	Hot-pluggable B-Series SFP, LC connector, Short-Wave Laser (SWL), Long-Wave Laser (LWL), supports SFP+ (16/10/8 Gb/s) optical transceivers
Distance (Fiber-Optic)	Depends on cable and port speed
USB Port	One USB port for system log file downloads or firmware upgrades
Operating Temperature	0°C to 40°C (32°F to 104°F)
Storage Temperature	-25°C to 70°C (-13°F to 158°F)
Operating Humidity	10% to 85% (non-condensing)
Non-Operating Humidity	10% to 90% (non-condensing)
Operating Altitude	Up to 3000 m (9,842 ft)
Storage Altitude	Up to 12,000 m (39,370 ft)
Operating Shock	20G, 6 ms half-sine
Non-Operating Shock	Half sine, 33G 11 ms, 3/eg Axis
Operating Vibration	0.5G sine, 0.4 grms random, 5 to 500 Hz
Non-Operating Vibration	2.0G sine, 1.1 grms random, 5 to 500 Hz
Power Supply	Dual, hot-swappable redundant power supplies
AC Input	85 to 264 V, ~5 to 2.5 A
Input Line Frequency	47 to 63 Hz
Power Consumption	450 W (all 96 ports with 16 Gb/s SWL optics), 350 W (empty chassis, no optics)

Product Comparison

Feature	C8R44A	NVIDIA Mellanox MSN2410-CBBRC	NVIDIA Mellanox MSN3700-CS2FC
Ports	48, 72, and 96 FC SFP+ ports (PoD)	48 x SFP28	32 x QSFP28

Feature	C8R44A	NVIDIA Mellanox MSN2410-CBBRC	NVIDIA Mellanox MSN3700-CS2FC
Port Speed	Auto-sensing 4/8/16/32Gb FC	10/25 GbE	100 GbE
Form Factor	1U rack-mount	1U	1U
ISL Trunking	Up to 512 Gbps full duplex	Not supported	Not supported
Redundant Power	Dual hot-swappable	Yes	Yes
Max Bandwidth	1536 Gb/s	1.2 Tb/s	6.4 Tb/s
Management	PowerPack+, VM Insight, Smart SAN	Onyx OS, CLI, Web	Onyx OS, CLI, Web
Special Feature	NVMe over Fabrics, VM Insight	Low-latency, RoCE	VXLAN, RoCE, low-latency
Application	SAN consolidation, flash storage	Enterprise LAN/data center	Large-scale data center

Accessories

Category	Accessories
Included Accessories	- Power Adapter - Rack Mount Kit - Quick Start Guide
Optional Accessories	- SFP+ Transceivers - Dedicated Management Cable - Uplink Module Extensions

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References

[1] Hewlett Packard Enterprise. (2022). HPE Storage Fibre Channel Switch B-series SN3600B Datasheet. Retrieved from https://www.hpe.com/psnow/doc/a00000578enw.html