

OpenVMS LAN Features LAN Fastpath LAN Failover

LAN Fastpath - Components



- Reduce contention for the IOLOCK8 spinlock by providing LAN specific spinlocks
- Offload primary CPU by allowing the LAN drivers to take interrupts and to complete I/O on secondary CPUs (CPU Affinity)

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LAN Fastpath - Spinlocks



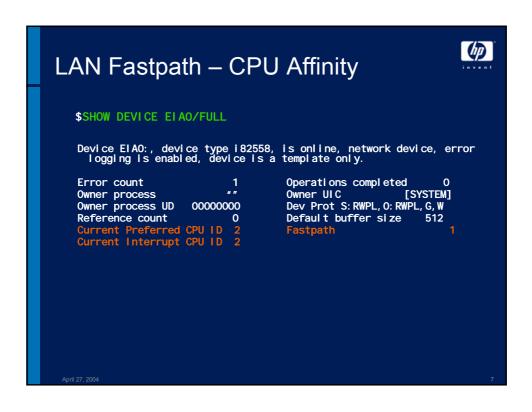
- Spinlock Modifications:
 - All V7.3-2 LAN drivers synchronize access to LAN data structures with LAN specific spinlocks
 - A unique LAN spinlock for each LAN adapter
 - LAN QIO applications continue to use IOLOCK8
 - LAN VCI users can use IOLOCK8 or their own spinlock
 - V7.3-2 PEDRIVER and TCP/IP V5.4 are fastpath enabled

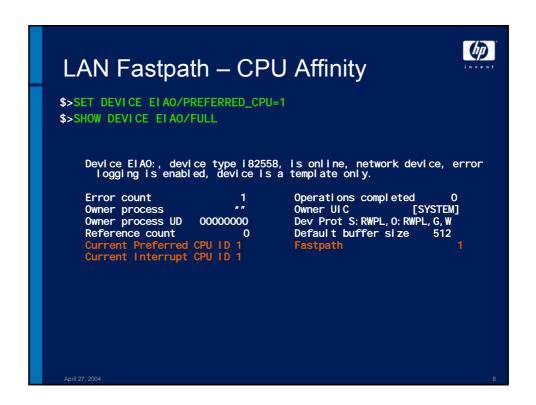
LAN Fastpath - CPU Affinity

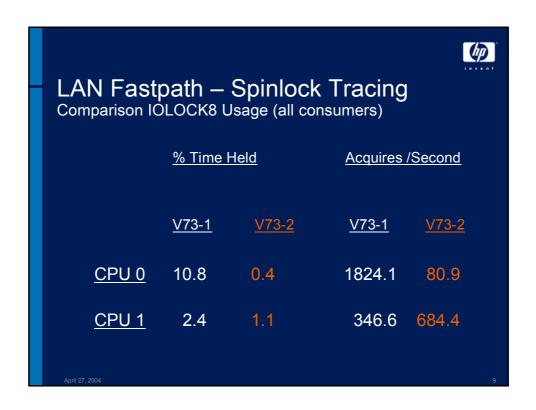


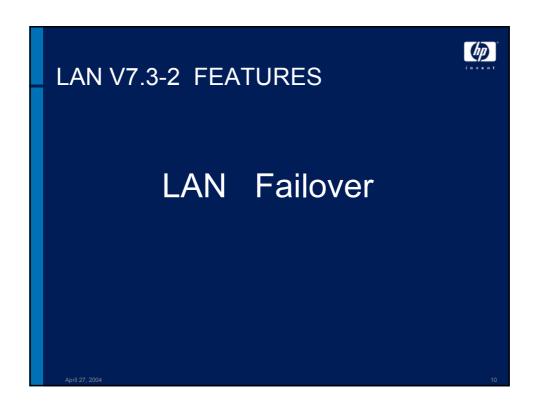
- CPU Affinity
 - Supported on most LAN adapters (not Token Ring or ATM)
 - LAN's 'Preferred CPU'
 - Initially assigned by FASTPATH_SERVER process
 - User settable with SET DEVICE/PREFERRED_CPU
 - Optional via SYSGEN flag
 - FAST_PATH system-wide parameter
 - FAST_PATH_PORTS
 - -Bit 3 clear = FP enabled for LAN
 - -Bit 3 set = FP disabled for LAN

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LAN Failover - What is it?

- A mechanism which allows LAN applications to continue to run when a failure occurs between the LAN adapter and the switch (link loss, broken adapter).
- Provides a failover mechanism for all LAN applications (TCP/IP, LAT, DECnet...).

April 27, 200

11

LAN Failover - How does it work?



- Integrates multiple network adapters on the same LAN segment into a failover set and presents it as a virtual device (LLa) to the LAN applications.
- One network adapter in the failover set is active while the others remain idle.
 Note: Does not perform load balancing.
- If the active device fails, one of the idle devices, in the failover set, becomes active.

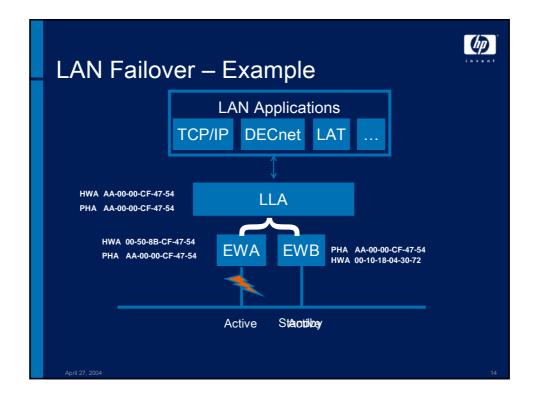
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LAN Failover - MAC address



- HWA of virtual device:
 - First three bytes = AA-00-00
 - Last three bytes = Same as last three bytes of the HWA of the first active physical device.
- The physical and multicast addresses of the virtual device remain the same allowing for continuous operation of LAN applications.

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LAN Failover - Management

- LANCP (LAN Control Program)
 - Used to manage LAN Failover
 - SET/SHOW commands volatile data base
 - **DEFINE/LIST** commands permanent database
- Creating a LAN Failover set:
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE LLA/FAILOVER_SET=(EIA,EIB,EIC,EWA)
- Removing a device from a LAN Failover set:
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE LLA/NOFAILOVER_SET=(EIC)
- Prioritizing the failover devices:
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE *EIA*/PRIORITY=20
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE *EIB*/PRIORITY=10
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE **EWA**/PRIORITY=30

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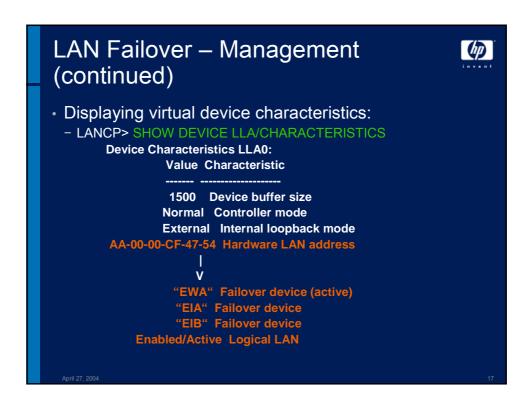
15

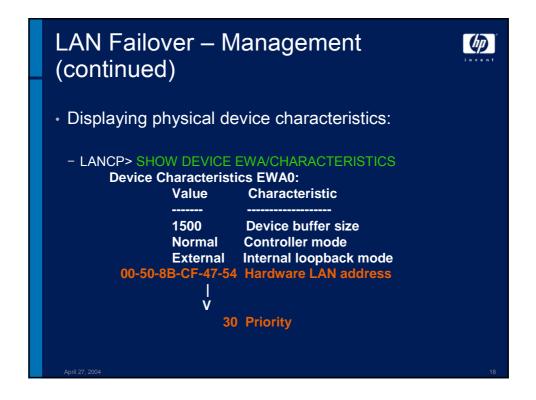
LAN Failover – Management (continued)



- Connecting virtual device to physical device:
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE LLA/ENABLE
 %LLDRIVER, Logical LAN event at 5-NOV-2003 08:12:10.06
 %LLDRIVER, Logical LAN connected to physical port EWA0
- Disconnecting virtual device from physical device: (LAN applications must not be started over virtual device.)
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE LLA/DISABLE

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LAN Failover – Management (continued)



- LAN Failover Verification:
 - LANCP> SET DEVICE LLA/SWITCH

%LLDRIVER, Logical LAN event at 5-NOV-2003 11:48:12.54 %LLDRIVER, Logical LAN disconnected from physical port EWA0

%LLDRIVER, Logical LAN event at 5-NOV-2003 11:48:12.54 %LLDRIVER, Logical LAN connected to physical port EIA0

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19

LAN Failover Supported Adapters



- · LAN Failover Supported Adapters
 - DE600
 - DEGPA DEGXA

Plus any embedded variant

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LAN Failover - Configuration Restrictions



- Physical adapters in a LAN Failover cannot be in use when the set is created
- Maximum of eight physical devices are supported in a LAN failover set
- Physical adapters cannot be connected point-topoint
- Not supported on OpenVMS cluster satellites
- · Jumbo frames are not supported

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21

LAN Failover - Futures



- DE500 Support VMS732_LAN-V0200
- Jumbo Frames
- Network monitor for detecting failures
- · Cluster usage of stand-by adapter
- Link Aggregation

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	LAN Failover & failSAFE IP Comparison features chart of LAN Failover and failSAFE IP.			
ı	Feature	LAN Failover	failSAFE IP	
	NIC Usage	One active NIC, others are standby	All NICs Active with load balancing	
ı	Devices supported	Ethernet device types – DEGXA, DEGPA and DE600	Independent of device types	
	Protocols Supported	all LAN protocols	TCP/IP only	
	Failover time	Typically milliseconds	Typically a few seconds	

