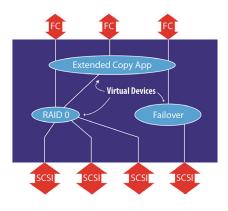
TECH BRIEF



Benefits

Storage OEMs and integrators require robust connectivity solutions that add value with limited additional overhead. The breadth of solutions available via the Series Architectures found in the Data Routing Fabric and the depth of applications via the flexibility found in the Virtual Device Manager allow ATTO intelligent Bridging Architecture to exceed OEM and integrator needs far into the future.

ATTO intelligent Bridging Architecture™ is a key component in the success of storage OEMs and integrators. Combined, these technologies create ATTO's bridging technology that goes beyond the standard to deliver a total system approach to storage connectivity and infrastructure management.



*i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture™

Powerful Hardware and Software Data Engine to Enable Flexible Connectivity

ATTO XstreamCORE[®] products are engineered to effectively transfer data with minimal overhead from multiple combinations of protocols, custom applications and specification requirements to match customer configurations.

*i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture™

ATTO *i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture[™] technology combines powerful hardware with an efficient software data engine which delivers valuable features with the flexibility of "anything to anything" connectivity. Examples of anything to anything protocol interaction include FC to SAS, iSCSI to SAS, FC to NVMe, or Ethernet to NVMe. Protocol interaction is primarily the movement of data and metadata. This movement of data/ metadata is affected by hardware and software components that are designed into the bridge. The design and relationship of these components is the heart of *i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture.

*i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture is a key differentiating factor designed into ATTO *i*ntelligent Bridge products because:

- 1. Its flexibility allows us to match price and performance requirements to each level of the market. This means our customers can incorporate the value add features of our product into their product while maintaining their market level price strategy.
- 2. It provides a common software platform throughout the family. This means our customers can begin using ATTO *i*ntelligent Bridges where the fit is most critical and extend throughout their range of products with minimal interruption or qualification obstacles.
- 3. It is the platform for adding value into the *i*ntelligent Bridge and into the final solution. Customers add value into their products beyond just native connectivity; the physical connections on the *i*ntelligent Bridge enable ATTO software to allow translations so two different protocols can communicate with each other. Additional functionality enables industry required applications like device mapping, extended copy or device virtualization. An ATTO *i*ntelligent Bridge provides customer-specific applications such as diagnostic functions and email notification to become part of their solution without additional development.

There are two primary components in *i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture: Direct Routing Fabric and the Virtual Device Manager

About ATTO

For over 30 years, ATTO Technology, has been a global leader across the IT and media & entertainment markets, specializing in network and storage connectivity and infrastructure solutions for the most data-intensive computing environments. ATTO works with partners to deliver end-to-end solutions to better store, manage and deliver data.

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The Power Behind the Storage

Data Routing Fabric

*i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture contains a data routing topology consisting of advanced ASICs, firmware and interface technologies that enable users to configure ATTO controllers to specific operating environments. This topology houses the Virtual Device Manager and provides the physical pathways for the data to move through. This topology follows a common design basis across the product family. This allows for commonality of components, as well as advances in technology and/or new applications to be ported between models. The topology is refined into a specific Series Architecture and Universal Virtual Device Architecture. The specifications of the basic architecture are defined by:

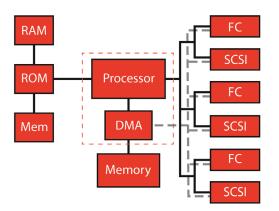
- Custom ASICs and processors
- Programmable and fixed memory
- Board components
- Power supplies
- Circuit board routing

Standard Architecture

The series architecture performs critical activities:

- It provides direct interface via the *i*ntelligent Bridge between the SAN and edge components (i.e., storage media)
- It routes the data and the metadata to the appropriate internal and external interfaces
- It defines the performance capabilities, features/ benefits and cost of each series

ATTO *i*ntelligent Bridges are designed to offer OEMs a level of price and performance in concert with their targeted market pricing. This allows OEMs to incorporate the multiple value add features provided by *i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture at justifiable price points.



Virtual Device Manager

ATTO Virtual Device Manager is a unique O/S solution designed by ATTO engineers utilizing industry-standard software languages. Virtual Device Manager performs three critical activities:

- 1. It acts as the "translator" from one protocol to another (anything-to-anything)
- 2. It is the source for industry-critical and customerspecific applications
- 3. It is the interface for managing the *i*ntelligent Bridge interaction with the SAN

Virtual Device Manager works by allowing ATTO engineers to create virtual devices specific to accomplishing the individual tasks and applications within the *i*ntelligent Bridge. These devices are called virtual because they only exist in the firmware. The variety of devices is limited only by imagination and programming capabilities. The collection of devices in an *i*ntelligent Bridge makes up the Virtual Device Manager.

The ability to provide anything-to-anything connectivity is a key aspect of the Virtual Device Manager. By designing connectivity interfaces as a virtual device, ATTO can tailor a solution by changing only the interface virtual device, leaving all other aspects of the *i*ntelligent Bridge intelligence common. This also allows newly developed connectivity interfaces to be ported between product family members. In addition, a stable code base means minimal qualification requirements as product adoption across a customer's line increases.

The significance of this stable code base across the product family means customers can choose a product to fit immediate requirements while offering the flexibility to design OEM value added features in the longer term. Taken a step further, this allows ATTO and our OEM customers the ability to differentiate our products from the competition as well as between segments of our own product lines.

In addition to offering anything-to-anything connectivity and flexible customization, *i*ntelligent Bridging Architecture acts as a portal to the SAN by providing SAN-management configuration tools and information. This means that the customer can optimize the *i*ntelligent Bridge functionality within his SAN.

