

International Business Machines Corporation and Optica Technologies Incorporated have successfully completed connectivity testing of the PRIZM product in IBM System z[®] server environments. The Optica PRIZM product allows attachment of native FICON[®] channels to ESCON[®] control units (CUs). For this release, attachment is limited to tape CUs.

Intended support is for the following environments:

- * FICON attached to the IBM eServer[™] zSeries[®] 900 (z900) at driver 3GF
- * FICON attached to the IBM eServer zSeries 990 (z990) and 890 (z890) at driver 55K
- * FICON attached to the IBM System z9[®] Enterprise Class (z9[®] EC) at driver 63J

Note: Machine environments mentioned previously should be at the latest release patch levels as of July 25th, 2006.

Results Summary

The Optica PRIZM FICON to ESCON converter successfully passed IBM's connectivity testing for the following System z applications and features:

- System z native FICON (CHPID type FC) attachment to ESCON control units identified below at the latest firmware levels available:
 - * IBM 3490 family of Magnetic Tape Subsystems
 - * IBM TotalStorage[®] Virtual Tape Server Model B18 (3494-B18 VTS)
 - * Attachment through the IBM TotalStorage SAN256M director (2027-256)
 - * Attachment through the IBM TotalStorage SAN32B-2 switch (2005-B32)

It is anticipated that the Optica PRIZM product could be used with other IBM supported FICON switches and directors which adhere to the FICON architecture.

It is anticipated that the Optica PRIZM product will operate under IBM operating systems such as z/OS[®], z/VM[®], z/VSE[™], TPF, and z/TPF that currently support FICON on System z servers.

Specific Optica Technologies Incorporated product hardware and firmware release levels used during the testing were as follows:

- Software version 1.0.8.0
- ESCON board level 3080600
- Spartan programmed version 22

Limitations

The following considerations and limitations apply to the tested configurations:

- Testing was limited to attachment of ESCON tape products.
- Some test cases were modified due to the unique handling of control unit busy on ESCON control units.

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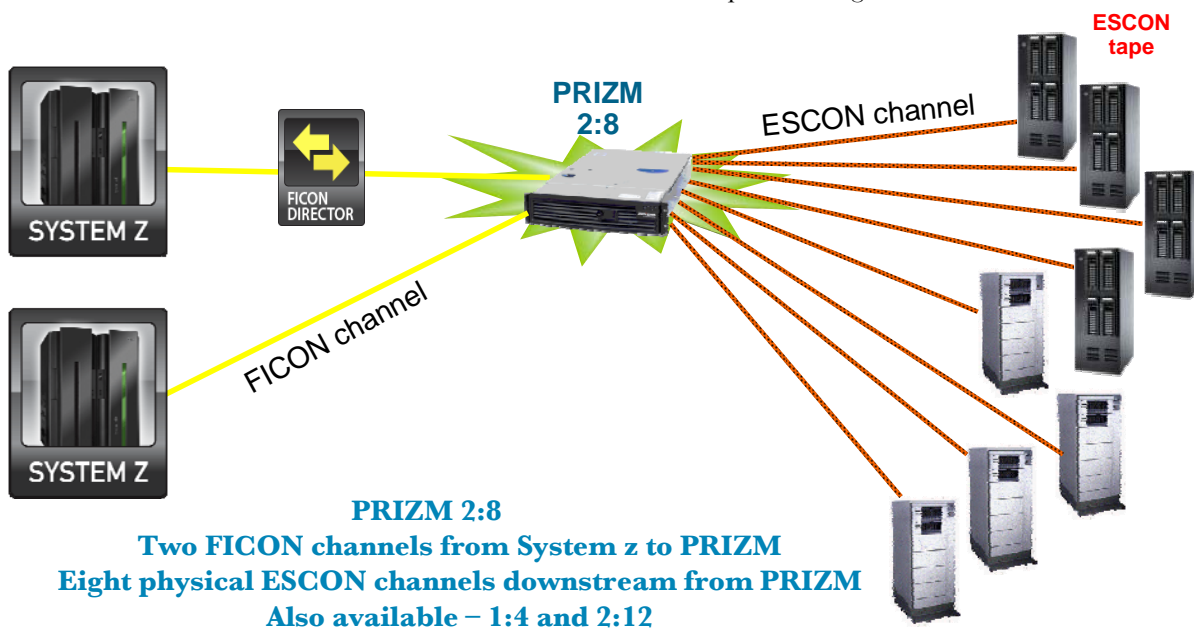
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The figure below shows a configuration option when attaching a FICON channel (FICON Express, FICON Express2, or FICON Express4) to the PRIZM product either directly attached to PRIZM or through a FICON director. The channel is configured as CHPID type FC (native FICON). ESCON devices are defined as their own model number if it is an ESCON- and FICON-capable device (i.e. 3590), and as "NOCHECK" if it is not a FICON-capable device (i.e. 3490).

FICON channel attachment to ESCON tape devices

- Example
 - ✓ FICON channel - attached through a FICON director, or direct-attached
 - Can be 9 micron single mode (LX) or 50 or 62.5 micron (SX) multimode fiber optic cabling
 - ✓ ESCON channels with 62.5 micron multimode fiber optic cabling



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