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Smarter technology for all

Lenovo

Transform Your Business with Quantum-Safe, AI-Powered SAN

Upgrade to Lenovo Gen 7 or Gen 8 Directors

The Brocade® Gen 5 (16G) DCX 8510 Director has reached its Fabric OS (FOS) End-of-Availability (EOA: April 30, 2023) and End-of-Support (EOS: April 30, 2025). Continuing to run on an EOS platform introduces unacceptable risk and loss of support. Now is the critical time to start the upgrade process to a modern platform, such as the Lenovo X7 Director (Gen 7) or the Lenovo X8 (Gen 8) Director for ultimate longevity and quantum-safe protection.

Besides the increased risk of downtime, halt on enhancements, and a lack of security updates after EOS, maintaining aging Gen 5 or Gen 6 Director infrastructure in your data center may be riskier than you think. This older technology was not designed to handle the demands of next-gen servers and storage arrays, which can result in capacity overloads, traffic bottlenecks, and security exposures. The risk of the hardware failing due to the effects of heat, vibration, and dust buildup over time is a reality. More importantly, FOS EOA Directors are unable to run the latest versions of firmware, leaving your data center exposed to security vulnerabilities.

If you are running Gen 5 (DCX 8510) or Gen 6 Directors (DB400D/DB800D) in your data center, you need to act now to safeguard the ongoing security and availability of your critical applications. Modernizing the storage network with Lenovo Gen 7 or the new Gen 8 Director provides a faster, more intelligent, and more resilient network. The Gen 8 Director is the ultimate upgrade, offering quantum-safe security to fortify the SAN against future threats and AI-powered autonomy to simplify management. Both Gen 7 and Gen 8 ensure access to the latest Fabric OS (FOS) versions, strengthening your network against threats and cyber-attacks.

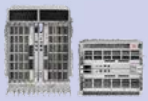
What happens at Fabric OS® EOA?

Brocade engineering identifies hundreds of security threats every year and provides patches to address these vulnerabilities. Once FOS EOA arrives, there will be no further scheduled releases of FOS with bug fixes or improvements made available for the director. More importantly, the scheduled FOS patches for any recent security vulnerabilities will not be available, potentially compromising the security profile of the entire SAN environment and leaving your data exposed.

What does EOS mean?

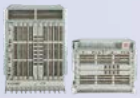
Broadcom will no longer support or troubleshoot any product that is EOS. For customers running a multiple-device fabric, if the Brocade Technical Assistance Center (TAC) confirms that there is an EOS product in the fabric, TAC will not troubleshoot the fabric until the EOS product has been removed from the fabric. Additionally, EOS products are no longer entitled to access software updates, bug fixes, or patches on the Lenovo and Brocade software portal.

Running Gen 5 or Gen 6 technology? Your director might be older than you think.



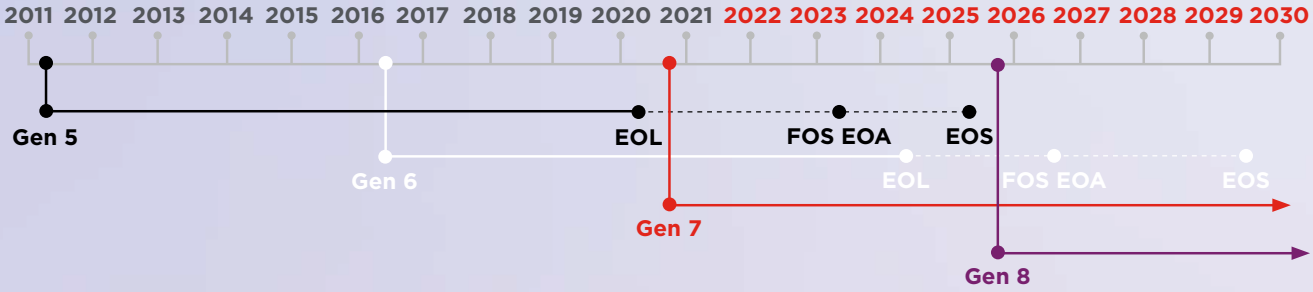
Brocade DCX 8510

Brocade X6
Lenovo DB400D/DB800D



Brocade X7
Lenovo X7

Brocade X8
Lenovo X8



What are the risks if you wait to upgrade?

Reliability issues
Over time, heat, vibration, and dust impact hardware reliability, which could cause disruptions or failures.

Interoperability issues
With older SAN products, new servers and storage may not be compatible or may be limited to a subset of features.

Security vulnerabilities
Patches for any recent security vulnerabilities will become limited over time, leaving your data exposed. Older architectures lack the quantum-resistant defenses needed to protect against modern and future cyber threats.

Performance impact
EOL infrastructure can impede the performance capabilities of evolving workloads and NVMe-based storage. Neither Gen 5 nor Gen 6 was designed for the extreme demands of next-gen storage, resulting in bottlenecks that limit the full potential of your investment.

Modernize Your Storage Network: Make the Move to Lenovo Gen 8 or Gen 7 SAN

Next-generation servers and storage move more data through your infrastructure than ever before to support new applications and capabilities, driving new levels of performance and capacity requirements. Coupled with higher expectations for availability and the need to protect your enterprise against disruptions, outages, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities, you need a network capable of maximizing performance while simplifying management and protecting against modern and quantum-era threats.

The X8 is purpose built to meet ever-increasing demands for performance, reliability, and data integrity. It delivers 128G bandwidth and low latency, accelerating performance for enterprise AI and modern workloads. The X7 (Gen 7) Director remains a strong alternative with 64G performance. By modernizing with the X8 or X7, you get more than just high speed and low latency.

The X8 adds AI-powered autonomy to simplify management, learn, and adapt to changing application demands. Both Gen 7 and Gen 8 directors reduce troubleshooting time, optimize performance, and work seamlessly with older Fibre Channel generations. They allow you to run SCSI and NVMe in parallel, supporting migration at your own pace.

Now is the time to make investments in your data center by migrating to a modern Lenovo SAN. The X8 provides the longest investment protection, lower vulnerability risk, and includes quantum-safe security features to ensure the level of security in your network will pay dividends for years to come.

Why should you upgrade?

Security
Increase security for critical data and lower vulnerability risks. Gen 8 adds quantum-safe cyber resilience.

Simplicity
Automate actions to simplify management and resolve issues without intervention. Gen 8 adds AI-powered autonomy for self-healing fabrics.

Data Traffic Optimization
Gen 8 includes Adaptive Traffic Optimizer to dynamically adapt, ensuring optimal performance for devices or all speeds.

Performance
Support more applications and VMs per switch, while optimizing performance for NVMe.

Longer life
Protect your investment with Gen 8 providing the longest investment protection and best long-term TCO.

Reliability
Ensure always-on operations with no single point of failure design that builds storage networks that learns, optimizes, and heals on its own.

Upgrade to a Modern Lenovo Fibre Channel Director Today

Modernizing your storage network with Lenovo Gen 7 or Gen 8 Directors ensures high levels of cyber-safe security, reliability, and connectivity to high-performance storage. Data centers can consolidate and simplify the SAN fabric while driving the most out of their infrastructure, even as it rapidly scales. While the Gen 7 X7 Director provides proven reliability, seamless scalability, integrated analytics, and automation, the new Gen 8 Director takes this further. It delivers greater performance with advanced AI-Powered autonomy for a self-learning, self-optimizing, and self-healing SAN, combined with quantum-safe architecture to maximize the performance, productivity, and longevity of your storage investments.

Features	8510 (Gen 5)	X6 (Gen 6)	X7 (Gen 7)	X8 (Gen 8)
Maximum Speed Supported	16G	32G	64G	128G
Latency	700 ns (no FEC)	<780 ns (single FEC)	460 ns (single FEC)	580 ns (dual FEC)
Bandwidth per Chassis	8 slot: 10.2Tb/s 4 slot: 5.1Tb/s	8 slot: 20.5Tb/s 4 slot: 10.2Tb/s	8 slot: 39.6Tb/s 4 slot: 19.8Tb/s	8 slot: 62Tb/s 4 slot: 31Tb/s
Inter-Chassis Link Architecture	8 slot: 32 4xGen 5 ICLs 4 slot: 16 4xGen 5 ICLs	8 slot: 32 4xGen 6 ICLs 4 slot: 16 4xGen 6 ICLs	8 slot: 32 4xGen 7 ICLs 4 slot: 16 4xGen 7 ICLs	8 slot: 32 4xGen 8 ICLs 4 slot: 16 4xGen 8 ICLs
Quantum Safe Security	X	X	Software Only	Hardware and Software
Traffic Optimization	X	X	Optimize traffic performance by grouping like traffic.	Dynamically adapts groupings to ensure optimal performance
Fabric Intelligence	X	X	X	Automates application management and simplifies telemetry into actionable insights.
Hardware Congestion Signaling	X	X	Yes	Yes
Link Encryption	X	Yes	Yes	Yes
Product Availability	EOS: June 2025	EOL: July 2024 FOS EOA: Jan 2027 EOS: Jan 2030	Announced Sept 2020	Announced Dec 2025

Visit the Lenovo Gen 7 Directors Product Guide

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Set up a call today to discuss your specific needs with our data experts

Free consultation