

DCB Configuration Needs From The Server Perspective

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Need for Different Admins for the DCB Configuration Task

- Server and storage admin have optimal knowledge on:
 - Application platform requirements
 - Application network and storage fabric needs
- Hypervisor offerings vary in their virtual switch functional feature and management needs
- Network admin has optimal knowledge of core network needs
 - But not necessarily the application and its particular needs
- Customers segregate IT functional responsibilities
 - Network admin focused on core networking
 - Server / storage admin focused on application and fabric edges

Preferred Communication Channel Model

- Bi-directional communication for configuration and management is essential to satisfy the needs between
 - Combination of server / storage admin and hypervisor admin, and
 - Network admin
- One-sided configuration does not align with the reality of today's deployment or customer admin needs

DCBX Goals and Potential Simplification

- “DCB Capability Exchange Protocol” as currently defined
 - Provides a common framework for different DCB features
 - Provides the ability to exchange DCB parameters between two endpoints on a link
- Some concerns were raised on feature enablement issues
- Feature state machine is considered too complex
- In the rush to “simplify” DCBX
 - Need to keep in mind the different needs between server/storage admin and network admin
 - Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water