

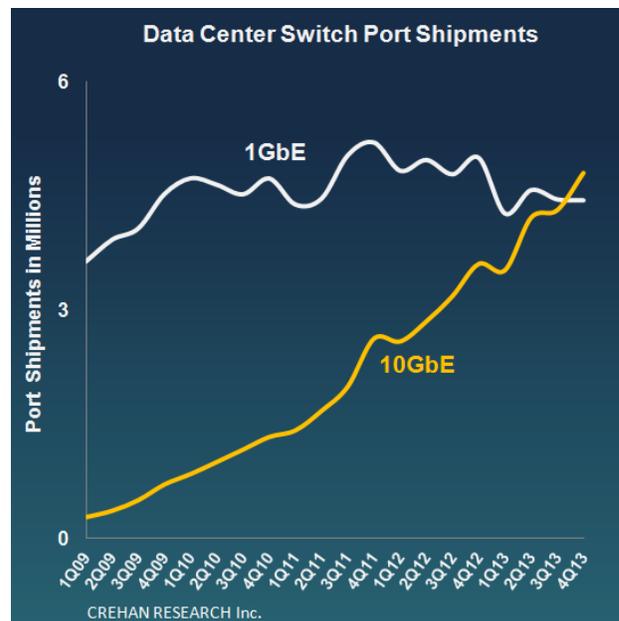
10 Gigabit Ethernet Data Center Switch Shipments Surpass One Gigabit, Crehan Research Reports

Technology overcomes numerous hurdles to become majority data center switch connection

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, March 12, 2014 — A recent report from [Crehan Research](#) shows that robust 2013 year-end growth has propelled 10 gigabit Ethernet (10GbE) data center switch port shipments past those of gigabit Ethernet (1GbE) – see accompanying figure. 10GbE now comprises a majority of data center Ethernet switch connections.

Since first product introductions in 2001, 10GbE data center switching has overcome numerous hurdles on the path to majority adoption. These have included:

- Very low port-density switches, with accompanying prices prohibitive to volume data center deployments.
- High-priced optical pluggable modules, accompanied by many different multi-source agreements and form-factors, with the market cycling through the 300pin, XENPAK, XPAK, XFP and X2 modules before finally settling at the current dominant SFP+ form-factor.
- Limited default or free 10GbE networking on volume rack servers to seed the market for a switch upgrade, similar to what happened with 1GbE.
- Slower-than-expected arrival of compelling 10GBASE-T solutions.
- Two major recessions in the aftermath of the housing and dot-com bubbles.



“When I first saw 10 gigabit Ethernet switches arrive on the market back in 2001, I never thought that we would be well into the next decade before these products would comprise a majority of data center Ethernet port shipments,” said Seamus Crehan, president of Crehan Research. “Despite a network traffic

growth curve that turned out to be way above most expectations, this technology was encumbered by numerous obstacles on its way to becoming a majority of data center connections,” he added.

Crehan Research expects that the majority adoption of 10GbE data center switches will now help enable deployments of the [higher-speed, next-gen switches](#) needed to uplink and aggregate the growing number of 10GbE data center connections.

About Crehan Research Inc.

Crehan Research Inc. produces reports with very detailed statistics and information on the data center switch and server-class adapter & LOM/controller markets. The company’s reports are supported with rich insights and context to deliver increased value. For more information about Crehan Research Inc. email info@CrehanResearch.com, phone 650-273-8400, or visit www.CrehanResearch.com.

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