

Pluribus Freedom 25/100 Gigabit Ethernet Switches - 9572-V & 9532-C

Netvisor ONE OS: Switch Feature, Performance, & Network Resilience Evaluation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pluribus Netvisor ONE Operating System (NOS) provides a feature-rich Layer 2 and Layer 3 network functionality that works across multiple switches to form a fabric that is intelligent and self-healing.

Pluribus Networks commissioned Tolly to evaluate the performance and functionality of its Freedom Switching family powered by the Pluribus Netvisor ONE operating system. Testing encompassed throughput performance and latency, resilience in a multi-switch, leaf-spine configuration as well as extensive feature/function testing.

Tolly engineers verified wire-speed L2 throughput and latency across two ports for 25GbE and 100GbE switches. verified rapid reconvergence times in multi-switch failover scenarios and validated some 60 features in areas including L2/L3, automation, VXLAN, QoS, DHCP, VMware integration, mirroring, analytics and management.

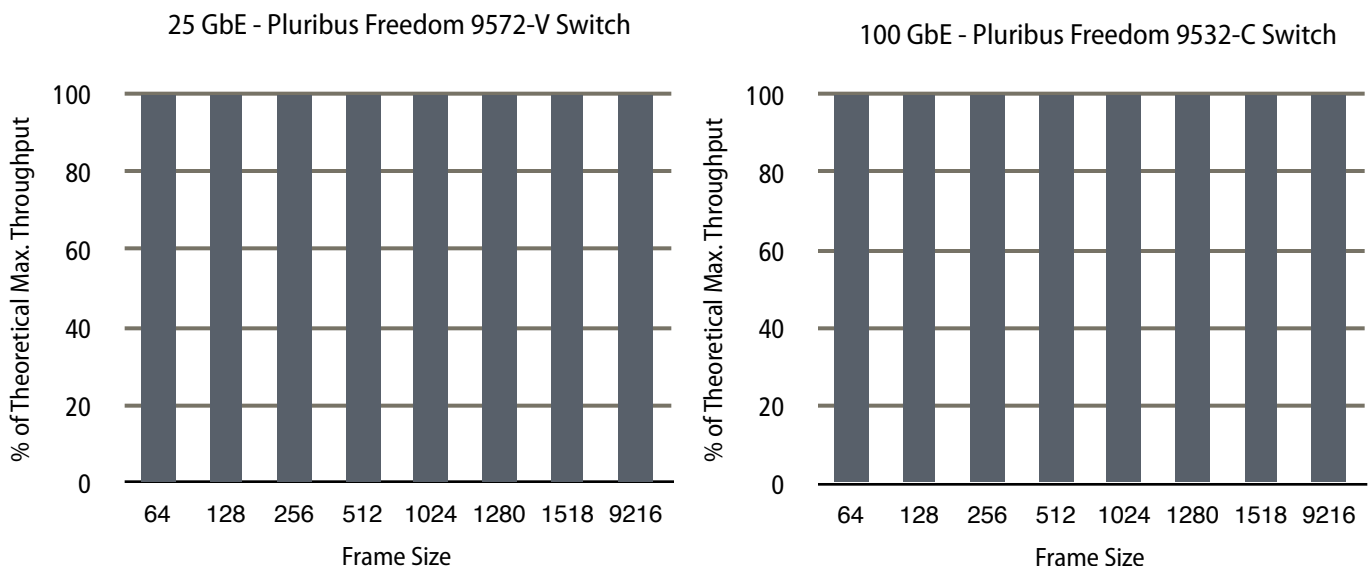
THE BOTTOM LINE

Pluribus Networks provides:

- 1 Support for 10/25/40/100 GbE LANs
- 2 Self-healing Adaptive Cloud Fabric which can span across sites with fabric-wide programmability with CLI, GUI, or APIs
- 3 Robust L2 support including RSTP/MSTP, VLANs, trunking, LLDP and jumbo MTUs
- 4 Robust L3 support including dual-stack IPv4/IPv6 functionality, VRRP, BGP and OSPF

Layer 2 25 & 100 Gigabit Ethernet RFC 2544 Throughput

Zero-loss Across Two Ports
(as reported by Xena Valkyrie2544 v2.53)



Source: Tolly, September 2018

Figure 1



Solution Highlights

Among the areas evaluated, there were several that illustrate important benefits of the Pluribus Networks solution. Simply presenting these as features list without context fails to convey important benefits and capabilities. Thus, this report will instead provide a solution-level discussion for these key areas. All capabilities discussed were demonstrated and tested in the course of the testing.


Adaptive Cloud Fabric

A key element of the Pluribus solution is what it refers to as its Adaptive Cloud Fabric. In essence, multiple Pluribus Netvisor ONE switches work together forming a distributed switch fabric that functions without a controller.

The distributed nature of the fabric provides many benefits. Among the capabilities illustrated were:

- 1) Single point of management to reduce time to deploy and configure, simplify software upgrades, rapid troubleshooting and reduce human configuration errors.
- 2) Simple and cost effective to deploy: no proprietary controllers and protocols make the Adaptive Cloud Fabric easy to insert into any brownfield network based on standard L2/L3 protocols and any topology.
- 3) Easy to extend across multiple sites and geographies: the fabric control plane can easily be transported across any core/wan network, making it possible to extend the Adaptive Cloud Fabric single pane of glass across multiple locations.
- 4) The ability to run the fabric in-band and/or out-of-band eliminates all single points of failure of centralized controller-based architectures (single switch management interface and single out-of-band management network), making it an ideal fit for mission critical applications.

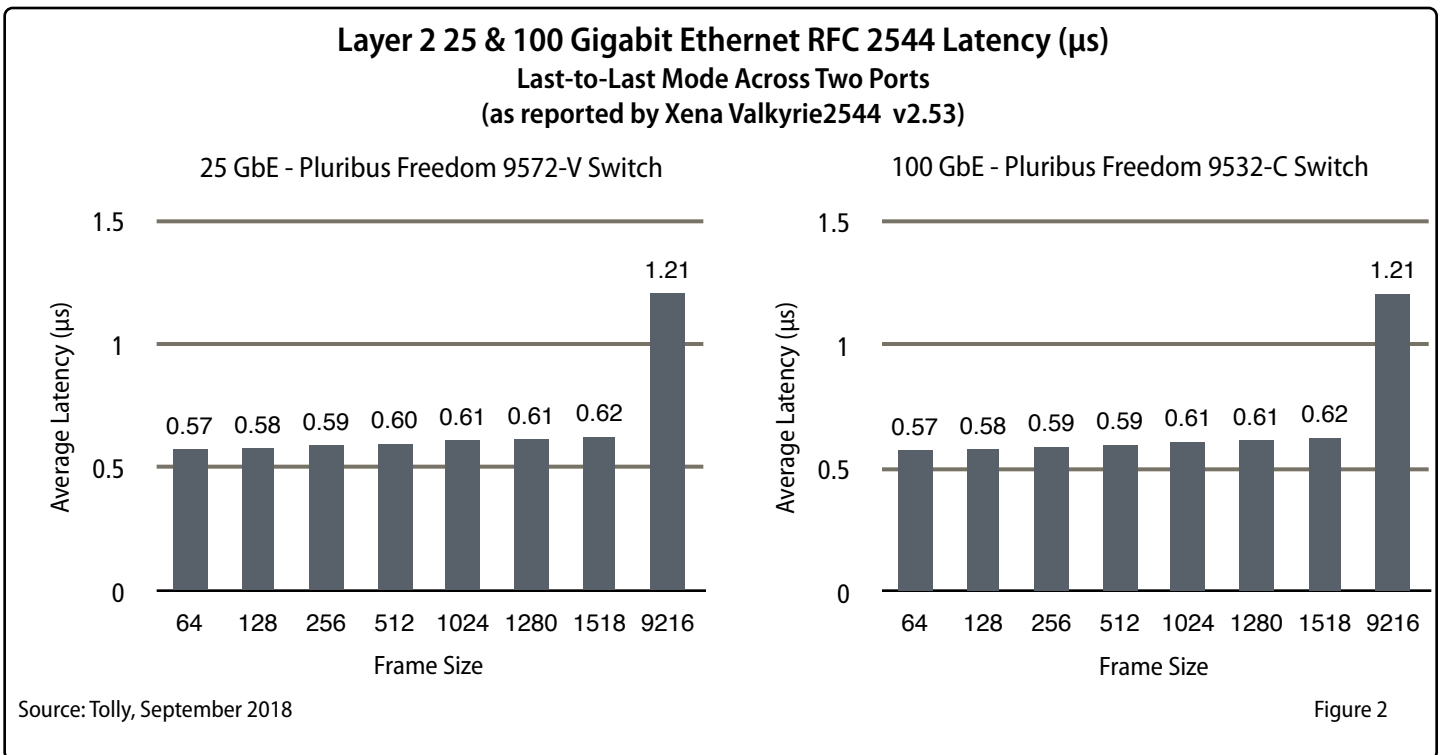
Pluribus Networks
Freedom Switching
Features, Performance & Network Resilience



Tested September 2018

- 5) The Adaptive Cloud Fabric distributed architecture is designed for the rapid failover and high-availability even in environments with third party switches and routers.
- 6) Failed nodes can be replaced and fabric will heal automatically recovering the old configuration.

Tests demonstrated ease-of-use and access via CLI, GUI and/or RESTful API. Automation





**Pluribus Networks Freedom Switching Platform/Netvisor ONE Operating System
Tolly Certified Features - Part 1**

Adaptive Cloud Fabric		VXLAN	
✓	Self-healing	✓	VXLAN
✓	ACLs	✓	Auto-Tunnels
✓	Scalability	✓	VXLAN Bridging
Control Plane Traffic Protection (CPTP)		✓	VXLAN Routing
✓	Fabric protection, Hog Protection	✓	Anycast v4/v6/Distributed VRF
Automation/API		Quality-of-Service	
✓	Configuration Automation with Ansible/Unum	✓	Queuing
✓	REST API	✓	Marking
LAN Topologies		✓	Minimum Bandwidth Guarantee
✓	10/25/40/100GbE	✓	Policer
L2 Functionality		✓	LLQ
✓	RSTP/MSTP	DHCP	
✓	VLAN and Trunking (Link Aggregation/LAG)	✓	DHCP Relay (Dual-stack IPv4/v6)
✓	Multi-Chassis LAG (vLAG)	✓	DHCP Snooping (Track/Filter)
✓	EtherChannel	✓	IPv6 RA & IPv6 RA Guard
✓	BPDU Filter	VMware Integration	
✓	SVI (L2/L3)	✓	Via connection to VMware vCenter
✓	LLDP	✓	Switch port identification
✓	Jumbo MTU	✓	Track VM movement across hosts
✓	ARP & Broadcast Suppression	✓	Identify VLAN requirements of each VM
L3 Functionality (Dual-stack IPv4/v6)		✓	Track network statistics
✓	Static Routes	✓	Track VM modifications: adds, changes, deletions
✓	VRRP Sessions	✓	Track VMs and configure VLANs on switches
✓	BGP Routes	✓	Dynamically provision VLANs
✓	BGP Neighbors	✓	Track host, power status, vNIC, etc.
✓	BGP BFD Neighbors		
✓	OSPF Routes		
✓	OSPF Neighbors		
✓	vRouters		

Source: Tolly, September 2018

Table 1



via Ansible was also demonstrated.

Furthermore, the Pluribus environment was shown to be highly scalable with respect to VRRP sessions BGP and OSPF routers and neighbors, analytics capacity, ACLs and fabric scalability. The specifics can be found in Tolly report #217130.

Control Plane Traffic Protection (CPTP)

CCPTP refers to the capability of the switch to protect the flow of traffic on the control plane. This improves switch reliability and availability. Tolly engineers verified three levels of protection: 1) Overall CPU bandwidth, 2) Dedicated queues for critical flows, and 3) DDoS protection from offending flows. This last feature, also known as "hog protection," protects from too much traffic from a given host overloading a critical control queue. Hog protection achieves this by either redirecting traffic to lower bandwidth (100packets/s) hog queues or by dropping them. See Figure below.

VXLAN

Virtual Extensible LAN (VXLAN) is a standards-based network virtualization technology. Defined in IETF RFC 7348, it

Pluribus Networks Freedom Switching Platform/Netvisor ONE Operating System

Tolly Certified Features - Part 2

Control Plane and Packet Mirroring	
✓	SPAN
✓	RSPAN
✓	ERSPAN (SPAN over IP)
✓	Control Plane Mirroring
Analytics	
✓	Unum Analytics UI
✓	Switch Level Information
Management	
✓	SNMP
✓	Logging (Syslog)
✓	AAA (TACACS+)
✓	NTP
✓	DNS
✓	ZTP
✓	Image Management
✓	SSH and Banner

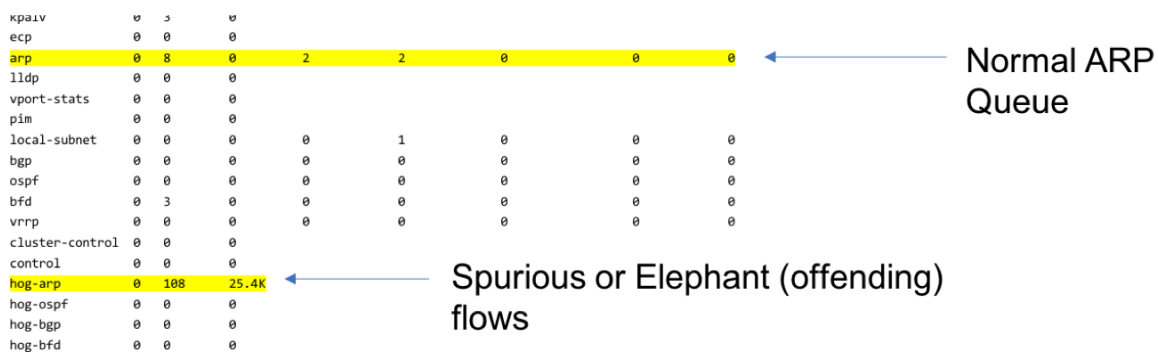
Source: Tolly, September 2018

Table 2

allows a Layer 2-like overlay across IP networks. VXLAN lets network architects combine simplicity with scalability. Tunnels are auto-created using the VTEP information provided by the Fabric. This eliminates a lot of configuration complexity.

Pluribus demonstrated an impressive range of VXLAN capabilities. These included: 1) Auto tunnels, 2) VXLAN bridging, 3) VXLAN routing, 4) Anycast IPv4/v6, and 5) Distributed virtual routing and forwarding (VRF).

Pluribus Networks Netvisor ONE - Hog Protection Example





Test Results

This section summarizes tests not covered in the solutions analysis.

Performance

Industry standard RFC 2544 performance tests were run on two different Pluribus Networks switches outfitted with different LAN topologies. The Freedom 9572-V was used for 25GbE testing and the Freedom 9532-C was used for 100GbE testing. All performance testing was performed using one port pair for logistical reasons. Prior Tolly testing illustrated wire-speed throughput at high port densities for the Pluribus Networks switches. (See Tolly Report #217130.)

In both the 25GbE and 100GbE Layer 2 tests, the switches delivered 100%, wire-speed throughput at all frame sizes. The

tests included the seven frames sizes specified by RFC 2544 as well as the largest jumbo frame of 9216-bytes. See Figure 1.

Latency tests were run in the same hardware configurations. For both LAN topologies, average latency ranged from 0.57ms to 0.62ms for frame sizes up to 1518-bytes. Jumbo frame latency was 1.21ms for both topologies. See Figure 2.

LAN Topologies

(See Tables 1 and 2 for detailed lists of features and functions summarized in this section of the report.)

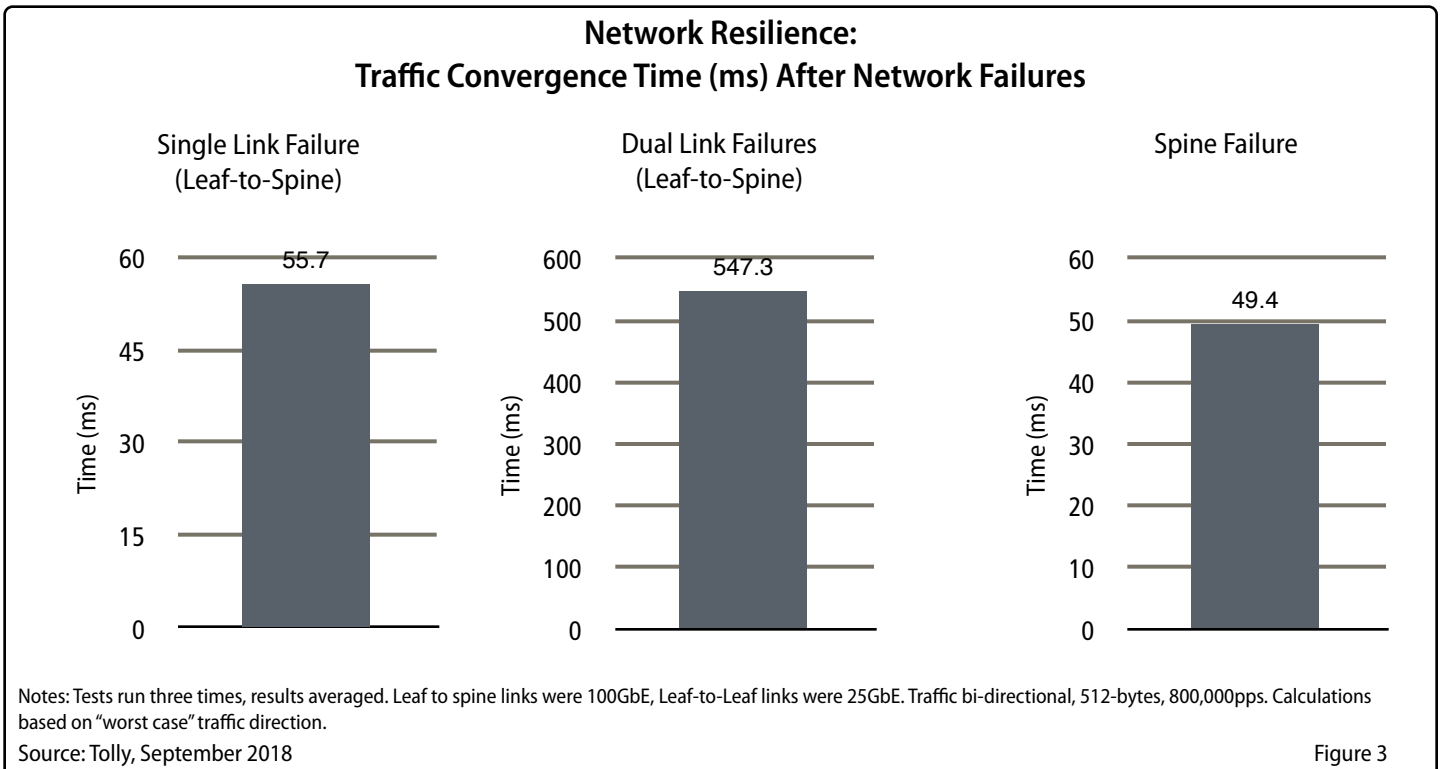
In addition to the aforementioned 25GbE and 100GbE performance testing, testing illustrated connectivity at 10GbE and 40GbE. This showed that Pluribus Networks provides supports for all high-speed LAN technologies currently in deployment.

Layer 2 Functionality

Testing verified a range of features including RSTP/MSTP, VLANs, Trunking/Link Aggregation, EtherChannel, switch virtual interface (SVI), LLDP, and ARP and broadcast suppression. The Adaptive Cloud Fabric is used to suppress ARP and broadcast to the local nodes.

Layer 3 Functionality

Extensive functionality at Layer 3 was verified. The Pluribus Networks Netvisor ONE OS provides dual-stack, IPV4 and IPV6 support across all areas tested. In addition to static routes, VRRP, and vRouters the test verified support for BGP and OSPF routers and neighbors. Route scalability was proven in a prior Tolly test referenced above.



Quality-of-Service (QoS)

QoS assures that traffic is handled in accordance with priorities set by the network manager. The test verified important QoS features. In addition to core queuing capability, Engineers verified packet marking, Queuing using custom maps by modifying the COS to DSCP Mapping Table, Minimum bandwidth guarantee and LLQ (Low Latency Queue) which allows PQ to be rate limited.

DCHP

DHCP functions are essential as they provide the service for dynamic address acquisition by IP endpoints. In addition to core DHCP functions, engineers verified DHCP snooping (both track and filter). Also verified was the important IPv6 router advertisement (RA) and RA guard security features. RA guard prevents unauthorized endpoints from advertising router services.

VMware Integration

Virtual machines, either servers or desktops, are a standard part of most enterprise environments. All communication between VMs and other VMs and other network endpoints takes place across virtual network adapters (vNIC).

Tolly engineers verified the tight integration with and extensive functionality of the Pluribus Networks Netvisor ONE with the industry-leading VMware management environment.

Netvisor ONE interfaces with the VMware vCenter management environment and thus can leverage the power of vCenter and provide extensive functionality to network managers.

Among the capabilities: Netvisor ONE can dynamically provision VLANs, track VMs, identify VLAN requirements of each VM, create LAG or vLAG (multi-chassis EtherChannel), track network statistics, track VM movement across hosts and keep track of modifications to VMs.

Control Plane & Packet Mirroring

For a variety of reasons including troubleshooting, traffic and security analysis, it is important to be able to capture traffic traversing specific ports. Port mirroring is the feature that provides this capability and it is also referred to as switch port analyzer or SPAN.

Engineers verified both local and remote port mirroring as well as SPAN over IP.

Similarly, it can be necessary for network managers to capture flows traversing a switch's control plane. Engineers verified control plane mirroring functionality.

Analytics

As networks become more complex, analytics becomes more and more important. Tolly engineers verified

extensive analytics functions provided by the Pluribus Networks Unum analytics environment.

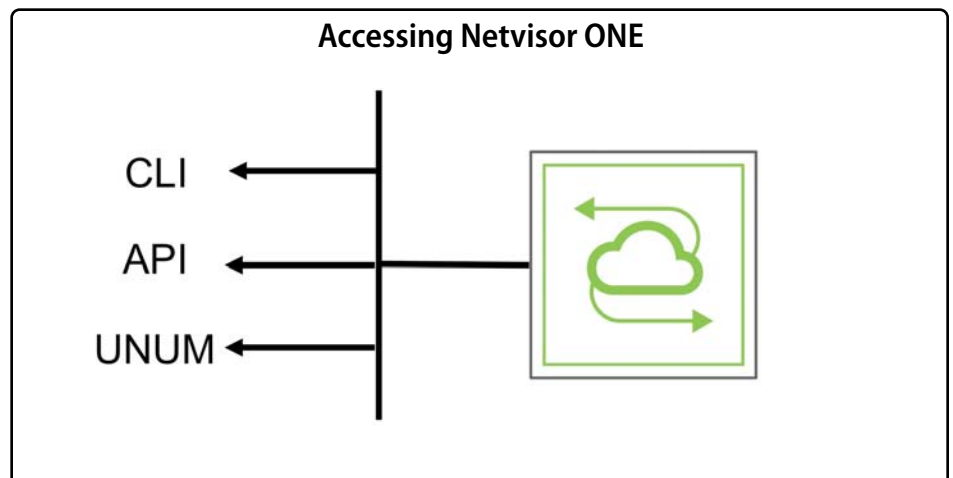
Additionally, engineers verified availability of statistics and related information individually at the switch level.

Management

Management encompasses many functions. Tolly verified the extensive suite of management features available in the Pluribus Networks environment. The device can be accessed and configured using CLI, REST and the UNUM GUI. See Figure below.

Tolly engineers verified support for core SNMP, Syslog and authentication (AAA/TACACS+).

Zero-touch provisioning (ZTP) saves significant deployment time and Tolly verified support for this feature along with extensive image management support that eases upgrades and provides fallback in the event that a downgrade is desired. Software upgrades can be performed on one device at a time or all devices in the fabric using the Fabric Software Upgrade.





Furthermore, Tolly verified support for SSH capabilities.

Troubleshooting

Adaptive Cloud Fabric CLI makes troubleshooting extremely simple by providing a single pane of glass of view through CLI, REST and UNUM. For example when using the CLI the user can troubleshoot a single switch, a group of switches or all switches in a fabric in a single SSH session.

Network Resilience Testing

Tests of recovery times for single and dual link failures as well as spine switch failures confirmed that recovery from every scenario was sub-second. See Figure 3.

Test Setup & Methodology

Performance Testing

Throughput and latency tests were running using Xena Networks hardware and software. The benchmarking software was the Xena Valkyrie2544 test suite v2.53 running on a Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise computer controlling the Xena Networks test chassis. The Valkyrie Layer 2-3 test chassis was outfitted with Xena Networks QSFP28 100G CR4 cards. These

cards could be configured for 100GbE or 25GbE LANs.

Tests were run using eight different frame sizes: 64-, 128-, 256-, 512-, 1024-, 1280-1580-, 1518-, and 9216-bytes. The last frame size is a "jumbo" MTU that is larger than the Ethernet specification maximum.

All tests were run three times for 60 seconds each and results averaged. Throughput tests were zero-loss tests. Latency tests were configured in "Last-to-Last" mode.

Network Resilience Testing

Networks are typically built with multiple paths (links) either directly or indirectly between switches to provide for secondary paths in the event that a primary link fails. The time required for traffic to start transiting the new, backup path is referred to as convergence or reconvergence time.

This test was designed to illustrate the worst case (i.e. longest amount of time) required for traffic to flow across a new, backup path after the original, active path was deliberately terminated.

The test environment was in a "Leaf-Spine" configuration with multiple leaf switches and multiple spine switches. There were multiple paths between each leaf switch and multiple spine switches. Three failure scenarios were benchmarked: 1) Single-link

failure (leaf to spine), 2) Dual-link failures (leaf to spine), and 3) Spine switch failure.

To measure convergence time, bi-directional test traffic of 512-byte frames at a rate of 800,000fps was sent between two ports. Traffic traversed the active path. Engineers introduced the failure and then measured how many frames were lost before traffic resumed using the newly converged path. The known packet rate was used to convert the lost packets into elapsed time. The tests were run three times and the results averaged.

Feature Testing

Features were evaluated as appropriate for each feature/function. Tolly engineers used terminal commands and logs, GUI, and system analytics among other methods, to document each feature test as appropriate.

Solutions Under Test

Pluribus Networks Netvisor ONE OS	v3.1.0
25 GbE Switch Hardware	Pluribus Freedom 9572-V Switch (Broadcom Tomahawk ASIC)
100 GbE Switch Hardware	Pluribus Freedom 9532-C Switch (Broadcom Tomahawk ASIC)

Source: Tolly, September 2018

Table 3



About Tolly


The Tolly Group companies have been delivering world-class IT services for nearly 30 years. Tolly is a leading global provider of third-party validation services for vendors of IT products, components and services.

You can reach the company by E-mail at sales@tolly.com, or by telephone at +1 561.391.5610.

Visit Tolly on the Internet at: <http://www.tolly.com>

Test Equipment Summary

The Tolly Group gratefully acknowledges the providers of test equipment/software used in this project.

Vendor	Product	Web
Xena Networks	Valkyrie Layer 2-3 Test Platform Software: Valkyrie2544 v2.53	 http://www.xenanetworks.com

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