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The information in this document is gathered from websites listed under references. In addition, I have also received help from a number of people. It should be noted that any errors in this document are due to typing errors, or that I simply haven’t understood what I have been told. No shadow at all should fall on the people that have helped me. Any errors are entirely my fault.

Version 1.7

DiverseTips.se

Connections and improvements are highly welcomed in Twitter: @DiverseTips or @DiverseTipsSE

Recent version of documentation can be found at: http://doverstips.blogspot.com/2011/01/xenserver-network-ports.html

Send bugs and suggestions to Erik Hurtig. All data and information contained in this document is not guaranteed to be perfect.

Notes

- For most environments, Citrix recommends segregating VM traffic from management traffic as the best practice. Also it is recommended to separate the storage traffic from the VM and management traffic. In smaller environments, you may want to use the management network also for all VM and Storage traffic. However, Citrix recommends evaluating the performance of this configuration.
- Having many connections to VLANs (for example 100G) configured on a host creates an additional load on the Control Domain, which frequently results in reduced network performance. Having numerous VLANs can also impact your host, pool and VMs performance.
- Citrix recommends bonding the primary management interface if the XenServer High Availability feature is enabled as well as configuring multipathing or NIC bonding for the heartbeat SR.
- Always create bonds before creating virtual interfaces in VMs. If you are bonding or teaming NICs, disable the Spanning Tree Protocol on the ports you’re plugging in.
- PortSpeed settings to Full Duplex and Static if using virtual interfaces per VM.
- Workload Balancing Virtual Appliance
- vSwitch Controller Virtual Appliance
- Web Self Service Virtual Appliance
- IS0 Store (CIFS)
- ISO Store (CIFS)
- iSCSI Storage
- NFS Storage

XenServer Supported Configuration

- Up to 16 physical network interfaces (or up to 8 pairs of bonded network interfaces) per XenServer host.
- Max 2 physical network interfaces per bond.
- Up to 7 virtual interfaces per VM.
- Active-Active and Active-Passive bonding modes are supported. DMP and RDAC MPP multipath handlers are also supported.
- Types of networks: External, Cross-server private, Single-server private and VLANs.
- There is no Citrix-imposed preset limit on number of VLANs.

References

- Provisioning Services 6.0 Installation and Configuration Guide
- XenServer 6.0 Administrator’s Guide
- XenServer Workload Balancing 6.0 User Guide
- Communication ports used by Citrix Technologies
- XenServer 6.0 Web Self Service Administrator’s Guide
- Designing XenServer 6.0 Network Configurations

And by tracing network traffic.

Thanks!