



Managing Virtual Interfaces

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Virtual Interfaces

In a blade server environment, the number of vNICs and vHBAs configurable for a service profile is determined by adapter capability and the amount of virtual interface (VIF) namespace available on the adapter. In Cisco UCS, portions of VIF namespace are allotted in chunks called VIFs. Depending on your hardware, the maximum number of VIFs are allocated on a predefined, per-port basis.

The maximum number of VIFs varies based on hardware capability and port connectivity. For each configured vNIC or vHBA, one or two VIFs are allocated. Stand-alone vNICs and vHBAs use one VIF and failover vNICs and vHBAs use two.

The following variables affect the number of VIFs available to a blade server, and therefore, how many vNICs and vHBAs you can configure for a service profile.

- Maximum number of VIFs supported on your fabric interconnect
- How the fabric interconnects are cabled
- If your fabric interconnect and IOM are configured in fabric port channel mode

For more information about the maximum number of VIFs supported by your hardware configuration, see the appropriate *Cisco UCS Configuration Limits for Cisco UCS Manager* for your software release.

Virtual Interface Subscription Management and Error Handling

For fabric interconnects grouped in a port-channel, changes to the way you connect the fabric interconnect to the I/O module could result in a drastic change to the number of VIFs available to a blade server. To help you track the effect of these changes, Cisco UCS Manager maintains the following metrics:

- Maximum number of VIFs supported by hardware
- Connectivity type

If you change your configuration in a way that decreases the number of VIFs available to a blade, UCS Manager will display a warning and ask you if you want to proceed. This includes several scenarios, including times where adding or moving a connection decreases the number of VIFs.