

iSCSI Driver for Windows 2000 Frequently Asked Questions

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Related Information

Introduction

SN 5400 is used generically throughout this document to refer to any storage router product in the SN 5400 family (SN 5420, SN 5428, or SN 5428-2). There is a separate Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for each iSCSI driver and the SN 5400. Typical subjects covered in those FAQ documents are installation questions, system requirements, and product compatibility.

This FAQ refers to version 3.1.1 of the Windows 2000 driver. The majority of this information is applicable to earlier or later versions of the driver. There might, however, be slight operational differences between driver versions, which might result in behaviors inconsistent with those described in this document.

Q. How do I find out what version of the driver I am currently running?

A. The directions for finding the version of code that you are running can be found in the Installation Notes section of the Release Notes for the Cisco iSCSI Driver for Microsoft Windows 2000.

Q. What is the most current available version of the driver?

A. The most current version of the driver can be found at Cisco iSCSI Drivers (registered customers only) .

Q. Is there a README file associated with the driver?

A. Yes. The README.txt file is included in the driver zip file. You can download the zip file from Cisco iSCSI Drivers (registered customers only) . Extract the README by unzipping the file. The README contains information about the license agreement, driver installation, configuration instructions, a technical overview of the driver architecture, and general system requirements.

Q. How do I download and install the most current version of the driver?

A. The directions for downloading, installing, and uninstalling the driver can be found in the Installation Notes section of the Release Notes for the Cisco iSCSI Driver for Microsoft Windows 2000.

Q. How do I initially configure the driver or modify an existing configuration?

A. The directions for configuring the driver can be found in the Installation and Initial Configuration and the Changing Configuration section of the README file.

Q. What are the Microsoft operating system requirements for installing the driver?

A. The operating system requirements, service pack requirements, and hotfix requirements are described in the System Requirements section of the Release Notes for the Cisco iSCSI Driver for Microsoft Windows 2000.

Q. Does the driver work in a multiprocessor system?

A. The driver has been tested and works in all single-processor and multiprocessor environments.

Q. Which host computer platforms are supported by the driver?

A. The driver has been designed to work on any host computer platform running Windows 2000 or Windows XP, but it has been tested only on platforms that use the x86 family of processors.

Q. What are the known caveats with the current driver and which caveats have been resolved with the current driver?

A. The caveat information for the driver can be found in the Caveats section of the Release Notes for the Cisco iSCSI Driver for Microsoft Windows 2000.

Q. With what version of the SN 5400 software is my driver compatible?

A. Not all versions of driver code are interoperable with all versions of the SN 5400 code. To determine if your driver is interoperable with your SN 5400, use this table:

Driver Version	SN 5400 Version	Compatible
1.8.x	1.a.b	Yes
1.8.x	2.a.b	No
1.8.x	3.a.b	No
2.x.y	1.a.b	No
2.x.y	2.a.b	Yes
2.x.y	3.a.b	Yes
3.x.y	1.a.b	No
3.x.y	2.a.b	No
3.x.y	3.a.b	Yes

Q. Is the Cisco driver interoperable with other non-Cisco iSCSI target devices?

A. The Cisco driver has been written, tested, and qualified for use in a Cisco SN 5400 storage router environment. Any other use of this driver is not covered by any expressed or implied warranty by Cisco. Cisco provides support for use of these drivers only in a Cisco SN 5400 environment.

Q. What Ethernet network interface cards (NICs) and host applications have been tested with the driver and the SN 5400?

A. The list of applications and equipment tested with the driver and the SN 5400 are included in the Cisco SN 5428 and SN 5428-2 Interoperability Matrix.

Q. What are maximum number of logical unit numbers (LUNs) per target supported by the driver?

A. The maximum number of LUNs per target is 255 in Microsoft Windows NT version 1.8.8 or later. Versions earlier than 1.8.8 only support eight LUNs per target. In addition, when used in conjunction with the Cisco SN 5420 running version 1.1.6 or later, 255 LUNs are recognized. The Cisco Storage Networking iSCSI Driver for Microsoft Windows 2000 version 1.8.9, when used in conjunction with Cisco SN 5420 software release 1.1.7 or later, supports a maximum of 255 LUNs per target. This value is not user configurable.

Q. What is the maximum number of targets supported by the driver?

A. The maximum number of targets is eight. This value is not user configurable.

Q. Does the mapping of the iSCSI target to the physical storage device remain the same from one reboot to the next (persistent target binding)?

A. No.

Q. Where are the error or event messages from the iSCSI driver logged?

A. Messages generated by the iSCSI driver are not directly logged into the Windows Event Log. Messages might, however, be indirectly logged by the Windows disk class drivers, indicating events or errors generated by the iSCSI driver. To directly view messages generated by the iSCSI driver, you need to run a Windows debug viewer tool such as the Microsoft Debugging Tools or Sysinternals DebugView .

Q. How do I know the connection status of the iSCSI targets?

A. The target connection status can be retrieved by using the **Status** button on the iSCSI Configuration Control applet. A more detailed description of this feature and the possible connection states are described in the General Information section of the README file.

Q. How does the throughput performance of iSCSI compare to that of a native Fiber Channel Host Bus Adapter (HBA)?

A. The performance of iSCSI, as compared to native Fiber Channel, is dependent on many factors. A report on the performance of the SN 5420 using a Windows NT host is available. There is not a report that addresses the performance specifically with the Windows 2000 driver.

Q. How does the latency of iSCSI compare to that of a native Fiber Channel Host Bus Adapter (HBA)?

A. The latency of iSCSI as compared to native Fiber Channel is dependent on many factors. A report on the latency of the SN 5420 using a Linux host is available. There is not a report that addresses the latency specifically with the Windows 2000 driver.

Related Information

- [Cisco iSCSI Drivers](#)
- [Cisco iSCSI Driver Software Download \(registered customers only\)](#)
- [Storage Networking Product Support](#)
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