



General configuration guidelines for all storage arrays

ONTAP FlexArray

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General configuration guidelines for all storage arrays

There are certain configuration guidelines that you must follow for any of the storage arrays supported by ONTAP.

Requirement for 8-Gb array port initialization

In a typical Fibre Channel (FC) fabric, storage array ports initialize as N-Ports (node ports) and their corresponding switch ports initialize as F-Ports (fabric ports). In some cases, these F-ports might go offline and resume operation as L-Ports (loop ports), resulting in fabric errors.

This behavior is caused by topology auto-negotiation issues in the Brocade switch.

To ensure that switch ports always initialize as F-ports, you must run the `portcfggport <portnumber> 1` command on Brocade switch ports that are connected to storage arrays. You must run this command when you start configuring the system to avoid this problem, and you must fix the problem if it occurs.

To promote efficiency on the fabric as a whole, you can also use this workaround on any Brocade ports attached to ONTAP initiator ports.

Required fill word settings for 8 Gb Brocade switch ports

If you are using 8 Gb Brocade switches running firmware version FOS 6.3.1 or later in your storage environment, you must verify that appropriate fill word settings are configured on the switch ports connected to ONTAP systems and that the switch ports are connected to storage arrays. Providing incorrect fill words might lead to link initialization failures in the switch ports.

For ONTAP systems, you must set the fill word on the corresponding switch ports to 3.

For storage arrays, you must set the fill word according to the following recommended values, using the Brocade switch documentation for instructions:

Storage array	Fill word value on the Brocade switch ports
Hitachi	2
HP XP	
All other storage arrays supported with Data ONTAP systems	3

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[NetApp Interoperability Matrix Tool](#)

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