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A Broadcom Company

Don't Put Your Disaster Recovery Plan at Risk

End-of-Support is Imminent, Upgrade Today

The Brocade® Gen 4 FX8-24 Extension Blade has reached End-of-Life (EOL) and is already well past the Brocade Fabric OS® (FOS) End-of-Availability (EOA). With End-of-Support (EOS) approaching, now is the time to start the upgrade process to the Brocade SX6 Extension Blade.

Brocade FX8-24 Extension Blade EOL Dates

EOL: **April 30, 2019**

Brocade FOS EOA: **April 30, 2023**

EOS: **October 31, 2024**

As data demands increase and expectations evolve, it's important that critical business operations are maintained in the face of adverse events such as disasters, ransomware, cyber attacks, or failures. Enterprises need disaster recovery infrastructure to ensure fast, continuous, and secure replication of mission-critical data anywhere in the world, to prevent loss or breaches of in-flight data across the WAN.

Besides the increased risk of downtime, halt on enhancements, and a lack of regular security updates after EOL, maintaining aging networking infrastructure in a data center is riskier than you think. Older technology was not designed to handle today's replication performance and cyber-resilience demands, which can result in longer recovery point and recovery time objectives (RPO and RTO), increasing the risk of data loss and security exposures.

If you are still running Gen 4 hardware, it's time to refresh aging replication connectivity to minimize risk and be better prepared to protect your valuable information from disaster. While the thought of a technology refresh might not be welcome, the benefits of upgrading from legacy hardware to the Brocade SX6 Extension Blade are far greater than you might imagine.
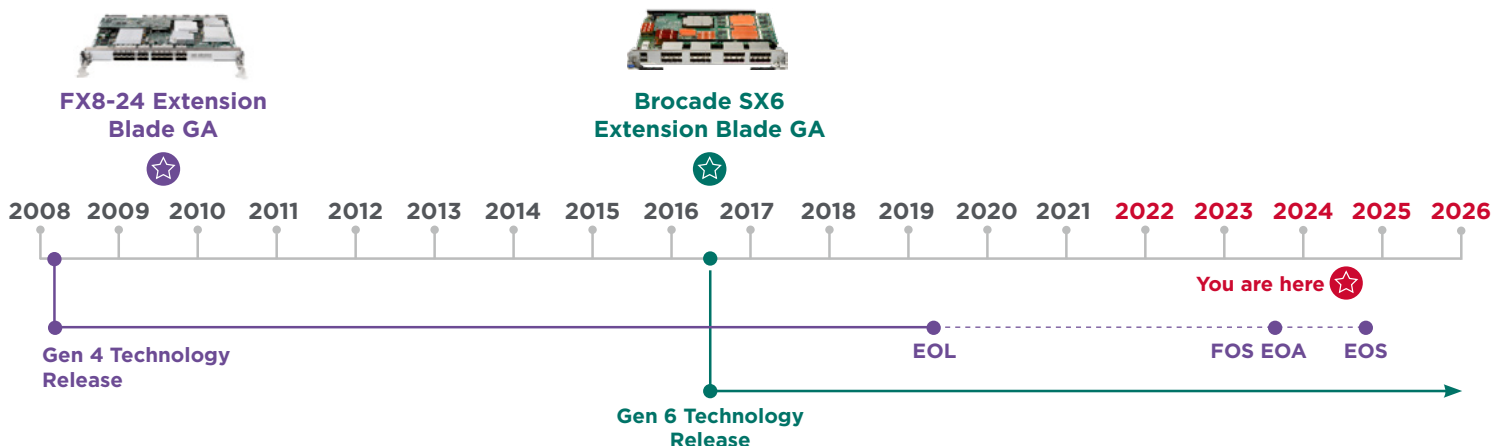
What Happens at Fabric OS® EOA?

Brocade engineering identifies hundreds of new security threats every year and provides patches to address these vulnerabilities. Once FOS EOA arrives, there will be no further scheduled releases of FOS with bug fixes or improvements made available for the extension blade. More importantly, scheduled FOS patches for any recent security vulnerabilities may not be available, potentially compromising the security profile of the entire SAN environment and leaving your data exposed.

What Does EOS Mean?

Broadcom will no longer support aor troubleshoot any Brocade product that is EOS. For customers running a multiple-device fabric, if the Brocade Technical Assistance Center (TAC) confirms that there is an EOS Brocade product in the fabric, TAC will not troubleshoot the fabric until the EOS Brocade product has been removed from the fabric. Additionally, EOS products are no longer entitled to access software updates, bug fixes, or patches on the Brocade software portal.

Running 8G Replication Connectivity? Your Extension Blades Might Be Older than You Think.

FX8-24 Extension Blade GA

Brocade SX6 Extension Blade GA

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 **2022 2023 2024 2025 2026**

You are here

Gen 4 Technology Release

EOL

FOS EOA **EOS**

Gen 6 Technology Release

What Are the Risks if You Wait to Upgrade?

Reliability Issues
Over time, heat, vibration, and dust will impact hardware reliability, which could cause disruptions or failures, putting your recovery objectives at risk.

Interoperability Issues
With older extension products, newer storage devices may not be compatible or may be limited to a subset of features, increasing risk, and noncompliance issues.

Security Vulnerabilities
Patches for any recent security vulnerabilities will become limited over time, leaving your data exposed and resulting in potential financial and legal ramifications.

Performance Impact
Legacy infrastructure can impede your ability to move large amounts of data quickly, over distance. This can lengthen recovery objectives, increasing the risk of data loss.

Legacy Technologies Were Not Designed for Today's Cyber-Resilience Demands.

The loss of any crucial data could lead directly to lost revenue or damage to the company's brand reputation. To safeguard your data, you need to be prepared for malicious intrusion and unexpected disasters. Ensuring your valuable information is protected at all times against disruptions, outages, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities can be challenging if running on legacy, unsupported extension technology. Refreshing your disaster recovery infrastructure with next-generation replication connectivity ensures valuable information is protected and expedites recovery during a disaster or outage.

The Brocade SX6 Extension Blade is purpose-built to achieve high replication performance over long distances, maintain data flow over unreliable WAN connections, and secure in-flight data across data centers. This blade provides flexible Fibre Channel and IP storage replication deployment options within the Brocade X7 Director, and a cost-effective option to connect primary data centers with remote data centers and offices via Brocade 7850 and Brocade 7810 Extension Switches in a data center-to-edge architecture.

Now is the time to make investments in your replication connectivity by migrating to the Brocade SX6 Extension Blade, providing a longer useable life and lower vulnerability risk with continual FOS and security updates to strengthen the level of security in your network, which will pay dividends for years to come.

Why Should You Upgrade?

Security
Safeguard data in-flight over distance from threats without a performance penalty with Quantum Safe, AES 256-bit encryption.

Reliability
Ensure always-on storage replication with non-disruptive firmware updates, maximum replication throughput, and lossless failover between WAN links.

Simplicity
Automate actions to simplify management and resolve issues without intervention for a more resilient network.

Efficiencies
Monitor Fibre Channel and IP health and performance from a single view, and dramatically shorten recovery time when an event occurs to meet RPO and RTO objectives.

Performance
Move more data, faster, over distance with up to 80Gb/s replication performance to maximize 1GbE, 10GbE, or 40GbE WAN connections.

Consolidation
Increase operational value by consolidating high-speed Fibre Channel and IP storage replication workloads into a single, managed tunnel between data centers.

Features	FX8-24 (Gen 4)	SX6 (Gen 6)
Fibre Channel Ports	12 x 8G	16 x 32G
Ethernet Ports LAN and WAN Connectivity	10 x 1GbE	16 x 1/10GbE
QSFP Ethernet WAN Ports	Optional 2 x 10GbE	2 X 40GbE
Maximum WAN Bandwidth	20Gb/s	40Gb/s
Maximum Replication Throughput	40Gb/s	80Gb/s
Fibre Channel and IP Storage Replication Traffic Support	Fibre Channel only	Fibre Channel and IP
Fabric Vision	x	Included
Non-disruptive Firmware Upgrade	x	Included
Product Availability	**EOL: April 30, 2019** **FOS EOA: April 30, 2023** **EOS: October 31, 2024**	December 23, 2018

Upgrade to the Brocade SX6 Extension Blade Today

Modernizing disaster recovery connectivity maximizes the performance, reliability, and security that protects critical data from cyber threats and ensures business continuity. The Brocade SX6 Extension Blade addresses disaster recovery challenges with a solution that, when a catastrophe occurs, enables preparedness toward always-on operations and ensures fast recovery. Make the move today and choose the industry's most innovative and advanced platform that fits your replication connectivity requirements.

Learn more about the reasons to upgrade to next-gen extension >
Discover More information about the Brocade X7 Director >
Contact your Brocade Sales Representative today >