BROCADE
A Broadcom Company

# Brocade® Gen 5 Has Reached End-of-Life

## Outlining the risks of an aging infrastructure

Maintaining aging networking infrastructure in your data center may be riskier than you expect.

Even if you have 16G switches and directors that are still covered by a support contract, the risk of the hardware failing due to the effects of heat, vibration and dust that build up over time, is a reality. More importantly, hundreds of security vulnerabilities are uncovered every year.

What happens if you fail a network security audit? Without access to the latest updates, you're leaving your infrastructure exposed and at risk.

**Brocade® Gen 5 (16G) FC SAN products have reached end-of-life. This includes the Brocade® DCX 8510 Director, Brocade® 6520 Switch, Brocade® 6510 Switch, and Brocade® 6505 Switch.**

Besides the increased risk of downtime and halt on enhancements after EOL, legacy products can pose other risks that you should consider.

In this quick overview, you'll learn more about these risks and why it pays to take action.

## What are the risks if you wait?

### Reliability issues

Over time, heat, vibration and dust will impact hardware reliability that could cause disruptions or failures.

### Security vulnerabilities

Patches to any recent security vulnerabilities will become limited over time, leaving you exposed and result in potential financial and legal ramifications.

### Interoperability issues

New servers and storage may not be compatible or may be limited to a subset of its features with older SAN products.

### Performance impact

EOL infrastructure can impede the performance capabilities of evolving workloads and NVMe-based storage. Gen 5 was released 10 years ago and was not designed for the demands of next-gen storage.

## Step up to Brocade® Gen 7 for much greater return

Modernizing your storage network with Brocade® Gen 7 Fibre Channel delivers far more than just high speeds and low latency. With automated administrative routines and processes—you'll see dramatic savings in time typically spent troubleshooting issues, optimizing application performance, and maintaining high levels of security. Plus, it works seamlessly with older generations of Fibre Channel and allows you to run SCSI and NVMe in parallel, so you can migrate to the SAN of the future at your own pace.

| Features | Gen 5 (16G) | Gen 6 (32G) | Gen 7 (64G) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maximum supported speed | 16G | 32G | 64G |
| Latency (local switching) | 700ns (w/o FEC) | 780ns | 460ns |
| Security: Trusted FOS, hardware-based root of trust, secure optics, secure licensing | ✕ | ✕ | ✓ |
| Traffic Optimizer | ✕ | ✕ | ✓ |
| Hardware congestion signalling | ✕ | ✕ | ✓ |
| NVMe telemetry | ✕ | ✕ | ✓ |
| Upgradable to next-generation technology | Not upgradable | X6 Director upgradeable to Gen 7 | Mix Gen 6 and Gen 7 blades |
| Product Availability | End-of-life | ✓ | ✓ |

# Want to learn more?

**Explore the benefits of Brocade Gen 7 Fibre Channel:**
**For small to medium enterprise environments >**
**For large enterprise environments >**

**Evaluate your current environment with a SAN Health check >**