BROCADE
A Broadcom Company

Make the Switch to the Brocade® G720 Switch

Reduce Risk and Ensure Longevity when You Upgrade

The Brocade® Gen 5 (16G) 6510 Switch 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 G720 Switch.

Brocade 6510 Switch EOL Dates

EOL: **December 17, 2019**

Brocade FOS EOA: **June 17, 2023**

EOS: **June 17, 2025**

Besides the increased risk of downtime, halt on enhancements, and a lack of regular security updates after EOL, maintaining aging networking infrastructure in your data center may be riskier than you expect. Older technology was not designed to handle the demands of next-gen servers and storage arrays, which can result in capacity overloads, traffic bottlenecks, and security exposures. Even if you have 16G switches still covered by a support contract until early 2025, the risk of hardware failing increases over time due to the effects of heat, vibration, and dust. More importantly, FOS EOA products are not able to run the latest versions of firmware, exposing your data center to security vulnerabilities.

If you are running Brocade 6510 Switches in your data center, you need to take action to safeguard the ongoing security and availability of your critical applications. By modernizing the storage network with Brocade Gen 7, organizations will benefit from a faster, more intelligent, and more resilient network with lower latency, predictable performance, and autonomous SAN technology. Upgrading to the Brocade G720 Switch provides access to the latest versions of Brocade FOS, ensuring that critical features are in place to strengthen your network security for protection against threats and cyber attacks.
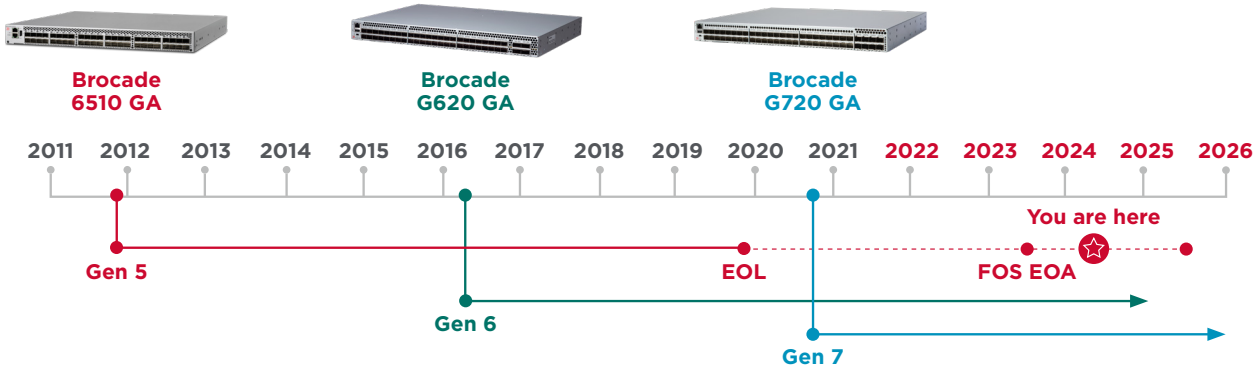
What Happens at Fabric OS® EOA?

Brocade engineering identifies hundreds of security threats every year and provides patches to address these vulnerabilities. The 6510 Switch is well past its FOS EOA date, at which point no further scheduled releases of FOS with bug fixes or improvements are made available for the 6510 Switch. More importantly, scheduled FOS patches for any recent security vulnerabilities may also not be available, compromising the security profile of the entire SAN environment and leaving your data exposed.

What Does EOS Mean?

Broadcom will no longer support or 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 Gen 5 or Gen 6 Technology?
Your Switches Might Be Older than You Think.

Brocade 6510 GA

Brocade G620 GA

Brocade G720 GA

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

You are here

Gen 5

EOL

FOS EOA

Gen 6

Gen 7

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.

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.

Interoperability Issues
With older SAN products, new servers and storage may not be compatible or may be limited to a subset of features.

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

Legacy Technologies Were Not Designed for the Demands of Today's On-Demand Data Center. Make the Move to Gen 7.

Next-generation servers and storage move more data through your infrastructure than ever before to support new applications and capabilities, driving new levels of performance and capacity requirements. Coupled with higher expectations for availability and the need to protect your enterprise against disruptions, outages, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities, you need a network that is capable of maximizing performance while simplifying management and protecting against cybersecurity threats.

The Brocade G720 Switch is designed to meet ever-increasing demands for high performance, reliability, and data integrity. This fixed-port switch will accelerate performance to meet demanding workloads, with 64G links and 50% lower latency compared to the previous generation.

By modernizing your storage network with the Brocade G720 Switch, you will get far

more than just high speeds and low-latency improvements. It can take the pain out of protecting and managing your data center altogether. With automated administrative routines and processes, you will see dramatic savings in time typically spent troubleshooting issues, optimizing application performance, and maintaining high levels of security. Plus, the Brocade G720 Switch works seamlessly with older generations of Fibre Channel. The switch allows you to run SCSI and NVMe in parallel, so that you can migrate to the SAN of the future at your own pace.

Now is the time to make investments in your data center by migrating to the Brocade G720 Switch, 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
Increase security for critical data and lower vulnerability risks.

🕐 Longer Life
Protect your investment with double the usable life and better TCO than the G620.

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

🔄 Efficiency
Scale using a smaller footprint. Consolidate to simplify your fabric.

⚙️ Performance
Support more applications and VMs per switch, while optimizing performance for NVMe.

📊 Optimization
With Traffic Optimizer, organize data flows by similar latency, throughput, and performance characteristics so they share the same dedicated resources.

Upgrade to the Brocade G720 Switch Today

Modernizing your storage network with the Brocade G720 Switch ensures high levels of security, reliability, and connectivity to high-performance storage. Data centers can quickly, easily, and cost-effectively scale from 24 ports to 64 ports to support higher growth. Choose the platform that will be available for years to come.

Features	6510 (Gen 5)	G620 (Gen 6)	G720 (Gen 7)
Port Count and Speed	48 x 16G ports	64 x 32G ports	64 x 64G ports
Latency (Local Switching)	700 ns (w/o FEC)	<780 ns	460 ns
Bandwidth	768Gb/s	2Tb/s	4.096Tb/s
Security: Trusted FOS, Hardware-Based Root of Trust, Secure Optics, Secure Licensing	✕	✕	Increase security of critical data, lowering risk to enterprises
Traffic Optimizer	✕	✕	Optimize traffic performance by grouping like traffic, ensuring that slower traffic does not hinder performance
Hardware Congestion Signalling	✕	✕	Quicker and more guaranteed delivery
NVMe Telemetry	✕	Port-to-port	Provides granularity to the LUN/storage partition
VM Insight / VMID+	✕	Minimal ecosystem support	Full ecosystem support
Bundled Software: Fabric Vision, ISL Trunking, Integrated Routing, Extended Fabrics	Requires purchase of separate licenses or enterprise bundle	Requires purchase of separate licenses or enterprise bundle	Included
Product Availability	EOL: December 17, 2019 FOS EOA: June 17, 2023 EOS: June 17, 2025	Available since March 2016	Available since September 2020

Learn More about the reasons to upgrade to Brocade Gen 7 **>**
Contact Your Brocade Sales Representative Today **>**