# The Tolly Group

Project Report

Sponsor: 3M

# 3M VOL-4000 Fast Ethernet Switch and 3M N100VF Fast Ethernet Adapter Benchmark

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#### **Findings**

#### **Premise**

The cost attractions of fiber-to-the-desk (FTTD) solutions will be of little value if customers must suffer reduced performance to leverage greater savings in cabling infrastructure. That is, FTTD can only become a viable customer solution if FTTD products, such as NICs, switches, and media converters can deliver performance at or near that of their copper counterparts.

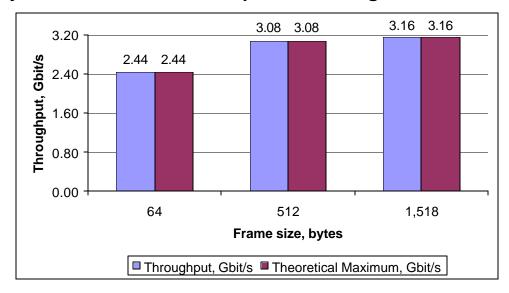
#### **Project Overview**

3M commissioned The Tolly Group to benchmark the performance of its VOL-4000 Fast Ethernet switch and N100VF Adapter in support of a white paper currently in progress at The Tolly Group. The tests focused upon Fast Ethernet full-duplex performance. Switch tests focused upon (a) full-mesh, zero-loss (<0.001%), steady-state, bidirectional packet-per-second (PPS) throughput and (b) Last In/Last Out latency. Adapter/NIC tests focused upon bidirectional effective user data throughput (exclusive of headers, trailers, retransmissions, etc).

#### **Findings**

The switch tests demonstrated that the VOL-4000 can forward traffic at 100% of the theoretical maximum packet rates, whether the traffic consists of 64-, 512-, or 1,518-byte packets. See figure 1.

## VOL-4000 (VF-45 Multimode Fiber Optic) 32-Port Fast Ethernet Switch Layer 2 Fast Ethernet Wire-Speed Switching Performance



Source: The Tolly Group, 2000 Figure 1

Document Source: Test Results\Production Test Results\me5re01a.xls [Worksheet: "Graphics"]

The tests also demonstrated latency (First In / First Out, or FIFO, i.e., including insertion delay) of less than one hundredth of a millisecond with the smallest frame size, and approximately one eighth of a millisecond with the largest frame size. This translates to less than five *micro* seconds above the insertion delay (i.e., Last In / First Out LIFO delay). See figure 2.

# VOL-4000 (VF-45 Multimode Fiber Optic) 32-Port Fast Ethernet Switch Latency

3M VOL-4000 Fast Ethernet Frame Latency, Microseconds,	FIFO Latency,	LIFO Latency,
at 1% Theoretical Maximum Unidirectional Load	microseconds	microseconds
64-byte Frames	9.40	3.64
512-byte Frames	45.60	4.00
1,518-byte Frames	127.10	5.02

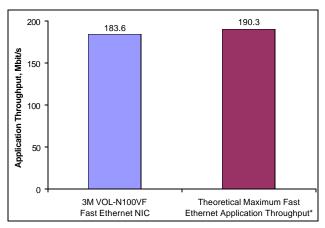
Source: The Tolly Group, 2000

Figure 2

Figure Source: Test Results\Production Results\me5ra01e.xls [Worksheet: "Summary for White Paper"]

The tests also demonstrated that VF-45 enabled NICs deliver near-wire-speed performance. Specifically, The Tolly Group tested 3M Volition NICs (VOL-N100VF) and observed application throughput of more than 180 Mbit/s on a single, full duplex Fast Ethernet server NIC. Unlike the packet-per-second tests referenced above, these tests focused on effective user data, excluding framing, headers, acknowledgements, etc. Based upon even the absolute minimum overhead required, the 3M Volition adapter still delivered 96.5% of the theoretical maximum application throughput of a full duplex Fast Ethernet connection. See figure 2.

# VOL-N100VF (VF-45 Multimode Fiber Optic) NIC, Full Duplex Fast Ethernet Application Throughput



Source: The Tolly Group, 2000

Figure 2

Document Source: Test Results\Production Test Results\me5re02a.xls [Worksheet: "Graphics"]

#### **Analysis**

The testing demonstrated that the VOL-4000 switch offers wire-speed throughput in all frame sizes, and that the VOL-N100VF delivers near-wire-speed throughput. The testing also revealed that the VOL-4000 does not suffer from head-of-line blocking. This means that the VOL-4000 and VOL-N100VG represent viable options for customers looking for high-performance active components to complement their high-performance fiber optic cabling solutions.

### **Detailed Test Information**

#### **Detailed Test Methodology**

#### Test Configurations, Permutations, and Variations

Benchmark Name	VF-45 Layer 2 Fast Ethernet Switch Throughput Performance
Test Name(s)	Throughput, Latency, Head-of-Line Blocking
Permutation 1: Performance Test	Three permutations: Full Mesh, Zero-Loss, Steady-State Bidirectional Packet Per Second (PPS) Throughput (SmartBits "X-Stream"); Latency; Head-of-Line Blocking (1518-byte frame size only).
Permutation 2: Frame Size	Three permutations: 64 bytes (including CRC); 512 bytes (including CRC); 1,518 bytes (including CRC).
Permutation 3: LAN Topology	One permutation: Fast Ethernet 100 Mbit/s.
Permutation 4: System Under Test	One permutation: VOL-4000.
Permutation 5	N/A
Total # Tests	7
Iterations / Test	3
Total Iterations	21
Other Notes	

Benchmark Name	NIC Performance
Test Name(s)	Throughput Performance
Permutation 1: Traffic profile	One permutation: Bidirectional Batch Traffic (Chariot – File Send Long script).
Permutation 2: Duration	One permutation: 180 seconds.
Permutation 3: Adapter Topology	One permutation: Fast Ethernet.
Permutation 4: System Under Test	One permutation: VOL-N100VF.
Permutation 5: Operating System	One permutation: Windows NT Workstation 4.0 Service Pack 4.
Total # Tests	1
Iterations / Test	3

Total Iterations	3
Other Notes	

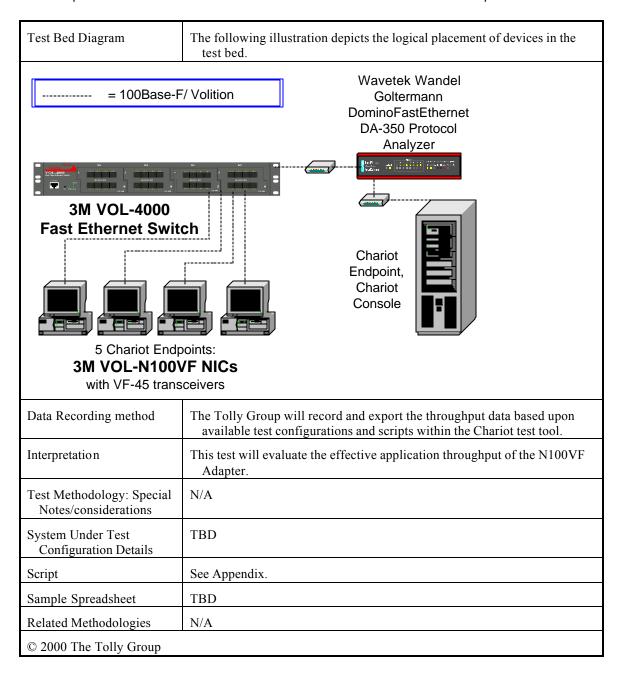
#### **Benchmark Information**

Benchmark Infor	VF-45 Layer 2 Fast Ethernet Switch Throughput Performance
Test Name	Throughput, Latency, Head-of-Line Blocking
Licensing	© The Tolly Group. The Tolly Group grants you limited rights to use The Tolly Group Benchmark Methodologies. The Tolly Group grants you a non-commercial, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the benchmark methodologies for the sole purpose of conducting benchmark tests to measure the performance and/or validate features and functions of networking devices. The Tolly Group hereby grants you the right to publish the results obtained with the benchmark methodologies provided that with the publication of each result you identify The Tolly Group as the source of the benchmark, the name and version number of the benchmark methodology.
Test Description/Objective	This test will validate the performance of the switch under test in areas critical to network operation.
Test Methodology: Environment	The test environment will include: At least one system under test equipped with VF-45 interfaces; At least one SMB-2000 with 32 ML-7710 10/100 Ethernet Interfaces connected via RJ-45/VF-45 media converters.
Permutations/ Variations	Performance Test Metric: Aggregate Zero-Loss (<0.001%), Bidirectional, Steady-State Throughput (packets per second, Mbit/s); Latency; Head-of-Line Blocking (1,518-byte frames only).
	Systems Under Test: VOL – 4000 Fast Ethernet Switch.
	Frame Sizes: 64-, 512-, 1,518-bytes.
	Iterations: 3.
Hardware/Software	Thirty-two Layer 2 10/100 Mbit/s Ethernet switch ports.
Required	Netcom Systems, Inc. SmartBits Advanced Multiport Performance Tester/Simulator/Analyzer SMB-2000 equipped with ML-7710 10/100 Mbit/s Ethernet interfaces.
	Netcom Systems Smart Applications version 2.30, Advanced Switch Test version 2.10, and Advance Switch Test (Xstream) version 2.10.
	Thirty-two ports of RJ-45/VF-45 media converters.
	One server with a single Fast Ethernet NIC.
Configuration	The switch under test was connected to two Netcom Systems SmartBits Advanced Performance Tester/Simulator/Analyzers, consisting of an SMB-2000 and one SMB-10 chassis running SmartApplications version 2.30, Advanced Switch Tests version 2.10, and Advanced Switch Test (Xstream) version 2.10. The SmartBits chassis was connected to the switch under test via thirty-two port RJ-45/VF-45 media converters
Measurements	The Tolly Group will record data throughput as reported by SmartBits.

#### Test Methodology: For "Full Mesh" test: Procedure a) Connect each port under test on the system under test to the SMBb) Execute the Advanced Switch Test (Xstream) test; c) Determine the offered load level, in increments/decrements of 5% of the theoretical maximum packet per second (PPS) rate for the particular topology under test, at which the system will exhibit packet loss of no more than 0.001% For Latency test a) Connect thirty-two ports under test on the system under test to the SMB-2000: b) Offer 1% load to each port c) Record Last In / Last Out latency as reported by SmartBits for "Cut-Through Latency" measurement. For Head-of-Line Blocking test a) Connect four ports under test on the system under test to the SMB-2000; b) Port one offers 50% load to port two, and 50% load to port four; port three offers 100% load to port two. (c) Initiate all traffic streams simultaneously from within SmartApps. (d) Record whether or not the stream from port one to port four (the uncongested egress port) exhibits loss. Zero loss represents a "pass" while non-zero loss represents a "fail." Execution a) The Tolly Group will execute three 60-second iterations for each frame size (64-, 512-, 1,518- bytes). b) SmartApps will transmit "learning" packets before each trial. The Tolly Group will configure the number of learning retries to three. Test Bed Diagram The following illustration depicts the logical placement of devices in the test bed. = 100Base-T Netcom Systems, Inc. SmartBits SMB-2000 & SMB-10, 32 ML-7710s = 100Base-F/ Volition SmartBits SMB-2000: Advanced Multipoet Pe = RJ-45/VF-45 Media Converter 3M VOL-4000 **Fast Ethernet Switch** Data Recording method The Tolly Group will export data throughput from SmartBits tests directly to file and record aggregate data throughput. Interpretation This test will evaluate Layer 2 packets per second (PPS) performance of the VOL-4000 Fast Ethernet Switch.

Test Methodology: Special Notes/considerations	N/A
System Under Test Configuration Details	TBD
Script	N/A
Sample Spreadsheet	N/A
Related Methodologies	N/A
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Benchmark Name	VF-45 NIC Performance
Test Name	Throughput
Licensing	© The Tolly Group. The Tolly Group grants you limited rights to use The Tolly Group Benchmark Methodologies. The Tolly Group grants you a non-commercial, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the benchmark methodologies for the sole purpose of conducting benchmark tests to measure the performance and/or validate features and functions of networking devices. The Tolly Group hereby grants you the right to publish the results obtained with the benchmark methodologies provided that with the publication of each result you identify The Tolly Group as the source of the benchmark, the name and version number of the benchmark methodology.
Test Description/Objective	This test will validate the performance of the NIC under test.
Test Methodology: Environment	The test environment will include: At least one NIC under test. At least five simulated clients and one simulated server running Chariot Endpoint. At least one workstation (optionally, the server or one of the clients) running Chariot Console. A Chariot script configured to perform file transfers between the clients and the server for a duration of 180 seconds.
Permutations/ Variations	Network configuration: One server with N100VF 100Base-T adapter connected to Fast Ethernet switch. One Chariot console 3.1 and five Chariot endpoint 3.3 clients connected to the server via a Fast Ethernet switch.
	Measurement: Throughput as reported by Chariot for 10 "Pairs" running file transfers bidirectionally in Batch mode for 180 seconds.
Hardware/Software Required	NetIQ Corporation Chariot Console version 3.1 and six Endpoint clients version 3.3. (Chariot Console is co-resident with one Chariot Endpoint and simulates a server).
	One Volition Fast Ethernet switch.
Configuration	The one Chariot Console/Endpoint and five other Chariot Endpoints equipped with the adapters under test directly connected to the switch.
	The Chariot script was configured for ten pairs running for a fixed duration of 180 seconds, transferring 1,000,000 bytes.
Measurements	The Tolly Group will record data throughput as reported by Chariot.
Test Methodology: Procedure	For the Chariot Test:  a) Run the File Send Long script bidirectionally with ten Chariot "pairs" such that five transfer data from a single simulated "server" to each of five simulated "clients," while another five transfer data from the five simulated "clients" to the single simulated "server." Configure "filesndl.scr" for a data transfer size of 1,000,000 bytes for a duration of 180 seconds for three iterations. b) Record throughput in Mbit/s as reported by Chariot.



#### **Test Bed Configuration**

#### **Systems Under Test:**

System 1.

,	
Manufacturer	3M
Product	Volition Fast Ethernet Switch
Model	VOL-4000
Description	Thirty-two port Fast Ethernet switch with VF-45 interfaces
Version	4.14
Release Date (if Beta)	N/A
Serial Number	00120552
TTG tracking Number	N/A
Configuration	TBD
Notes	

#### System 2.

Manufacturer	ЗМ
Product	Network Adapter
Model	N100VF
Description	100Base-T Adapter with VF-45 interface
Version	2.21
Release Date (if Beta)	
Serial Number	03116D
TTG tracking Number	N/A
Configuration	TBD
Notes	

#### **Systems Not Under Test**

#### System A.

Manufacturer	Netcom Systems, Inc.
Product	SmartBits 2000 Advanced Multiport Performance Tester/Analyzer/Simulator
Model	SMB-2000
Description	20-port network traffic simulator
Version	Firmware 6.60.0012 SmartApplications 2.30 Advanced Switch Test 2.10
Release Date (if Beta)	N/A
Serial Number	5431
TTG tracking Number	1155
Configuration	Equipped with twenty 10/100 Mbit/s full duplex Ethernet ML-7710 interfaces
Notes	

#### System B.

Manufacturer	Netcom Systems, Inc.
Product	SmartBits 2000 Advanced Multiport Performance Tester/Analyzer/Simulator
Model	SMB-10
Description	20-port network traffic simulator
Version	Firmware 6.60.0012 SmartApplications 2.30 Advanced Switch Test 2.10
Release Date (if Beta)	N/A
Serial Number	16656
TTG tracking Number	1154
Configuration	Equipped with twelve 10/100 Mbit/s full duplex Ethernet ML-7710 interfaces
Notes	

#### System C.

Manufacturer	Wavetek Wandel Goltermann		
Product	DominoFastEthernet		
Model	DA-350		

Description	Hardware-based network analyzer
Version	DominoCore version 2.5 Domino version BN 9316/01 Domino FE Line Interface 2.5 Patch Level N/A
Release Date (if Beta)	N/A
Serial Number	D-0006
TTG tracking Number	Domino Core: 3206-152 Part Number:
Configuration	100Base-TX "Pass-Thru", full duplex
Notes	MAC 00:01:68:72:00:CE

System D.

Manufacturer	3M
Product	Media Converter
Model	VOL-0213
Description	Chassis equipped with 21 RJ-45/VF-45 VOL-0208 media converters
Version	N/A
Release Date (if Beta)	N/A
Serial Number	99500973; 99500971
TTG tracking Number	N/A
Configuration	N/A
Notes	

**Detailed System and Platform Configuration** 

System	E	SmartBits and Domino Console
Platform	Manufacturer	IBM Clone
	Model	N/A
	CPU 1	Intel Pentium Processor
	CPU 1 Speed	200 MHz
	CPU 2	
	CPU 2 Speed	
	CPU 3	
	CPU 3 Speed	
	CPU 4	
	CPU 4 Speed	
	Memory	32 M/Bytes
	Bus 1	Card Bus (PCI)
	Bus 2	
	Fixed Disk Size	2.1 G/Bytes
Network	Manufacturer	IBM
Adapter	Model	EtherJet 10/100 Management
1	Bus	PCI
	Topology	Ethernet
	Driver	3.1
Network	Manufacturer	
Adapter	Model	

2	Bus	
	Topology	
	Driver	
os	Manufacturer	Microsoft Corp.
	os	Windows NT Workstation
	Version	4.0 SP5
Config- uration	Relevant Information	
Notes	_	

System	F-H	Chariot Console and Endpoint Clients
Platform	Manufacturer	AMD
	Model	K62
	CPU 1	AMD Processor
	CPU 1 Speed	400 MHz
	CPU 2	
	CPU 2 Speed	
	CPU 3	
	CPU 3 Speed	
	CPU 4	
	CPU 4 Speed	
	Memory	64 M/Bytes
	Bus 1	Card Bus (PCI)
	Bus 2	
	Fixed Disk Size	6.0 G/Bytes
Network	Manufacturer	ЗМ
Adapter	Model	N100VF
1	Bus	PCI
	Topology	Fast Ethernet
	Driver	2.21
Network	Manufacturer	
Adapter	Model	
2	Bus	
	Topology	
	Driver	
os	Manufacturer	Microsoft Corp.
	os	Windows NT Workstation
	Version	4.0 SP5
Config- uration	Relevant Information	
Notes		

System	I – K	Endpoints Clients
Platform	Manufacturer	IBM Clone
	Model	N/A

	CPU 1	Intel Pentium Processor
	CPU 1 Speed	200 MHz
	CPU 2	
	CPU 2 Speed	
	CPU 3	
	CPU 3 Speed	
	CPU 4	
	CPU 4 Speed	
	Memory	32 M/Bytes
	Bus 1	Card Bus (PCI)
	Bus 2	
	Fixed Disk Size	2.1 G/Bytes
Network	Manufacturer	ЗМ
Adapter	Model	N100VF
1	Bus	PCI
	Topology	Fast Ethernet
	Driver	2.21
Network	Manufacturer	
Adapter	Model	
2	Bus	
	Topology	
	Driver	
os	Manufacturer	Microsoft Corp.
	os	Windows NT Workstation
	Version	4.0 SP5
Config- uration	Relevant Information	
Notes		

#### **Detailed Test Results**

Test Name	Full Mesh Fast Ethernet Zero-Loss Throughput (32 ports)
Test Date(s)	30 – 31 March 2000
Test Results: Special notes/considerations	

		3	M Volition	4000 - 64 By	tes - 32 Port	ts - Zero Los	s Through	out Test Res	ults		
Test Results: Fast	Iterations Offered Load		Load	Transmitte	d Frames	Received	Frames	Lost Packe	ts Perc	ent Loss	
Ethernet Throughput	#1	100%		285,71			14,272	0		00000%	
		#2 100%		285,714,272			285,714,272			00000%	
		#3 100%		285,71			14,272			00000%	
	Average	Average         100%         285,714,272         285,714,272         0         0.00000%									
	Iterations	3M Volition 4000 - 512 Bytes - 32 Ports - Zero Loss Throughput Test Results  Iterations Offered Load Transmitted Frames Received Frames Lost Packets Percent Loss									
	#1	100%		45,11			12,563	205		0.00000%	
	#2	100%		45,11			12,530			00000%	
	#3	100%		45,11			12,581			00000%	
	Average	100%		45,11			12,558			00000%	
				1000 - 1518 E	•						
	Iterations	Offered		Transmitte		Received		Lost Packe		cent Loss	
	#1 #2	100% 100%		15,60- 15,60-	,		04,661 04,669	11	_	00000%	
	#3	100%		15,60			04,652	20	_	00000%	
	Average	100%		15,60			04,661	11		00000%	
				.0,00	.,0.2	.0,0	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
		3M Volitio	on 4000 - 64	Byte- 32 Po	rts - 100 Mbi	it/s Full Dupl	ex- Latency	v Test Resul	ts- (FIFO)		
Test Results: Fast	Average in	Port 1-2	Port 3-4	Port 5-6	Port 7-8			Port 13-14		Percentag	
Ethernet Latency	micro-	8.97	8.87	8.93	8.97	8.90	8.87	8.87	8.87	of Offered	
,	seconds	Port 17-18	Port 19-20	Port 21-22	Port 23-24	Port 25-26	Port 27-28	Port 29-30	Port 31-32	Load 1.0	
	9.4 (us)	9.00	8.93	12.43	9.03	9.03	9.07	12.23	8.83	(%)	
				2 Byte- 32 Po	1			<del></del>		-	
	Average in	Port 1-2	Port 3-4	Port 5-6	Port 7-8			Port 13-14			
	micro- seconds	44.77 Port 17-18	44.70 Port 19-20	44.80 Port 21-22	44.87 Port 23-24	44.73 Port 25-26	44.80 Port 27-28	44.67 Port 29-30	44.73 Port 31-32	of Offered Load 1.0	
	45.6 (us)	44.77	44.80	51.37	44.83	44.87	44.80	51.23	44.77	(%)	
	10.0 (00)			8 Byte- 32 Po						(/0)	
	Average in	Port 1-2	Port 3-4	Port 5-6	Port 7-8			Port 13-14		Percentag	
	micro-	125.40	125.33	125.37	125.43	125.43	125.50	125.37	125.57	of Offered	
	seconds			Port 21-22			Port 27-28		Port 31-32		
	127.1 (us)	125.47	125.40	139.07	125.53	125.47	125.53	139.03	125.40	(%)	
Test Results: Head-of-				8-Bytes							
Line Blocking	Mbit/s Half Duplex - Head-of-Line Blocking Test Results										
	14 41										
	Iteratio	on Und	congest	ed Port (	Percent	Loss)					
	#1			0%							
	#2 0%										
	#3			0%							
Test Results: Chariot				00 Mbit/s							
Throughput Results	Duplex	- File S	end Lon	g Bi-dire	ctional						
Tilloughput Results	- I I -	Traffic - Chariot Aggregate									
	Throughput Test Results										
	Iterati			put (Mbi							
	#1	<u> </u>		33.601	usj						
	#2			33.623							
	#3			33.624							
				33.616							
	Averag	A <u>c</u>	10	55.010							

### **Project Administration Information**

**General Project Information:** 

Project Name	3M VOL-4000 Fast Ethernet Switch and 3M N100VF Fast Ethernet Adapter Benchmark Performance Evaluation
Project Objective	Benchmark throughput of VF-45 adapters and VF-45 Fast Ethernet switch.
Project Sponsor	3M
Project File Number	TG00-005
Project Code Name	Meese 5
Project Start Date	30 March 2000
Project Finish Date	TBD
Tolly Group Project Team	John Curtis, Maik Lankau, Kevin Tolly, William VanBuren

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### **Appendix A: Chariot Script**

CHARIOT, BY GANYMEDE SOFTWARE INC.

SUMMARY - C:\GANYMEDE\CHARIOT\TESTS\3M\ME5TR01A.TST

Console version 3.1 Console build level 523 Console product type Chariot

Filename C:\Ganymede\Chariot\Tests\3M\me5tr01a.tst
Run start time Thursday, March 30, 2000, 5:00:14 PM
Run end time Thursday, March 30, 2000, 5:03:14 PM
Elapsed time 00:03:00

How the test ended Ran to completion

Number of pairs 10

RUN OPTIONS

End type Run for a fixed duration Duration 00:03:00 Reporting type Batch Automatically poll endpoints Stop run upon initialization failure Connect timeout during test (minutes) Stop test after this many running pairs fail 1 Collect endpoint CPU utilization

Validate data upon receipt Use a new seed for random variables on every run Yes

GROUP: ALL PAIRS / PAIR: 1

Endpoint 1 200.100.50.10 Endpoint 2 200.100.50.1 Network Protocol TCP

Service Quality
Script Name filesndl.scr
Pair Comment

Console Knows Endpoint 1 200.100.50.10

Console Protocol TCP Console Service Quality n/a

Script

filesndl.scr, version 3.1 -- File Send, Long Connection

Endpoint 1 Endpoint 2

\_\_\_\_\_

initial delay=0

#### The Tolly Group Test Report

## 3M VOL-4000 Fast Ethernet Switch and 3M N100VF Fast Ethernet Adapter Benchmark

```
CONNECT INITIATE
                                     CONNECT ACCEPT
  DNNECT_INITIATE

port_number=AUTO
DOP
                                         port number=AUTO
LOOP
                                       LOOP
  number of timing records=100 number of timing records=100
  START TIMER
  LOOP
                                       LOOP
                                        transactions_per_record=1
RECEIVE
     transactions per record=1
       file_size=1000000
                                           file_size=1000000
receive_buffer_size=DEFAULT
       send_buffer_size=DEFAULT
       send datatype=NOCOMPRESS
       send data rate=UNLIMITED
                            CONFIRM_ACKNOWLEDGE
    CONFIRM_REQUEST
INCREMENT_TRANSACTION
END_LOOP
    CONFIRM REQUEST
  END LOOP
  END TIMER
  SLEEP
    transaction delay=0
               _ -
END LOOP
                                    END LOOP
DISCONNECT
                                     DISCONNECT
                                    Value Description
Variable Name
______
initial_delay 0 Pause before the first transaction number_of_timing_records 100 How many timing records to generate transactions_per_record 1 Transactions per timing record file_size 1000000 How many bytes in the transferred
file
send_buffer_size DEFAULT How many bytes of data in each SEND receive_buffer_size DEFAULT How many bytes of data in each
RECEIVE
transaction_delay 0 Milliseconds to pause
send_datatype NOCOMPRESS What type of data to send
send_data_rate UNLIMITED How fast to send data
port_number AUTO What port to use between e
                               AUTO What port to use between endpoints
```