

**Control VM (aka driver domain):**  
has direct access to the hardware and controls all VM operations.

**Xen2XM backend:** handles incoming requests from both the frontend and the network. Implements the actual Open-MX protocol and forwards network frames based on their peer\_index.

**netback:** handles frames from/to a generic guest. Injects them into the software bridge.

NIC driver

Software bridge

Xen

Generic 10GbE NIC

Smart 10GbE NIC

Hardware

**Guest VM:** runs the user application. Data originating from user-space are transmitted to the network via:

- i) the bridged case (black, solid)
- ii) direct assignment (blue, solid)
- iii) Xen2MX (red, dashed)

**Xen2XM frontend:** handles requests from the OpenMX library. Issues requests to the backend via event channels and is triggered by IOCTLs (requests) and soft-interrupts (responses). Features endpoint semantics and hooks for pinning/allocating memory.

**netfront:** handles all virtual ethernet traffic and forwards it to the netback.

NIC driver

Ethernet

User Application

MPI

MX bin compat

Open-MX library

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**Open-MX protocol:** handles requests from the OpenMX library. Builds the frame and pushes it on to the Ethernet stack.