**From the “Performance and Scalability of the RMDS Platform” guide.**

[**http://www.redhat.com/f/pdf/RMDS\_Perf\_V1\_04\_30\_08.pdf**](http://www.redhat.com/f/pdf/RMDS_Perf_V1_04_30_08.pdf)

**3.12 TCP Segmentation Offload (TSO)**

TCP Segmentation Offload (TSO) is used to reduce the CPU overhead of TCP/IP on fast networks. TSO breaks down large groups of data sent over a network into smaller segments that pass through all the network elements between the source and destination. This type of offload relies on the NIC to segment the data and then add the TCP, IP and data link layer protocol headers to each segment. The NIC must support TSO.

[TSO is “off” by default in RHEL 4.4 and TSO is “on” by default in RHEL 5.1]

Previous testing has shown that TSO being set to “on” or “off” can sometimes have a performance impact. Tests performed in this study were run with TSO “on” and “off” to confirm that there was no performance impact.

TSO is shut off using the command:

**# ethtool -K eth\* tso off**