

#11.5 “ As described in the text, the PCI-Express bus consists of thirty-two “lanes“. As of January 2009, each lane is capable of a maximum data rate of 500 MB per second. Lanes are allocated to a device 1,2,3,8,16, or 32 lanes at a time.

Assume that a PCI-Express bus is to be connected to a high-definition video card that is supporting a 1920 x 1080 true color (3 bytes per pixel) progressive scan monitor with a refresh rate of 60 frames per second. How many lanes will this video card require to support the monitor at full capability?”

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Total bytes per second} &= 1920 \times 1080 \times 3 \text{ (bytes per pixel)} \times 60 \text{ (frames per second)} \\ &= 373,248,000 \text{ bytes per second} \\ &= 373.248 \text{ MB}\end{aligned}$$

According to each lane is capable of a maximum data rate of 500 MB per second

Therefore, only 1 lane is required to support the monitor at full capability.

#11.7 “How many PCI-Express lanes are required to support a 10gb per second Ethernet card?”

Answer:

According to previous question, each lane is capable of a maximum data rate of 500 MB per second

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Total required PCI-Express lanes} &= 10 \text{ gb per second} / 500 \text{ MB per second} \\ &= 10,000 \text{ MB per second} / 500 \text{ MB per second} \\ &= 20 \text{ lanes}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the number of PCI-Express lanes, that are required to support a 10gb per second Ethernet card, are 20 lanes.