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MLNX_EN for Linux User Manual

Rev 2.3-1.0.0

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2.3-1.0.0	September, 2014	• Added the following sections: • Section 1.1.1, "Tarball Package", on page 10 • Section 1.1.3, "Firmware", on page 11 • Section 1.1.4, "Directory Structure", on page 11 • Section 1.2.1, "mlx4 Module Parameters", on page 12 • Section 2.2, "Downloading MLNX_EN", on page 14 • Section 2.3.1, "Installation Modes", on page 14 • Section 3.3.2, "Flow Steering Support", on page 29 • Section 3.3.3, "A0 Static Device Managed Flow Steering", on page 29 • Section 3.4.1.7, "Virtual Guest Tagging (VGT+)", on page 41 • Section 3.5.1, "Reset Flow", on page 44 • Section 3.9, "Explicit Congestion Notification (ECN)", on page 50 • Section 4.1, "General Related Issues", on page 58 • Section 4.2, "Ethernet Related Issues", on page 58 • Section 4.3, "Performance Related Issues", on page 60 • Section 4.4, "SR-IOV Related Issues", on page 60 • Updated the following section: • Section 3.3.1, "Enable/Disable Flow Steering", on page 28 • Section 3.4.1.2, "Setting Up SR-IOV", on page 32 • Section 3.6, "Ethtool", on page 44
2.2-1.0.1	May 2014	• Added the following sections: • Section 3.4.1.6.3, "Mapping VFs to Ports using the mlnx_get_vfs.pl Tool", on page 41 • Section 3.6, "Ethtool", on page 44 • Section 3.8, "Quantized Congestion Control", on page 47 • Section 3.8, "Quantized Congestion Control", on page 47 • Section 3.10, "Power Management", on page 52 • Section 3.11, "XOR RSS Hash Function", on page 52 • Updated the following section: • Section 3.4.1.2, "Setting Up SR-IOV", on page 32 • Removed the following sections: • Burning Firmware with SR-IOV • Performance
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Table 1 - Document Revision History

Release	Date	Description
2.0-3.0.0	October 2013	• Added the following sections: • Section 3.4.1, "Single Root IO Virtualization (SR-IOV)", on page 31 • Section 3.3, "Flow Steering", on page 28 • Section 3.2, "Time-Stamping Service", on page 25

About this Manual

This Preface provides general information concerning the scope and organization of this User's Manual.

Intended Audience

This manual is intended for system administrators responsible for the installation, configuration, management and maintenance of the software and hardware of VPI (InfiniBand, Ethernet) adapter cards. It is also intended for application developers.

Common Abbreviations and Acronyms

Table 2 - Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Whole Word / Description
B	(Capital) 'B' is used to indicate size in bytes or multiples of bytes (e.g., 1KB = 1024 bytes, and 1MB = 1048576 bytes)
b	(Small) 'b' is used to indicate size in bits or multiples of bits (e.g., 1Kb = 1024 bits)
FW	Firmware
HW	Hardware
LSB	Least significant *byte*
lsb	Least significant *bit*
MSB	Most significant *byte*
msb	Most significant *bit*
NIC	Network Interface Card
SW	Software
VPI	Virtual Protocol Interconnect
PFC	Priority Flow Control
PR	Path Record
RDS	Reliable Datagram Sockets
SL	Service Level
QoS	Quality of Service
ULP	Upper Level Protocol
VL	Virtual Lane

Glossary

The following is a list of concepts and terms related to InfiniBand in general and to Subnet Managers in particular. It is included here for ease of reference, but the main reference remains the *InfiniBand Architecture Specification*.

Table 3 - Glossary

Channel Adapter (CA), Host Channel Adapter (HCA)	An IB device that terminates an IB link and executes transport functions. This may be an HCA (Host CA) or a TCA (Target CA).
HCA Card	A network adapter card based on an InfiniBand channel adapter device.
IB Devices	Integrated circuit implementing InfiniBand compliant communication.
In-Band	A term assigned to administration activities traversing the IB connectivity only.
Local Port	The IB port of the HCA through which IBDIAG tools connect to the IB fabric.
Master Subnet Manager	The Subnet Manager that is authoritative, that has the reference configuration information for the subnet. See Subnet Manager.
Multicast Forwarding Tables	A table that exists in every switch providing the list of ports to forward received multicast packet. The table is organized by MLID.
Network Interface Card (NIC)	A network adapter card that plugs into the PCI Express slot and provides one or more ports to an Ethernet network.
Unicast Linear Forwarding Tables (LFT)	A table that exists in every switch providing the port through which packets should be sent to each LID.
Virtual Protocol Interconnet (VPI)	A Mellanox Technologies technology that allows Mellanox channel adapter devices (ConnectX®) to simultaneously connect to an InfiniBand subnet and a 10GigE subnet (each subnet connects to one of the adpater ports)

Related Documentation

Table 4 - Reference Documents

Document Name	Description
IEEE Std 802.3ae™-2002 (Amendment to IEEE Std 802.3-2002) Document # PDF: SS94996	Part 3: Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) Access Method and Physical Layer Specifications Amendment: Media Access Control (MAC) Parameters, Physical Layers, and Management Parameters for 10 Gb/s Operation

Support and Updates Webpage

Please visit http://www.mellanox.com > Products > Software > Ethernet Drivers > Linux Drivers for downloads, FAQ, troubleshooting, future updates to this manual, etc.

1 Overview

This document provides information on the MLNX_EN Linux driver and instructions for installing the driver on Mellanox ConnectX adapter cards supporting 10Gb/s and 40Gb/s Ethernet.

The MLNX_EN driver release exposes the following capabilities:

- Single/Dual port
- Up to 16 Rx queues per port
- 16 Tx queues per port
- Rx steering mode: Receive Core Affinity (RCA)
- MSI-X or INTx
- Adaptive interrupt moderation
- HW Tx/Rx checksum calculation
- Large Send Offload (i.e., TCP Segmentation Offload)
- Large Receive Offload
- Multi-core NAPI support
- VLAN Tx/Rx acceleration (HW VLAN stripping/insertion)
- Ethtool support
- Net device statistics
- SR-IOV support
- Flow steering
- Ethernet Time Stamping (at beta level)

1.1 MLNX_EN Package Contents

1.1.1 Tarball Package

MLNX_EN for Linux is provided as a tarball that includes source code and firmware. The tarball contains an installation script (called install.sh) that performs the necessary steps to accomplish the following:

- Discover the currently installed kernel
- Uninstall any previously installed MLNX_OFED/MLNX_EN packages
- Install the MLNX_EN binary (if they are available for the current kernel)
- Identify the currently installed HCAs and perform the required firmware updates

1.1.2 Software Components

MLNX_EN contains the following software components:

Table 5 - MLNX_EN Software Components

Components	Description
mlx4 driver	mlx4 is the low level driver implementation for the ConnectX adapters designed by Mellanox Technologies. The ConnectX can operate as an InfiniBand adapter and as an Ethernet NIC. To accommodate the two flavors, the driver is split into modules: mlx4_core, mlx4_en, and mlx4_ib. **Note:** mlx4_ib is not part of this package.
mlx4_core	Handles low-level functions like device initialization and firmware commands processing. Also controls resource allocation so that the InfiniBand, Ethernet and FC functions can share a device without interfering with each other.
mlx4_en	Handles Ethernet specific functions and plugs into the netdev mid-layer.
mstflint	An application to burn a firmware binary image.
Software modules	Source code for all software modules (for use under conditions mentioned in the modules' LICENSE files)
Documentation	Release Notes, User Manual

1.1.3 Firmware

The tarball image includes the following firmware items:

- Firmware images (.bin format) for ConnectX®-2/ConnectX®-3/ConnectX®-3 Pro network adapters
- Firmware configuration (.INI) files for Mellanox standard network adapter cards and custom cards

1.1.4 Directory Structure

The tarball image of MLNX_EN contains the following files and directories:

- install.sh - This is the MLNX_EN installation script.
- mlnx_en_uninstall.sh - This is the MLNX_EN un-installation script.
- firmware/ - Directory of the Mellanox HCA firmware images
- SOURCES/ - Directory of the MLNX_EN source tarball
- SRPM based - A script required to rebuild MLNX_EN for customized kernel version on supported RPM based Linux Distribution

1.2 Module Parameters

1.2.1 mlx4 Module Parameters

In order to set **mlx4** parameters, add the following line(s) to **/etc/modprobe.conf**:

```
options mlx4_core parameter=<value>
```

and/or

```
options mlx4_en   parameter=<value>
```

The following sections list the available mlx4 parameters.

1.2.1.1 mlx4_core Parameters

set_4k_mtu:	(Obsolete) attempt to set 4K MTU to all ConnectX ports (int)
debug_level:	Enable debug tracing if > 0 (int)
msi_x:	0 - don't use MSI-X, 1 - use MSI-X, >1 - limit number of MSI-X irqs to msi_x (non-SRIOV only) (int)
enable_sys_tune:	Tune the cpu's for better performance (default 0) (int)
block_loopback:	Block multicast loopback packets if > 0 (default: 1) (int)
num_vfs:	Either a single value (e.g. '5') to define uniform num_vfs value for all devices functions or a string to map device function numbers to their num_vfs values (e.g. '0000:04:00.0-5,002b:1c:0b.a-15'). Hexadecimal digits for the device function (e.g. 002b:1c:0b.a) and decimal for num_vfs value (e.g. 15). (string)
probe_vf:	Either a single value (e.g. '3') to indicate that the Hypervisor driver itself should activate this number of VFs for each HCA on the host, or a string to map device function numbers to their probe_vf values (e.g. '0000:04:00.0-3,002b:1c:0b.a-13'). Hexadecimal digits for the device function (e.g. 002b:1c:0b.a) and decimal for probe_vf value (e.g. 13). (string)
log_num_mgm_entry_size:	log mgm size, that defines the num of qp per mcg, for example: 10 gives 248.range: 7 <= log_num_mgm_entry_size <= 12. To activate device managed flow steering when available, set to -1 (int)
high_rate_steer:	Enable steering mode for higher packet rate (default off) (int)
fast_drop:	Enable fast packet drop when no recieve WQEs are posted (int)
enable_64b_cqe_eqe:	Enable 64 byte CQEs/EQEs when the FW supports this if non-zero (default: 1) (int)
log_num_mac:	Log2 max number of MACs per ETH port (1-7) (int)
log_num_vlan:	(Obsolete) Log2 max number of VLANs per ETH port (0-7) (int)
log_mtts_per_seg:	Log2 number of MTT entries per segment (0-7) (default: 0) (int)

port_type_array:	Either pair of values (e.g. '1,2') to define uniform port1/ port2 types configuration for all devices functions or a string to map device function numbers to their pair of port types values (e.g. '0000:04:00.0-1;2,002b:1c:0b.a-1;1'). Valid port types: 1-ib, 2-eth, 3-auto, 4-N/A If only a single port is available, use the N/A port type for port2 (e.g '1,4').
log_num_qp:	log maximum number of QPs per HCA (default: 19) (int)
log_num_srq:	log maximum number of SRQs per HCA (default: 16) (int)
log_rdmarc_per_qp:	log number of RDMARC buffers per QP (default: 4) (int)
log_num_cq:	log maximum number of CQs per HCA (default: 16) (int)
log_num_mcg:	log maximum number of multicast groups per HCA (default: 13) (int)
log_num_mpt:	log maximum number of memory protection table entries per HCA (default: 19) (int)
log_num_mtt:	log maximum number of memory translation table segments per HCA (default: max(20, 2*MTTs for register all of the host memory limited to 30)) (int)
enable_qos:	Enable Quality of Service support in the HCA (default: off) (bool)
internal_err_reset:	Reset device on internal errors if non-zero (default is 1) (int)

1.2.1.2 mlx4_en Parameters

inline_thold:	Threshold for using inline data (int) Default and max value is 104 bytes. Saves PCI read operation transaction, packet less then threshold size will be copied to hw buffer directly.
udp_rss:	Enable RSS for incoming UDP traffic (uint) On by default. Once disabled no RSS for incoming UDP traffic will be done.
pfctx:	Priority based Flow Control policy on TX[7:0]. Per priority bit mask (uint)
pfcrx:	Priority based Flow Control policy on RX[7:0]. Per priority bit mask (uint)

2 Installation

This chapter describes how to install and test the MLNX_EN for Linux package on a single host machine with Mellanox InfiniBand and/or Ethernet adapter hardware installed.

2.1 Software Dependencies

- To install the driver software, kernel sources must be installed on the machine.
- MLNX_EN driver cannot coexist with OFED software on the same machine. Hence when installing MLNX_EN all OFED packages should be removed (run the `mlnx_en install` script).

2.2 Downloading MLNX_EN

Step 1. Verify that the system has a Mellanox network adapter (HCA/NIC) installed.

The following example shows a system with an installed Mellanox HCA:

```
# lspci -v | grep Mellanox
06:00.0 Network controller: Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3]
Subsystem: Mellanox Technologies Device 0024
```

Step 2. Download the tarball image to your host.

The image's name has the format `MLNX_EN-<ver>.tgz`. You can download it from http://www.mellanox.com > Products > Software> Ethernet Drivers.

Step 3. Use the md5sum utility to confirm the file integrity of your tarball image.

2.3 Installing MLNX_EN

The installation script, `mlnx_en install`, performs the following:

- Discover the currently installed kernel
- Uninstall any previously installed MLNX_OFED/MLNX_EN packages
- Install the MLNX_EN binary (if they are available for the current kernel)
- Identifies the currently installed Ethernet network adapters and automatically upgrades the firmware

2.3.1 Installation Modes

mlnx_en installer supports 2 modes of installation. The install scripts selects the mode of driver installation depending of the running OS/kernel version.

- Kernel Module Packaging (KMP) mode, where the source rpm is rebuilt for each installed flavor of the kernel. This mode is used for RedHat and SUSE distributions.
- Non KMP installation mode, where the sources are rebuilt with the running kernel. This mode is used for vanilla kernels.

If the Vanilla kernel is installed as rpm, please use the `"--disable-kmp"` flag when installing the driver.

The package consists of several source RPMs. The install script rebuilds the source RPMs and then installs the created binary RPMs. The created kernel module binaries are located at:

- For KMP RPMs installation:
  - On SLES (mellanox-mlnx-en-kmp RPM):
    ```
    /lib/modules/<kernel-ver>/updates/mellanox-mlnx-en
    ```
  - On RHEL (kmod-mellanox-mlnx-en RPM):
    ```
    /lib/modules/<kernel-ver>/extra/mellanox-mlnx-en
    ```
- For non-KMP RPMs (mlnx_en RPM):
  - On SLES:
    ```
    /lib/modules/<kernel-ver>/updates/mlnx_en
    ```
  - On RHEL:
    ```
    /lib/modules/<kernel-ver>/extra/mlnx_en
    ```

The kernel module sources are placed under `/usr/src/mellanox-mlnx-en-<ver>/`.

2.3.2 Installation Procedure

Step 1. Login to the installation machine as root.

Step 2. Extract the tarball image on your machine.

```
#> tar xzvf mlnx_en-2.3-1.0.0.tgz
```

Step 3. Change the working directory.

```
#> cd mlnx_en-2.3-1.0.0
```

Step 4. Run the installation script.

```
#> ./install.sh
```

2.3.2.1 Installing MLNX_EN on XenServer6.1

➢ ***To install mlnx-en-2.3-1.0.0 on XenServer6.1:***

```
# rpm -ihv RPMS/xenserver6u1/i386/`uname -r`/mlnx_en*rpm
```

2.4 Loading MLNX_EN

Step 1. Make sure no previous driver version is currently loaded.

```
#> modprobe -r mlx4_en
```

Step 2. Load the new driver version.

```
#> modprobe mlx4_en
```

The result is a new net-device appearing in the 'ifconfig -a' output. For details on driver usage and configuration, please refer to Section 2.8, “Firmware Programming”, on page 16.

On Ubuntu OS, the "mlnx-en" service is responsible for loading the mlx4_en driver upon boot.

2.5 Unloading MLNX_EN

➢ ***To unload the Ethernet driver:***

```
#> modprobe -r mlx4_en
```

2.6 Uninstalling MLNX_EN

Use the script `/sbin/mlnx_en_uninstall.sh` to uninstall the Mellanox OFED package.

2.7 Recompiling MLNX_EN

➢ ***To recompile the driver:***

Step 1. Enter the source directory.

```
#> cd /usr/src/mellanox-mlnx-en-2.0/
```

Step 2. Apply kernel backport patch.

```
#> scripts/mlnx_en_patch.sh
```

Step 3. Compile the driver sources.

```
#> make
```

Step 4. Install the driver kernel modules.

```
#> make install
```

2.8 Firmware Programming

The adapter card was shipped with the most current firmware available. This section is intended for future firmware upgrades, and provides instructions for (1) installing Mellanox firmware update tools (MFT), (2) downloading FW, and (3) updating adapter card firmware.

2.8.1 Installing Firmware Tools

The driver package compiles and installs the Mellanox 'mstflint' utility under /usr/local/bin/. You may also use this tool to burn a card-specific firmware binary image.
See the file /tmp/mlnx_en/src/utils/mstflint/README file for details.

Alternatively, you can download the current Mellanox Firmware Tools package (MFT) from www.mellanox.com > Products > Adapter IB/VPI SW > Firmware Tools. The tools package to download is "MFT_SW for Linux" (tarball name is mft-X.X.X.tgz).

For help in identifying your adapter card, please visit

http://www.mellanox.com/content/pages.php?pg=firmware_HCA_FW_identification.

2.8.2 Updating Adapter Card Firmware

Using a card specific binary firmware image file, enter the following command:

```
#> mstflint -d <pci device> -i <image_name.bin> b
```

For burning firmware using the MFT package, please check the MFT User Manual under www.mellanox.com > Products > Software > InfiniBand/VPI Drivers > Firmware Tools.

After burning a new firmware, reboot the machine for changes to take effect.

2.9 Ethernet Driver Usage and Configuration

- ***To assign an IP address to the interface:***

```
#> ifconfig eth<x[a]> <ip>
```

a. 'x' is the OS assigned interface number

- ***To check driver and device information:***

```
#> ethtool -i eth<x>
```

Example:

```
#> ethtool -i eth2
driver: mlx4_en
version: 2.1.8 (Oct 06 2013)
firmware-version: 2.30.3110
bus-info: 0000:1a:00.0
```

- ***To query stateless offload status:***

```
#> ethtool -k eth<x>
```

- ***To set stateless offload status:***

```
#> ethtool -K eth<x> [rx on|off] [tx on|off] [sg on|off] [tso on|off] [lro on|off]
```

- ***To query interrupt coalescing settings:***

```
#> ethtool -c eth<x>
```

- ***To enable/disable adaptive interrupt moderation:***

```
#>ethtool -C eth<x> adaptive-rx on|off
```

By default, the driver uses adaptive interrupt moderation for the receive path, which adjusts the moderation time to the traffic pattern.

- ***To set the values for packet rate limits and for moderation time high and low:***

```
#> ethtool -C eth<x> [pkt-rate-low N] [pkt-rate-high N] [rx-usecs-low N] [rx-usecs-high N]
```

Above an upper limit of packet rate, adaptive moderation will set the moderation time to its highest value. Below a lower limit of packet rate, the moderation time will be set to its lowest value.

- ***To set interrupt coalescing settings when adaptive moderation is disabled:***

```
#> ethtool -C eth<x> [rx-usecs N] [rx-frames N]
```

usec settings correspond to the time to wait after the *last* packet is sent/received before triggering an interrupt.

- ***To query pause frame settings:***

```
#> ethtool -a eth<x>
```

- ***To set pause frame settings:***

```
#> ethtool -A eth<x> [rx on|off] [tx on|off]
```

- ***To query ring size values:***

```
#> ethtool -g eth<x>
```

- ***To modify rings size:***

```
#> ethtool -G eth<x> [rx <N>] [tx <N>]
```

- ***To obtain additional device statistics:***

```
#> ethtool -S eth<x>
```

- ***To perform a self diagnostics test:***

```
#> ethtool -t eth<x>
```

The driver defaults to the following parameters:

- Both ports are activated (i.e., a net device is created for each port)
- The number of Rx rings for each port is the nearest power of 2 of number of cpu cores, limited by 16.
- LRO is enabled with 32 concurrent sessions per Rx ring

Some of these values can be changed using module parameters, which can be displayed by running:

```
#> modinfo mlx4_en
```

To set non-default values to module parameters, add to the `/etc/modprobe.conf` file:

```
"options mlx4_en <param_name>=<value> <param_name>=<value> ..."
```

Values of all parameters can be observed in /sys/module/mlx4_en/parameters/.

2.10 Performance Tunining

For further information on Linux performance, please refer to the Performance Tuning Guide for Mellanox Network Adapters.

3 Feature Overview and Configuration

3.1 Quality of Service

Quality of Service (QoS) is a mechanism of assigning a priority to a network flow (socket, rdma_cm connection) and manage its guarantees, limitations and its priority over other flows. This is accomplished by mapping the user's priority to a hardware TC (traffic class) through a 2/3 stages process. The TC is assigned with the QoS attributes and the different flows behave accordingly

3.1.1 Mapping Traffic to Traffic Classes

Mapping traffic to TCs consists of several actions which are user controllable, some controlled by the application itself and others by the system/network administrators.

The following is the general mapping traffic to Traffic Classes flow:

1. The application sets the required Type of Service (ToS).
2. The ToS is translated into a Socket Priority (`sk_prio`).
3. The `sk_prio` is mapped to a User Priority (UP) by the system administrator (some applications set `sk_prio` directly).
4. The UP is mapped to TC by the network/system administrator.
5. TCs hold the actual QoS parameters

QoS can be applied on the following types of traffic. However, the general QoS flow may vary among them:

- **Plain Ethernet** - Applications use regular inet sockets and the traffic passes via the kernel Ethernet driver
- **RoCE** - Applications use the RDMA API to transmit using QPs
- **Raw Ethernet QP** - Application use VERBs API to transmit using a Raw Ethernet QP

3.1.2 Plain Ethernet Quality of Service Mapping

Applications use regular inet sockets and the traffic passes via the kernel Ethernet driver.

The following is the Plain Ethernet QoS mapping flow:

1. The application sets the ToS of the socket using `setsockopt` (`IP_TOS`, value).
2. ToS is translated into the `sk_prio` using a fixed translation:

```
TOS 0 <=> sk_prio 0
TOS 8 <=> sk_prio 2
TOS 24 <=> sk_prio 4
TOS 16 <=> sk_prio 6
```

3. The Socket Priority is mapped to the UP:
   - If the underlying device is a VLAN device, `egress_map` is used controlled by the `vconfig` command. This is per VLAN mapping.
   - If the underlying device is not a VLAN device, the `tc` command is used. In this case, even though `tc` manual states that the mapping is from the `sk_prio` to the TC number, the `mlx4_en` driver interprets this as a `sk_prio` to UP mapping.

Mapping the sk_prio to the UP is done by using `tc_wrap.py -i <dev name> -u 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7`

4. The the UP is mapped to the TC as configured by the `mlnx_qos` tool or by the `lldpad` daemon if DCBX is used.

Socket applications can use `setsockopt` (`SK_PRIO`, value) to directly set the `sk_prio` of the socket. In this case the ToS to `sk_prio` fixed mapping is not needed. This allows the application and the administrator to utilize more than the 4 values possible via ToS.

In case of VLAN interface, the UP obtained according to the above mapping is also used in the VLAN tag of the traffic

3.1.3 Map Priorities with tc_wrap.py/mlnx_qos

Network flow that can be managed by QoS attributes is described by a User Priority (UP). A user's `sk_prio` is mapped to UP which in turn is mapped into TC.

- Indicating the UP
  - When the user uses `sk_prio`, it is mapped into a UP by the `'tc'` tool. This is done by the `tc_wrap.py` tool which gets a list of <= 16 comma separated UP and maps the `sk_prio` to the specified UP.
    For example, `tc_wrap.py -ieth0 -u 1,5` maps `sk_prio 0` of `eth0` device to UP 1 and `sk_prio 1` to UP 5.
  - Setting `set_egress_map` in VLAN, maps the `skb_priority` of the VLAN to a `vlan_qos`. The `vlan_qos` is represents a UP for the VLAN device.
  - In RoCE, `rdma_set_option` with `RDMA_OPTION_ID_TOS` could be used to set the UP
  - When creating QPs, the `sl` field in `ibv_modify_qp` command represents the UP
- Indicating the TC
  - After mapping the `skb_priority` to UP, one should map the UP into a TC. This assigns the user priority to a specific hardware traffic class. In order to do that, `mlnx_qos` should be used. `mlnx_qos` gets a list of a mapping between UPs to TCs. For example, `mlnx_qos -ieth0 -p 0,0,0,0,1,1,1,1` maps UPs 0-3 to `TC0`, and Ups 4-7 to `TC1`.

3.1.4 Quality of Service Properties

The different QoS properties that can be assigned to a TC are:

- Strict Priority (see "Strict Priority")
- Minimal Bandwidth Guarantee (ETS) (see "Minimal Bandwidth Guarantee (ETS)")
- Rate Limit (see "Rate Limit")

3.1.4.1 Strict Priority

When setting a TC's transmission algorithm to be 'strict', then this TC has absolute (strict) priority over other TC strict priorities coming before it (as determined by the TC number: TC 7 is highest priority, TC 0 is lowest). It also has an absolute priority over non strict TCs (ETS).

This property needs to be used with care, as it may easily cause starvation of other TCs.

A higher strict priority TC is always given the first chance to transmit. Only if the highest strict priority TC has nothing more to transmit, will the next highest TC be considered.

Non strict priority TCs will be considered last to transmit.

This property is extremely useful for low latency low bandwidth traffic. Traffic that needs to get immediate service when it exists, but is not of high volume to starve other transmitters in the system.

3.1.4.2 Minimal Bandwidth Guarantee (ETS)

After servicing the strict priority TCs, the amount of bandwidth (BW) left on the wire may be split among other TCs according to a minimal guarantee policy.

If, for instance, TC0 is set to 80% guarantee and TC1 to 20% (the TCs sum must be 100), then the BW left after servicing all strict priority TCs will be split according to this ratio.

Since this is a minimal guarantee, there is no maximum enforcement. This means, in the same example, that if TC1 did not use its share of 20%, the reminder will be used by TC0.

3.1.4.3 Rate Limit

Rate limit defines a maximum bandwidth allowed for a TC. Please note that 10% deviation from the requested values is considered acceptable.

3.1.5 Quality of Service Tools

3.1.5.1 mlnx_qos

`mlnx_qos` is a centralized tool used to configure QoS features of the local host. It communicates directly with the driver thus does not require setting up a DCBX daemon on the system.

The `mlnx_qos` tool enables the administrator of the system to:

- Inspect the current QoS mappings and configuration

  The tool will also display maps configured by TC and `vconfig set_egress_map` tools, in order to give a centralized view of all QoS mappings.
- Set UP to TC mapping
- Assign a transmission algorithm to each TC (strict or ETS)
- Set minimal BW guarantee to ETS TCs
- Set rate limit to TCs

For unlimited ratelimit set the ratelimit to 0.

Usage:

```
mlnx_qos -i <interface> [options]
```

Options:

```
  --version             show program's version number and exit
  -h, --help            show this help message and exit
  -p LIST, --prio_tc=LIST
                        maps UPs to TCs. LIST is 8 comma seperated TC numbers.
                        Example: 0,0,0,0,1,1,1,1 maps UPs 0-3 to TC0, and UPs
                        4-7 to TC1
  -s LIST, --tsa=LIST   Transmission algorithm for each TC. LIST is comma
                        seperated algorithm names for each TC. Possible
                        algorithms: strict, etc. Example: ets,strict,ets sets
                        TC0,TC2 to ETS and TC1 to strict. The rest are
                        unchanged.
  -t LIST, --tcbw=LIST  Set minimal guaranteed %BW for ETS TCs. LIST is comma
                        seperated percents for each TC. Values set to TCs that
                        are not configured to ETS algorithm are ignored, but
                        must be present. Example: if TC0,TC2 are set to ETS,
                        then 10,0,90 will set TC0 to 10% and TC2 to 90%.
                        Percents must sum to 100.
  -r LIST, --ratelimit=LIST
                        Rate limit for TCs (in Gbps). LIST is a comma
                        seperated Gbps limit for each TC. Example: 1,8,8 will
                        limit TC0 to 1Gbps, and TC1,TC2 to 8 Gbps each.
  -i INTF, --interface=INTF
                        Interface name
  -a                    Show all interface's TCs
```

3.1.5.1.1 Get Current Configuration

```
tc: 0 ratelimit: unlimited, tsa: strict
        up:  0
                skprio: 0
                skprio: 1
                skprio: 2 (tos: 8)
                skprio: 3
                skprio: 4 (tos: 24)
                skprio: 5
                skprio: 6 (tos: 16)
                skprio: 7
                skprio: 8
                skprio: 9
                skprio: 10
                skprio: 11
                skprio: 12
                skprio: 13
                skprio: 14
                skprio: 15
        up:  1
        up:  2
        up:  3
        up:  4
        up:  5
        up:  6
        up:  7
```

3.1.5.1.2 Set ratelimit. 3Gbps for tc0 4Gbps for tc1 and 2Gbps for tc2

```
tc: 0 ratelimit: 3 Gbps, tsa: strict
         up:  0
                 skprio: 0
                 skprio: 1
                 skprio: 2 (tos: 8)
                 skprio: 3
                 skprio: 4 (tos: 24)
                 skprio: 5
                 skprio: 6 (tos: 16)
                 skprio: 7
                 skprio: 8
                 skprio: 9
                 skprio: 10
                 skprio: 11
                 skprio: 12
                 skprio: 13
                 skprio: 14
                 skprio: 15
         up:  1
         up:  2
         up:  3
         up:  4
         up:  5
         up:  6
         up:  7
```

3.1.5.1.3 Configure QoS. map UP 0,7 to tc0, 1,2,3 to tc1 and 4,5,6 to tc 2. set tc0,tc1 as ets and tc2 as strict. divide ets 30% for tc0 and 70% for tc1:

```
mlnx_qos -i eth3 -s ets,ets,strict -p 0,1,1,1,2,2,2 -t 30,70
tc: 0 ratelimit: 3 Gbps, tsa: ets, bw: 30%
         up:  0
                 skprio: 0
                 skprio: 1
                 skprio: 2 (tos: 8)
                 skprio: 3
                 skprio: 4 (tos: 24)
                 skprio: 5
                 skprio: 6 (tos: 16)
                 skprio: 7
                 skprio: 8
                 skprio: 9
                 skprio: 10
                 skprio: 11
                 skprio: 12
                 skprio: 13
                 skprio: 14
                 skprio: 15
```

```
 up:  7
tc: 1 ratelimit: 4 Gbps, tsa: ets, bw: 70%
        up:  1
        up:  2
        up:  3
tc: 2 ratelimit: 2 Gbps, tsa: strict
        up:  4
        up:  5
        up:  6
```

3.1.5.2 tc and tc_wrap.py

The 'tc' tool is used to setup `sk_prio` to UP mapping, using the `mqprio` queue discipline.

In kernels that do not support `mqprio` (such as 2.6.34), an alternate mapping is created in `sysfs`. The 'tc_wrap.py' tool will use either the `sysfs` or the 'tc' tool to configure the `sk_prio` to UP mapping.

Usage:

```
tc_wrap.py -i <interface> [options]
```

Options:

```
--version                              show program's version number and exit
-h, --help                             show this help message and exit
-u SKPRIO_UP, --skprio_up=SKPRIO_UP  maps sk_prio to UP. LIST is <=16 comma separated
                                     UP. index of element is sk_prio.
-i INTF, --interface=INTF            Interface name
```

Example: set skprio 0-2 to UP0, and skprio 3-7 to UP1 on eth4

```
UP  0
        skprio: 0
        skprio: 1
        skprio: 2 (tos: 8)
        skprio: 7
        skprio: 8
        skprio: 9
        skprio: 10
        skprio: 11
        skprio: 12
        skprio: 13
        skprio: 14
        skprio: 15
UP  1
        skprio: 3
        skprio: 4 (tos: 24)
        skprio: 5
        skprio: 6 (tos: 16)
UP  2
UP  3
UP  4
UP  5
UP  6
UP  7
```

3.1.5.3 Additional Tools

tc tool compiled with the `sch_mqprio` module is required to support kernel v2.6.32 or higher. This is a part of `iproute2` package v2.6.32-19 or higher. Otherwise, an alternative custom sysfs interface is available.

- `mlnx_qos tool` (package: ofed-scripts) requires python >= 2.5
- `tc_wrap.py` (package: ofed-scripts) requires python >= 2.5

3.2 Time-Stamping Service

Time Stamping is currently at beta level.
Please be aware that everything listed here is subject to change.

Time Stamping is currently supported in ConnectX®-3/ConnectX®-3 Pro adapter cards only.

Time stamping is the process of keeping track of the creation of a packet/ A time-stamping service supports assertions of proof that a datum existed before a particular time. Incoming packets are time-stamped before they are distributed on the PCI depending on the congestion in the PCI buffers. Outgoing packets are time-stamped very close to placing them on the wire.

3.2.1 Enabling Time Stamping

Time-stamping is off by default and should be enabled before use.

➢ ***To enable time stamping for a socket:***

- Call setsockopt() with SO_TIMESTAMPING and with the following flags:

```
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_TX_HARDWARE:  try to obtain send time stamp in hardware
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_TX_SOFTWARE:  if SOF_TIMESTAMPING_TX_HARDWARE is off or
                               fails, then do it in software
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_RX_HARDWARE:  return the original, unmodified time stamp
                               as generated by the hardware
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_RX_SOFTWARE:  if SOF_TIMESTAMPING_RX_HARDWARE is off or
                               fails, then do it in software
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_RAW_HARDWARE: return original raw hardware time stamp
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_SYS_HARDWARE: return hardware time stamp transformed to
                               the system time base
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_SOFTWARE:     return system time stamp generated in
                               software
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_TX/RX determine how time stamps are generated.
SOF_TIMESTAMPING_RAW/SYS determine how they are reported
```

➢ ***To enable time stamping for a net device:***

Admin privileged user can enable/disable time stamping through calling ioctl(sock, SIOCSHWTSTAMP, &ifreq) with following values:

Send side time sampling:

- Enabled by ifreq.hwtstamp_config.tx_type when

```
/* possible values for hwtstamp_config->tx_type */
enum hwtstamp_tx_types {
        /*
         * No outgoing packet will need hardware time stamping;
         * should a packet arrive which asks for it, no hardware
         * time stamping will be done.
        */
        HWTSTAMP_TX_OFF,

        /*
         * Enables hardware time stamping for outgoing packets;
         * the sender of the packet decides which are to be
         * time stamped by setting %SOF_TIMESTAMPING_TX_SOFTWARE
         * before sending the packet.
         */
        HWTSTAMP_TX_ON,
  /*
         * Enables time stamping for outgoing packets just as
         * HWTSTAMP_TX_ON does, but also enables time stamp insertion
         * directly into Sync packets. In this case, transmitted Sync
         * packets will not received a time stamp via the socket error
         * queue.
         */
        HWTSTAMP_TX_ONESTEP_SYNC,
};
Note: for send side time stamping currently only HWTSTAMP_TX_OFF and
HWTSTAMP_TX_ON are supported.
```

Receive side time sampling:

- Enabled by ifreq.hwtstamp_config.rx_filter when

```
/* possible values for hwtstamp_config->rx_filter */
enum hwtstamp_rx_filters {
        /* time stamp no incoming packet at all */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_NONE,

        /* time stamp any incoming packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_ALL,
      /* return value: time stamp all packets requested plus some others */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_SOME,

        /* PTP v1, UDP, any kind of event packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V1_L4_EVENT,
        /* PTP v1, UDP, Sync packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V1_L4_SYNC,
        /* PTP v1, UDP, Delay_req packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V1_L4_DELAY_REQ,
        /* PTP v2, UDP, any kind of event packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_L4_EVENT,
        /* PTP v2, UDP, Sync packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_L4_SYNC,
        /* PTP v2, UDP, Delay_req packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_L4_DELAY_REQ,

        /* 802.AS1, Ethernet, any kind of event packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_L2_EVENT,
        /* 802.AS1, Ethernet, Sync packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_L2_SYNC,
        /* 802.AS1, Ethernet, Delay_req packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_L2_DELAY_REQ,

        /* PTP v2/802.AS1, any layer, any kind of event packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_EVENT,
        /* PTP v2/802.AS1, any layer, Sync packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_SYNC,
        /* PTP v2/802.AS1, any layer, Delay_req packet */
        HWTSTAMP_FILTER_PTP_V2_DELAY_REQ,
};
Note: for receive side time stamping currently only HWTSTAMP_FILTER_NONE and
HWTSTAMP_FILTER_ALL are supported.
```

3.2.2 Getting Time Stamping

Once time stamping is enabled time stamp is placed in the socket Ancillary data. recvmsg() can be used to get this control message for regular incoming packets. For send time stamps the outgoing packet is looped back to the socket's error queue with the send time stamp(s) attached. It can be received with recvmsg(flags=MSG_ERRQUEUE). The call returns the original outgoing packet data including all headers preprended down to and including the link layer, the scm_timestamping control message and a sock_extended_err control message with ee_errno==ENOMSG and ee_origin==SO_EE_ORIGIN_TIMESTAMPING. A socket with such a pending bounced packet is ready for reading as far as select() is concerned. If the outgoing

packet has to be fragmented, then only the first fragment is time stamped and returned to the sending socket.

When time-stamping is enabled, VLAN stripping is disabled.
For more info please refer to Documentation/networking/timestamping.txt in kernel.org

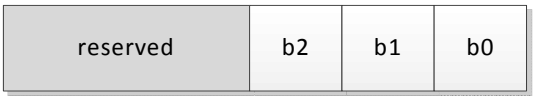
3.3 Flow Steering

Flow Steering is applicable to the mlx4 driver only.

Flow steering is a new model which steers network flows based on flow specifications to specific QPs. Those flows can be either unicast or multicast network flows. In order to maintain flexibility, domains and priorities are used. Flow steering uses a methodology of flow attribute, which is a combination of L2-L4 flow specifications, a destination QP and a priority. Flow steering rules could be inserted either by using ethtool or by using InfiniBand verbs. The verbs abstraction uses an opposed terminology of a flow attribute (ibv_flow_attr), defined by a combination of specifications (struct ibv_flow_spec_*).

3.3.1 Enable/Disable Flow Steering

Flow steering is generally enabled when the `log_num_mgm_entry_size` module parameter is non positive (e.g., `-log_num_mgm_entry_size`), meaning the absolute value of the parameter, is a bit field. Every bit indicates a condition or an option regarding the flow steering mechanism:



bit	Operation	Description
b0	Force device managed Flow Steering	When set to 1, it forces HCA to be enabled regardless of whether NC-SI Flow Steering is supported or not.
b1	Disable IPoIB Flow Steering	When set to 1, it disables the support of IPoIB Flow Steering. This bit should be set to 1 when "b2- Enable A0 static DMFS steering" is used (see Section 3.3.3, “A0 Static Device Managed Flow Steering”, on page 29).
b2	Enable A0 static DMFS steering (see Section 3.3.3, “A0 Static Device Managed Flow Steering”, on page 29)	When set to 1, A0 static DMFS steering is enabled. This bit should be set to 0 when "b1- Disable IPoIB Flow Steering" is 0.

bit	Operation	Description
b3	Enable DMFS only if the HCA supports more than 64QPs per MCG entry	When set to 1, DMFS is enabled only if the HCA supports more than 64 QPs attached to the same rule. For example, attaching 64VFs to the same multicast address causes 64QPs to be attached to the same MCG. If the HCA supports less than 64 QPs per MCG, B0 is used.

For example, a value of (-7) means forcing flow steering regardless of NC-SI flow steering support, disabling IPoIB flow steering support and enabling A0 static DMFS steering.

The default value of `log_num_mgm_entry_size` is -10. Meaning Ethernet Flow Steering (i.e IPoIB DMFS is disabled by default) is enabled by default if NC-SI DMFS is supported and the HCA supports at least 64 QPs per MCG entry. Otherwise, L2 steering (B0) is used.

When using SR-IOV, flow steering is enabled if there is an adequate amount of space to store the flow steering table for the guest/master.

➢ ***To enable Flow Steering:***

Step 1. Open the `/etc/modprobe.d/mlnx.conf` file.

Step 2. Set the parameter `log_num_mgm_entry_size` to a non positive value by writing the option `mlx4_core log_num_mgm_entry_size=<value>`.

Step 3. Restart the driver

➢ ***To disable Flow Steering:***

Step 1. Open the `/etc/modprobe.d/mlnx.conf` file.

Step 2. Remove the `options mlx4_core log_num_mgm_entry_size= <value>`.

Step 3. Restart the driver

3.3.2 Flow Steering Support

➢ ***To determine which Flow Steering features are supported:***

```
ethtool --show-priv-flags eth4
```

The following output is shown:

```
mlx4_flow_steering_ethernet_l2: on      Creating Ethernet L2 (MAC) rules is supported
mlx4_flow_steering_ipv4: on             Creating IPv4 rules is supported
mlx4_flow_steering_tcp: on              Creating TCP/UDP rules is supported
```

Flow Steering support in InfiniBand is determined according to the `EXP_MANAGED_FLOW_STEERING` flag.

3.3.3 A0 Static Device Managed Flow Steering

This mode enables fast steering, however it might impact flexibility. Using it increases the packet rate performance by ~30%, with the following limitations for Ethernet link-layer unicast QPs:

- Limits the number of opened RSS Kernel QPs to 96. MACs should be unique (1 MAC per 1 QP). The number of VFs is limited.

- When creating Flow Steering rules for user QPs, only MAC--> QP rules are allowed. Both MACs and QPs should be unique between rules. Only 62 such rules could be created
- When creating rules with Ethtool, MAC--> QP rules could be used, where the QP must be the indirection (RSS) QP. Creating rules that indirect traffic to other rings is not allowed. Ethtool MAC rules to drop packets (action -1) are supported.
- RFS is not supported in this mode
- VLAN is not supported in this mode

3.3.4 Flow Domains and Priorities

Flow steering defines the concept of domain and priority. Each domain represents a user agent that can attach a flow. The domains are prioritized. A higher priority domain will always supersede a lower priority domain when their flow specifications overlap. Setting a lower priority value will result in higher priority.

In addition to the domain, there is priority within each of the domains. Each domain can have at most 2^12 priorities in accordance to its needs.

The following are the domains at a descending order of priority:

- **Ethtool**

  Ethtool domain is used to attach an RX ring, specifically its QP to a specified flow.

  Please refer to the most recent ethtool manpage for all the ways to specify a flow.

  Examples:

  - ethtool –U eth5 flow-type ether dst 00:11:22:33:44:55 loc 5 action 2

    All packets that contain the above destination MAC address are to be steered into rx-ring 2 (its underlying QP), with priority 5 (within the ethtool domain)
  - ethtool –U eth5 flow-type tcp4 src-ip 1.2.3.4 dst-port 8888 loc 5 action 2

    All packets that contain the above destination IP address and source port are to be steered into rx-ring 2. When destination MAC is not given, the user's destination MAC is filled automatically.
  - ethtool –u eth5

    Shows all of ethtool's steering rule

  When configuring two rules with the same priority, the second rule will overwrite the first one, so this ethtool interface is effectively a table. Inserting Flow Steering rules in the kernel requires support from both the ethtool in the user space and in kernel (v2.6.28).

  MLX4 Driver Support

  The mlx4 driver supports only a subset of the flow specification the ethtool API defines. Asking for an unsupported flow specification will result with an "invalid value" failure.

  The following are the flow specific parameters:

Table 6 - Flow Specific Parameters

	ether	tcp4/udp4	ip4
Mandatory	dst		src-ip/dst-ip

Table 6 - Flow Specific Parameters

	ether	tcp4/udp4	ip4
Optional	vlan	src-ip, dst-ip, src-port, dst-port, vlan	src-ip, dst-ip, vlan

- **RFS**

  RFS is an in-kernel-logic responsible for load balancing between CPUs by attaching flows to CPUs that are used by flow's owner applications. This domain allows the RFS mechanism to use the flow steering infrastructure to support the RFS logic by implementing the `ndo_rx_flow_steer`, which, in turn, calls the underlying flow steering mechanism with the RFS domain.

  Enabling the RFS requires enabling the `'ntuple'` flag via the ethtool,

  For example, to enable ntuple for eth0, run:

  ```
  ethtool -K eth0 ntuple on
  ```

  RFS requires the kernel to be compiled with the `CONFIG_RFS_ACCEL` option. This options is available in kernels 2.6.39 and above. Furthermore, RFS requires Device Managed Flow Steering support.

RFS cannot function if LRO is enabled. LRO can be disabled via ethtool.

- **All of the rest**

  The lowest priority domain serves the following users:

  - **The mlx4 Ethernet driver** attaches its unicast and multicast MACs addresses to its QP using L2 flow specifications

Fragmented UDP traffic cannot be steered. It is treated as 'other' protocol by hardware (from the first packet) and not considered as UDP traffic.

3.4 Virtualization

3.4.1 Single Root IO Virtualization (SR-IOV)

Single Root IO Virtualization (SR-IOV) is a technology that allows a physical PCIe device to present itself multiple times through the PCIe bus. This technology enables multiple virtual instances of the device with separate resources. Mellanox adapters are capable of exposing in ConnectX®-3 adapter cards up to 126 virtual instances called Virtual Functions (VFs). These virtual functions can then be provisioned separately. Each VF can be seen as an addition device connected to the Physical Function. It shares the same resources with the Physical Function, and its number of ports equals those of the Physical Function.

SR-IOV is commonly used in conjunction with an SR-IOV enabled hypervisor to provide virtual machines direct hardware access to network resources hence increasing its performance.

In this chapter we will demonstrate setup and configuration of SR-IOV in a Red Hat Linux environment using Mellanox ConnectX® VPI adapter cards family.

3.4.1.1 System Requirements

To set up an SR-IOV environment, the following is required:

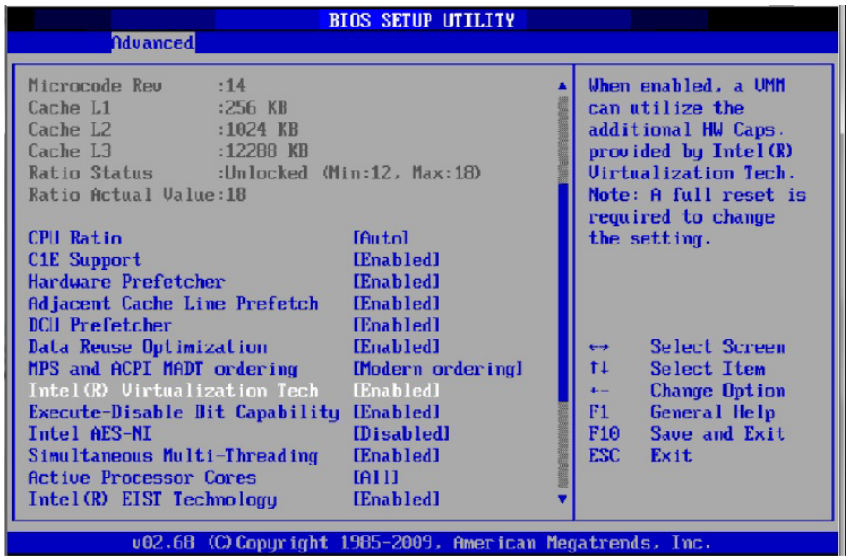
- MLNX_EN Driver
- A server/blade with an SR-IOV-capable motherboard BIOS
- Hypervisor that supports SR-IOV such as: Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server Version 6.*
- Mellanox ConnectX® VPI Adapter Card family with SR-IOV capability

3.4.1.2 Setting Up SR-IOV

Depending on your system, perform the steps below to set up your BIOS. The figures used in this section are for illustration purposes only. For further information, please refer to the appropriate BIOS User Manual:

Step 1. Enable "SR-IOV" in the system BIOS.

Step 2. Enable "Intel Virtualization Technology".



Step 3. Install the hypervisor that supports SR-IOV.

Step 4. Depending on your system, update the /boot/grub/grub.conf file to include a similar command line load parameter for the Linux kernel.

For example, to Intel systems, add:

```
default=0
timeout=5
splashimage=(hd0,0)/grub/splash.xpm.gz
hiddenmenu
title Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server (2.6.32-36.x86-645)
        root (hd0,0)
        kernel /vmlinuz-2.6.32-36.x86-64 ro root=/dev/VolGroup00/LogVol00 rhgb quiet
        intel_iommu=on[a]
        initrd /initrd-2.6.32-36.x86-64.img
```

a. Please make sure the parameter "intel_iommu=on" exists when updating the /boot/grub/grub.conf file, otherwise SR-IOV cannot be loaded.

Step 5. Install the MLNX_EN driver for Linux that supports SR-IOV.

SR-IOV can be enabled and managed by using one of the following methods:

- Burn firmware with SR-IOV support where the number of virtual functions (VFs) will be set to 16

```
--enable-sriov
```

- Run the mlxconfig tool and set the `SRIOV_EN` parameter to `"1"` without re-burning the firmware

```
SRIOV_EN = 1
```

For further information, please refer to section *"mlxconfig - Changing Device Configuration Tool"* in the MFT User Manual (www.mellanox.com > Products > Software > Firmware Tools).

Step 6. Verify the HCA is configured to support SR-IOV.

```
[root@selene ~]# mstflint -dev <PCI Device> dc
```

1. Verify in the [HCA] section the following fields appear[1],[2]

```
[HCA]
num_pfs = 1
total_vfs = <0-126>
sriov_en = true
```

Parameter	Recommended Value
num_pfs	1 **Note:** This field is optional and might not always appear.
total_vfs	• When using firmware version 2.31.5000 and above, the recommended value is 126. • When using firmware version 2.30.8000 and below, the recommended value is 63 **Note:** Before setting number of VFs in SR-IOV, please make sure your system can support that amount of VFs. Setting number of VFs larger than what your Hardware and Software can support may cause your system to cease working.

Parameter	Recommended Value
sriov_en	true

2. Add the above fields to the INI if they are missing.
3. Set the `total_vfs` parameter to the desired number if you need to change the number of total VFs.
4. Reburn the firmware using the mlxburn tool if the fields above were added to the INI, or the `total_vfs` parameter was modified.
   If the mlxburn is not installed, please downloaded it from the Mellanox website http://www.mellanox.com > products > Firmware tools

```
mlxburn -fw ./fw-ConnectX3-rel.mlx -dev /dev/mst/mt4099_pci_cr0 -conf ./MCX341A-XCG_Ax.ini
```

If the current firmware version is the same as one provided with MLNX_EN, run it in combination with the `'--force-fw-update'` parameter.

This configuration option is supported only in HCAs that their configuration file (INI) is included in MLNX_EN.

Step 7. Create the text file /etc/modprobe.d/mlx4_core.conf if it does not exist, otherwise delete its contents.

Step 8. Insert an "option" line in the /etc/modprobe.d/mlx4_core.conf file to set the number of VFs. the protocol type per port, and the allowed number of virtual functions to be used by the physical function driver (probe_vf).

```
options mlx4_core num_vfs=5 probe_vf=1
```

1. If SR-IOV is supported, to enable SR-IOV (if it is not enabled), it is sufficient to set “sriov_en = true” in the INI.
2. If the HCA does not support SR-IOV, please contact Mellanox Support: support@mellanox.com

Parameter	Recommended Value

num_vfs	• If absent, or zero: no VFs will be available
	• If its value is a single number in the range of 0-63: The driver will enable the `num_vfs` VFs on the HCA and this will be applied to all ConnectX® HCAs on the host.
	• If its a triplet x,y,z (applies only if all ports are configured as Ethernet) the driver creates:
	  • x single port VFs on physical port 1
	  • y single port VFs on physical port 2 (applies only if such a port exist)
	  • z n-port VFs (where n is the number of physical ports on device).
	This applies to all ConnectX® HCAs on the host
	• If its format is a string: The string specifies the `num_vfs` parameter separately per installed HCA.
	The string format is: "bb:dd.f-v,bb:dd.f-v,…"
	  • bb:dd.f = bus:device.function of the PF of the HCA
	  • v = number of VFs to enable for that HCA which is either a single value or a triplet, as described above.
	For example:
	• `num_vfs=5` - The driver will enable 5 VFs on the HCA and this will be applied to all ConnectX® HCAs on the host
	• `num_vfs=00:04.0-5,00:07.0-8` - The driver will enable 5 VFs on the HCA positioned in BDF 00:04.0 and 8 on the one in 00:07.0)
	• `num_vfs=1,2,3` - The driver will enable 1 VF on physical port 1, 2 VFs on physical port 2 and 3 dual port VFs (applies only to dual port HCA when all ports are Ethernet ports).
	• `num_vfs=00:04.0-5;6;7,00:07.0-8;9;10` - The driver will enable:
	  • HCA positioned in BDF 00:04.0
	  • 5 single VFs on port 1
	  • 6 single VFs on port 2
	  • 7 dual port VFs
	  • HCA positioned in BDF 00:07.0
	  • 8 single VFs on port 1
	  • 9 single VFs on port 2
	  • 10 dual port VFs
	Applies when all ports are configure as Ethernet in dual port HCAs

Parameter	Recommended Value
num_vfs	**Notes:** • PFs not included in the above list will not have SR-IOV enabled. • Triplets and single port VFs are only valid when all ports are configured as Ethernet. When an InfiniBand port exists, only `num_vfs=a` syntax is valid where `"a"` is a single value that represents the number of VFs. • The second parameter in a triplet is valid only when there are more than 1 physical port. In a triplet, `x+z<=63` and `y+z<=63`, the maximum number of VFs on each physical port must be 63.
port_type_array	Specifies the protocol type of the ports. It is either one array of 2 port types `'t1,t2'` for all devices or list of BDF to `port_type_array 'bb:dd.f-t1;t2,...'`. (string) Valid port types: 1-ib, 2-eth, 3-auto, 4-N/A If only a single port is available, use the N/A port type for port2 (e.g '1,4').

probe_vf	• If absent or zero: no VF interfaces will be loaded in the Hypervisor/host
	• If num_vfs is a number in the range of 1-63, the driver running on the Hypervisor will itself activate that number of VFs. All these VFs will run on the Hypervisor. This number will apply to all ConnectX® HCAs on that host.
	• If its a triplet x,y,z (applies only if all ports are configured as Ethernet), the driver probes:
	  • x single port VFs on physical port 1
	  • y single port VFs on physical port 2 (applies only if such a port exist)
	  • z n-port VFs (where n is the number of physical ports on device). Those VFs are attached to the hypervisor.
	• If its format is a string: the string specifies the `probe_vf` parameter separately per installed HCA.
	The string format is: "bb:dd.f-v,bb:dd.f-v,…
	  • bb:dd.f = bus:device.function of the PF of the HCA
	  • v = number of VFs to use in the PF driver for that HCA which is either a single value or a triplet, as described above
	For example:
	• `probe_vfs=5` - The PF driver will activate 5 VFs on the HCA and this will be applied to all ConnectX® HCAs on the host
	• `probe_vfs=00:04.0-5,00:07.0-8` - The PF driver will activate 5 VFs on the HCA positioned in BDF 00:04.0 and 8 for the one in 00:07.0)

Parameter	Recommended Value

probe_vf	• `probe_vf=1,2,3` - The PF driver will activate 1 VF on physical port 1, 2 VFs on physical port 2 and 3 dual port VFs (applies only to dual port HCA when all ports are Ethernet ports).
	This applies to all ConnectX® HCAs in the host.
	• `probe_vf=00:04.0-5;6;7,00:07.0-8;9;10` - The PF driver will activate:
	  • HCA positioned in BDF 00:04.0
	  • 5 single VFs on port 1
	  • 6 single VFs on port 2
	  • 7 dual port VFs
	  • HCA positioned in BDF 00:07.0
	  • 8 single VFs on port 1
	  • 9 single VFs on port 2
	  • 10 dual port VFs
	Applies when all ports are configure as Ethernet in dual port HCAs.
	Notes:
	• PFs not included in the above list will not activate any of their VFs in the PF driver
	• Triplets and single port VFs are only valid when all ports are configured as Ethernet. When an InfiniBand port exist, only `probe_vf=a` syntax is valid where `"a"` is a single value that represents the number of VFs
	• The second parameter in a triplet is valid only when there are more than 1 physical port
	• Every value (either a value in a triplet or a single value) should be less than or equal to the respective value of `num_vfs` parameter

The example above loads the driver with 5 VFs (num_vfs). The standard use of a VF is a single VF per a single VM. However, the number of VFs varies upon the working mode requirements.

Step 9. Reboot the server.

If the SR-IOV is not supported by the server, the machine might not come out of boot/load.

Step 10. Load the driver and verify the SR-IOV is supported. Run:

```
lspci | grep Mellanox
03:00.0 InfiniBand: Mellanox Technologies MT26428 [ConnectX VPI PCIe 2.0 5GT/s - IB QDR / 10GigE]
(rev b0)
03:00.1 InfiniBand: Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3 Virtual Function] (rev b0)
03:00.2 InfiniBand: Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3 Virtual Function] (rev b0)
03:00.3 InfiniBand: Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3 Virtual Function] (rev b0)
03:00.4 InfiniBand: Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3 Virtual Function] (rev b0)
03:00.5 InfiniBand: Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3 Virtual Function] (rev b0)
```

Where:

- “03:00" represents the Physical Function

- "03:00.**X**" represents the Virtual Function connected to the Physical Function

3.4.1.3 Enabling SR-IOV and Para Virtualization on the Same Setup

➢ ***To enable SR-IOV and Para Virtualization on the same setup:***

Step 1. Create a bridge.

```
vim /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-bridge0
DEVICE=bridge0
TYPE=Bridge
IPADDR=12.195.15.1
NETMASK=255.255.0.0
BOOTPROTO=static
ONBOOT=yes
NM_CONTROLLED=no
DELAY=0
```

Step 2. Change the related interface (in the example below bridge0 is created over eth5).

```
DEVICE=eth5
BOOTPROTO=none
STARTMODE=on
HWADDR=00:02:c9:2e:66:52
TYPE=Ethernet
NM_CONTROLLED=no
ONBOOT=yes
BRIDGE=bridge0
```

Step 3. Restart the service network.

Step 4. Attach a virtual NIC to VM.

```
ifconfig -a
…
eth6      Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 52:54:00:E7:77:99
          inet addr:13.195.15.5  Bcast:13.195.255.255  Mask:255.255.0.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::5054:ff:fee7:7799/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
         RX packets:481 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:450 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:22440 (21.9 KiB)  TX bytes:19232 (18.7 KiB)
          Interrupt:10 Base address:0xa000
…
```

Step 5. Add the MAC `52:54:00:E7:77:99` to the `/sys/class/net/eth5/fdb` table on HV.

```
Before:

cat /sys/class/net/eth5/fdb
33:33:00:00:02:02
33:33:ff:2e:66:52
01:00:5e:00:00:01
33:33:00:00:00:01

Do:
echo "+52:54:00:E7:77:99" > /sys/class/net/eth5/fdb

After:
cat /sys/class/net/eth5/fdb
52:54:00:e7:77:99
33:33:00:00:02:02
33:33:ff:2e:66:52
01:00:5e:00:00:01
33:33:00:00:00:01…
```

3.4.1.4 Assigning a Virtual Function to a Virtual Machine

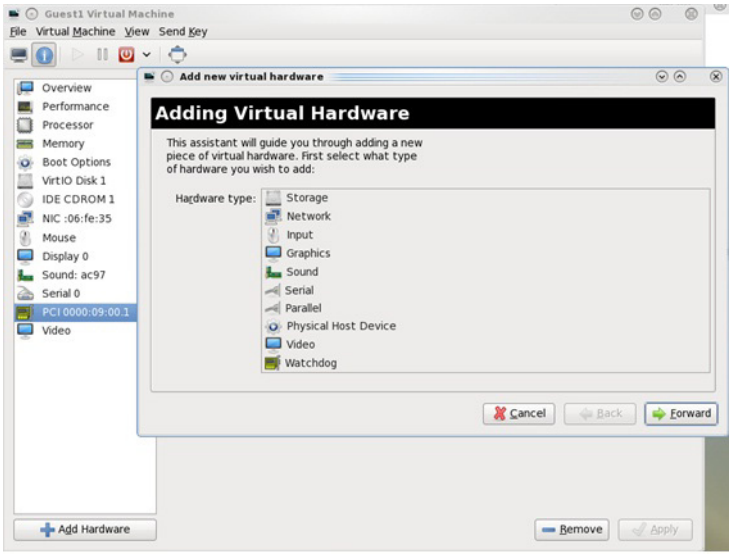
This section will describe a mechanism for adding a SR-IOV VF to a Virtual Machine.

3.4.1.4.1 Assigning the SR-IOV Virtual Function to the Red Hat KVM VM Server

Step 1. Run the virt-manager.

Step 2. Double click on the virtual machine and open its Properties.

Step 3. Go to Details->Add hardware ->PCI host device.



Step 4. Choose a Mellanox virtual function according to its PCI device (e.g., 00:03.1)

Step 5. If the Virtual Machine is up reboot it, otherwise start it.

Step 6. Log into the virtual machine and verify that it recognizes the Mellanox card. Run:

```
lspci | grep Mellanox

00:03.0 InfiniBand: Mellanox Technologies MT27500 Family [ConnectX-3 Virtual Function] (rev b0)
```

Step 7. Add the device to the `/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-ethX` configuration file. The MAC address for every virtual function is configured randomly, therefore it is not necessary to add it.

3.4.1.5 Uninstalling SR-IOV Driver

➢ ***To uninstall SR-IOV driver, perform the following:***

Step 1. For Hypervisors, detach all the Virtual Functions (VF) from all the Virtual Machines (VM) or stop the Virtual Machines that use the Virtual Functions.

Please be aware, stopping the driver when there are VMs that use the VFs, will cause machine to hang.

Step 2. Run the script below. Please be aware, uninstalling the driver deletes the entire driver's file, but does not unload the driver.

```
# /sbin/mlnx_en_uninstall.sh
MLNX_EN uninstall done
```

Step 3. Restart the server.

3.4.1.6 Ethernet Virtual Function Configuration when Running SR-IOV

3.4.1.6.1 VLAN Guest Tagging (VGT) and VLAN Switch Tagging (VST)

When running ETH ports on VFs, the ports may be configured to simply pass through packets as is from VFs (Vlan Guest Tagging), or the administrator may configure the Hypervisor to silently force packets to be associated with a VLan/Qos (Vlan Switch Tagging).

In the latter case, untagged or priority-tagged outgoing packets from the guest will have the VLAN tag inserted, and incoming packets will have the VLAN tag removed. Any vlan-tagged packets sent by the VF are silently dropped. The default behavior is VGT.

The feature may be controlled on the Hypervisor from userspace via iprout2 / netlink:

```
ip link set { dev DEVICE | group DEVGROUP } [ { up | down } ]
   ...
   [ vf NUM [ mac LLADDR ]
      [ vlan VLANID [ qos VLAN-QOS ] ]
         ...
   [ spoofchk { on | off} ] ]
         ...
```

use:

```
ip link set dev <PF device> vf <NUM> vlan <vlan_id> [qos <qos>]
```

- where `NUM = 0..max-vf-num`
- vlan_id = `0..4095` (4095 means `"set VGT"`)
- qos = `0..7`

For example:

- `ip link set dev eth2 vf 2 qos 3` - sets VST mode for VF #2 belonging to PF eth2, with qos = 3
- `ip link set dev eth2 vf 4095` - sets mode for VF 2 back to VGT

3.4.1.6.2 Additional Ethernet VF Configuration Options

- Guest MAC configuration

  By default, guest MAC addresses are configured to be all zeroes. In the MLNX_EN guest driver, if a guest sees a zero MAC, it generates a random MAC address for itself. If the administrator wishes the guest to always start up with the same MAC, he/she should configure guest MACs before the guest driver comes up.

  The guest MAC may be configured by using:

  ```
  ip link set dev <PF device> vf <NUM> mac <LLADDR>
  ```

  For legacy guests, which do not generate random MACs, the adminstrator should always configure their MAC addresses via ip link, as above.

- Spoof checking

  Spoof checking is currently available only on upstream kernels newer than 3.1.

  ```
  ip link set dev <PF device> vf <NUM> spoofchk [on | off]
  ```

3.4.1.6.3 Mapping VFs to Ports using the mlnx_get_vfs.pl Tool

➢ ***To map the PCI representation in BDF to the respective ports:***

```
mlnx_get_vfs.pl
```

The output is as following:

```
BDF 0000:04:00.0
        Port 1: 2
                vf0     0000:04:00.1
                vf1     0000:04:00.2
        Port 2: 2
                vf2     0000:04:00.3
                vf3     0000:04:00.4
        Both: 1
                vf4   0000:04:00.5
```

3.4.1.7 Virtual Guest Tagging (VGT+)

VGT+ is an advanced mode of Virtual Guest Tagging (VGT), in which a VF is allowed to tag its own packets as in VGT, but is still subject to an administrative VLAN trunk policy. The policy determines which VLAN IDs are allowed to be transmitted or received. The policy does not determine the user priority, which is left unchanged.

Packets can be send in one of the following modes: when the VF is allowed to send/receive untagged and priority tagged traffic and when it is not. No default VLAN is defined for VGT+ port. The send packets are passed to the eSwitch only if they match the set, and the received packets are forwarded to the VF only if they match the set.

The following are current VGT+ limitations:

- The size of the VLAN set is defined to be up to 10 VLANs including the VLAN 0 that is added for untagged/priority tagged traffic
- This behavior applies to all VF traffic: plain Ethernet, and all RoCE transports
- VGT+ allowed VLAN sets may be only extended when the VF is online
- An operational VLAN set becomes identical as the administration VLAN set only after a VF reset

- VGT+ is available in DMFS mode only

3.4.1.7.1 Configuring VGT+

The default operating mode is VGT:

```
cat /sys/class/net/eth5/vf0/vlan_set
oper:
admin:
```

Both states (operational and administrative) are empty.

If you set the `vlan_set` parameter with more the 10 VLAN IDs, the driver chooses the first 10 VLAN IDs provided and ignores all the rest.

➢ ***To enable VGT+ mode:***

Step 1. Set the corresponding port/VF (in the example below port eth5 VF0) list of allowed VLANs.

```
echo 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 > /sys/class/net/eth5/vf0/vlan_set
```

Where `0` specifies if untagged/priority tagged traffic is allowed.

Meaning if the below command is ran, you will not be able to send/receive untagged traffic.

```
echo 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 > /sys/class/net/eth5/vf0/vlan_set
```

Step 2. Reboot the relevant VM for changes to take effect.

(or run: `/etc/init.d/openibd restart`)

➢ ***To disable VGT+ mode:***

Step 1. Set the VLAN.

```
echo > /sys/class/net/eth5/vf0/vlan_set
```

Step 2. Reboot the relevant VM for changes to take effect.

(or run: `/etc/init.d/openibd restart`)

➢ ***To add a VLAN:***

In the example below, the following state exist:

```
# cat /sys/class/net/eth5/vf0/vlan_set
oper: 0 1 2 3
admin: 0 1 2 3
```

Step 1. Make an operational VLAN set identical to the administration VLAN.

```
echo 2 3 4 5 6 > /sys/class/net/eth5/vf0/vlan_set
```

The delta will be added to the operational state immediately (4 5 6):

```
# cat /sys/class/net/eth5/vf0/vlan_set
oper: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
admin: 2 3 4 5 6
```

Step 2. Reset the VF for changes to take effect.

3.4.2 Ethernet VXLAN

3.4.2.1 Prerequisites

- HCA: ConnectX-3 Pro
- Firmware 2.31.5020 or higher
- RHEL7, Ubuntu 14.04 or upstream kernel 3.12.10 (or higher)
- DMFS enabled

3.4.2.2 Enabling VXLAN

To enable the vxlan offloads support load the `mlx4_core` driver with Device-Managed Flow-steering (DMFS) enabled. Best would be to create an `/etc/modprobe.d/mlx4.conf` file with the following contents:

```
# enable DMFS --> enable VXLAN offloads on CX3-pro
options mlx4_core log_num_mgm_entry_size=-1
```

To verify VXLAN is enabled, verify the Ethernet net-device created by the mlx4_en driver advertises the `NETIF_F_GSO_UDP_TUNNEL` feature, which can be seen by the `"ethhool -K $DEV | grep udp"`

For example:

```
$ ethtool -k eth0 | grep udp_tnl
tx-udp_tnl-segmentation: on
```

Make sure that the VXLAN tunnel is set over UDP port 4789, which is the ConnectX firmware default. If using standard Linux bridge (and not open vswitch) set the following `/etc/modprobe.d/vxlan.conf`:

```
options vxlan udp_port=4789
```

3.4.2.3 Important Notes

- VXLAN tunneling adds 50 bytes (14-eth + 20-ip + 8-udp + 8-vxlan) to the VM Ethernet frame. Please verify that either the MTU of the NIC who sends the packets, e.g. the VM virtio-net NIC or the host side veth device or the uplink takes into account the tunneling overhead. Meaning, the MTU of the sending NIC has to be decremented by 50 bytes (e.g 1450 instead of 1500), or the uplink NIC MTU has to be incremented by 50 bytes (e.g 1550 instead of 1500)
- From upstream 3.15-rc1 and onward, it is possible to use arbitrary UDP port for VXLAN. Note that this requires firmware version 2.31.2800 or higher. Additionally, you need to enable this kernel configuration option `CONFIG_MLX4_EN_VXLAN=y`.
- On upstream kernels 3.12/3.13 GRO with VXLAN is not supported

3.5 Resiliency

3.5.1 Reset Flow

Reset Flow is activated by default, once a "fatal device[1]" error is recognized. Both the HCA and the software are reset, the ULPs and user application are notified about it, and a recovery process is performed once the event is raised. The "Reset Flow" is activated by the mlx4_core module parameter `'internal_err_reset'`, and its default value is 1.

3.5.1.1 Kernel ULPs

Once a "fatal device" error is recognized, an `IB_EVENT_DEVICE_FATAL` event is created, ULPs are notified about the incident, and outstanding WQEs are simulated to be returned with `"flush in error"` message to enable each ULP to close its resources and not get stuck via calling its `"remove_one"` callback as part of "Reset Flow".

Once the unload part is terminated, each ULP is called with its `"add_one"` callback, its resources are re-initialized and it is re-activated.

3.5.1.2 SR-IOV

If the Physical Function recognizes the error, it notifies all the VFs about it by marking their communication channel with that information, consequently, all the VFs and the PF are reset.

If the VF encounters an error, only that VF is reset, whereas the PF and other VFs continue to work unaffected.

3.5.1.3 Forcing the VF to Reset

If an outside "reset" is forced by using the PCI sysfs entry for a VF, a reset is executed on that VF once it runs any command over its communication channel.

For example, the below command can be used on a hypervisor to reset a VF defined by 0000\:04\:00.1:

```
echo 1 >/sys/bus/pci/devices/0000\:04\:00.1/reset
```

3.5.1.4 Advanced Error Reporting (AER)

AER, a mechanism used by the driver to get notifications upon PCI errors, is supported only in native mode, ULPs are called with `remove_one/add_one` and expect to continue working properly after that flow.User space application will work in same mode as defined in the "Reset Flow" above.

3.6 Ethtool

ethtool is a standard Linux utility for controlling network drivers and hardware, particularly for wired Ethernet devices. It can be used to:

- Get identification and diagnostic information
- Get extended device statistics

1. A “fatal device” error can be a timeout from a firmware command, an error on a firmware closing command, communication channel not being responsive in a VF. etc.

- Control speed, duplex, autonegotiation and flow control for Ethernet devices
- Control checksum offload and other hardware offload features
- Control DMA ring sizes and interrupt moderation

The following are the ethtool supported options:

Table 7 - ethtool Supported Options

Options	Description

ethtool -i eth<x>	Checks driver and device information.
	For example:
	`#> ethtool -i eth2`
	`driver: mlx4_en (MT_0DD0120009_CX3)`
	`version: 2.1.6 (Aug 2013)`
	`firmware-version: 2.30.3000`
	`bus-info: 0000:1a:00.0`

ethtool -k eth<x>	Queries the stateless offload status.
ethtool -K eth<x> [rx on|off] [tx on|off] [sg on|off] [tso on|off] [lro on|off] [gro on|off] [gso on|off] [rxvlan on|off]	Sets the stateless offload status. TCP Segmentation Offload (TSO), Generic Segmentation Offload (GSO): increase outbound throughput by reducing CPU overhead. It works by queuing up large buffers and letting the network interface card split them into separate packets. Large Receive Offload (LRO): increases inbound throughput of high-bandwidth network connections by reducing CPU overhead. It works by aggregating multiple incoming packets from a single stream into a larger buffer before they are passed higher up the networking stack, thus reducing the number of packets that have to be processed. LRO is available in kernel versions < 3.1 for untagged traffic. **Note:** LRO will be done whenever possible. Otherwise GRO will be done. Generic Receive Offload (GRO) is available throughout all kernels. Hardware Vlan Striping Offload (rxvlan): When enabled received VlAN traffic will be stripped from the VLAN tag by the hardware.
ethtool -c eth<x>	Queries interrupt coalescing settings.
ethtool -C eth<x> adaptive-rx on|off	Enables/disables adaptive interrupt moderation. By default, the driver uses adaptive interrupt moderation for the receive path, which adjusts the moderation time to the traffic pattern.

Table 7 - ethtool Supported Options

Options	Description
ethtool -C eth<x> [pkt-rate-low N] [pkt-rate-high N] [rx-usecs-low N] [rx-usecs-high N]	Sets the values for packet rate limits and for moderation time high and low values. • Above an upper limit of packet rate, adaptive moderation will set the moderation time to its highest value. • Below a lower limit of packet rate, the moderation time will be set to its lowest value.
ethtool -C eth<x> [rx-usecs N] [rx-frames N]	Sets the interrupt coalescing settings when the adaptive moderation is disabled. **Note:** usec settings correspond to the time to wait after the *last* packet is sent/received before triggering an interrupt.
ethtool -a eth<x>	Queries the pause frame settings.
ethtool -A eth<x> [rx on|off] [tx on|off]	Sets the pause frame settings.
ethtool -g eth<x>	Queries the ring size values.
ethtool -G eth<x> [rx <N>] [tx <N>]	Modifies the rings size.
ethtool -S eth<x>	Obtains additional device statistics.
ethtool -t eth<x>	Performs a self diagnostics test.
ethtool -s eth<x> msglvl [N]	Changes the current driver message level.
ethtool -T eth<x>	Shows time stamping capabilities
ethtool -l eth<x>	Shows the number of channels
ethtool -L eth<x> [rx <N>] [tx <N>]	Sets the number of channels
etthtool -m|--dump-module-eeprom eth<x> [raw on|off] [hex on|off] [offset N] [length N]	Queries/Decodes the cable module eeprom information.
ethtool --show-priv-flags eth<x>	Shows driver private flags and their states (on/off) Private flags are: • pm_qos_request_low_latency • mlx4_rss_xor_hash_function • qcn_disable_32_14_4_e
ethtool --set-priv-flags eth<x> <priv flag> <on/off>	Enables/disables driver feature matching the given private flag.

3.7 Checksum Offload

MLNX_EN supports the following Receive IP/L4 Checksum Offload modes:

- CHECKSUM_UNNECESSARY: By setting this mode the driver indicates to the Linux Networking Stack that the hardware successfully validated the IP and L4 checksum so the Linux Networking Stack does not need to deal with IP/L4 Checksum validation.

  Checksum Unnecessary is passed to the OS when all of the following are true:

  - Ethtool -k <DEV> shows rx-checksumming: on
  - Received TCP/UDP packet and both IP checksum and L4 protocol checksum are correct.
- CHECKSUM_COMPLETE: When the checksum validation cannot be done or fails, the driver still reports to the OS the calculated by hardware checksum value. This allows accelerating checksum validation in Linux Networking Stack, since it does not have to calculate the whole checksum including payload by itself.

  Checksum Complete is passed to OS when all of the following are true:

  - Ethtool -k <DEV> shows rx-checksumming: on
  - Using ConnectX®-3, firmware version 2.31.7000 and up
  - Received IpV4/IpV6 non TCP/UDP packet
- CHECKSUM_NONE: By setting this mode the driver indicates to the Linux Networking Stack that the hardware failed to validate the IP or L4 checksum so the Linux Networking Stack must calculate and validate the IP/L4 Checksum.

  Checksum None is passed to OS for all other cases.

3.8 Quantized Congestion Control

Congestion control is used to reduce packet drops in lossy environments and mitigate congestion spreading and resulting victim flows in lossless environments.

The Quantized Congestion Notification (QCN) IEEE standard (802.1Qau) provides congestion control for long-lived flows in limited bandwidth-delay product Ethernet networks. It is part of the IEEE Data Center Bridging (DCB) protocol suite, which also includes ETS, PFC, and DCBX. QCN in conducted at L2, and is targeted for hardware implementations. QCN applies to all Ethernet packets and all transports, and both the host and switch behavior is detailed in the standard.

QCN user interface allows the user to configure QCN activity. QCN configuration and retrieval of information is done by the `mlnx_qcn` tool. The command interface provides the user with a set of changeable attributes, and with information regarding QCN's counters and statistics. All parameters and statistics are defined per port and priority. QCN command interface is available if and only the hardware supports it.

3.8.1 QCN Tool - mlnx_qcn

mlnx_qcn is a tool used to configure QCN attributes of the local host. It communicates directly with the driver thus does not require setting up a DCBX daemon on the system.

The mlnx_qcn enables the user to:

- Inspect the current QCN configurations for a certain port sorted by priority
- Inspect the current QCN statistics and counters for a certain port sorted by priority
- Set values of chosen QCN parameters

Usage:

```
mlnx_qcn -i <interface> [options]
```

Options:

--version	Show program's version number and exit
-h, --help	Show this help message and exit
-i INTF, --interface=INTF	Interface name
-g TYPE, --get_type=TYPE	Type of information to get statistics/parameters
--rpg_enable=RPG_ENABLE_LIST	Set value of rpg_enable according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rppp_max_rps=RPPP_MAX_RPS_LIST	Set value of rppp_max_rps according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_time_reset=RPG_TIME_RESET_LIST	Set value of rpg_time_reset according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_byte_reset=RPG_BYTE_RESET_LIST	Set value of rpg_byte_reset according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_threshold=RPG_THRESHOLD_LIST	Set value of rpg_threshold according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_max_rate=RPG_MAX_RATE_LIST	Set value of rpg_max_rate according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_ai_rate=RPG_AI_RATE_LIST	Set value of rpg_ai_rate according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_hai_rate=RPG_HAI_RATE_LIST	Set value of rpg_hai_rate according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_gd=RPG_GD_LIST	Set value of rpg_gd according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_min_dec_fac=RPG_MIN_DEC_FAC_LIST	Set value of rpg_min_dec_fac according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--rpg_min_rate=RPG_MIN_RATE_LIST	Set value of rpg_min_rate according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.
--cndd_state_machine=CNDD_STATE_MACHINE_LIST	Set value of cndd_state_machine according to priority, use spaces between values and -1 for unknown values.

- ***To get QCN current configuration sorted by priority:***

```
mlnx_qcn -i eth2 -g parameters
```

➢ ***To show QCN's statistics sorted by priority:***

```
mlnx_qcn -i eth2 -g statistics
```

Example output when running mlnx_qcn -i eth2 -g parameters:

```
priority 0:
        rpg_enable: 0
        rppp_max_rps: 1000
        rpg_time_reset: 1464
        rpg_byte_reset: 150000
        rpg_threshold: 5
        rpg_max_rate: 40000
        rpg_ai_rate: 10
        rpg_hai_rate: 50
        rpg_gd: 8
        rpg_min_dec_fac: 2
        rpg_min_rate: 10
        cndd_state_machine: 0
priority 1:
        rpg_enable: 0
        rppp_max_rps: 1000
        rpg_time_reset: 1464
        rpg_byte_reset: 150000
        rpg_threshold: 5
        rpg_max_rate: 40000
        rpg_ai_rate: 10
        rpg_hai_rate: 50
        rpg_gd: 8
        rpg_min_dec_fac: 2
        rpg_min_rate: 10
        cndd_state_machine: 0
.........................
.........................
priority 7:
        rpg_enable: 0
        rppp_max_rps: 1000
        rpg_time_reset: 1464
        rpg_byte_reset: 150000
        rpg_threshold: 5
        rpg_max_rate: 40000
        rpg_ai_rate: 10
        rpg_hai_rate: 50
        rpg_gd: 8
        rpg_min_dec_fac: 2
        rpg_min_rate: 10
        cndd_state_machine: 0
```

3.8.2 Setting QCN Configuration

Setting the QCN parameters, requires updating its value for each priority. '-1' indicates no change in the current value.

Example for setting 'rp g_enable' in order to enable QCN for priorities 3, 5, 6:

```
mlnx_qcn -i eth2 --rpg_enable=-1 -1 -1 1 -1 1 1 -1
```

Example for setting 'rpg_hai_rate' for priorities 1, 6, 7:

```
mlnx_qcn -i eth2 --rpg_hai_rate=60 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 60 60
```

3.9 Explicit Congestion Notification (ECN)

ECN is an extension to the IP protocol. It allows reliable communication by notifying all ends of communication when a congestion occurs.

This is done without dropping packets. Please note that since this feature requires all nodes in the path (nodes, routers etc) between the communicating nodes to support ECN to ensure reliable communication. ECN is marked as 2 bits in the traffic control IP header.

This ENC implementation refers to both RoCE and Routable RoCE.

ECN command interface is use to configure ECN activity. The access to it is through the file system (mount of debugfs is required). The interface provides a set of changeable attributes, and information regarding ECN's counters and statistics.

Enabling the ECN command interface is done by setting the `en_ecn` module parameter of mlx4_ib to 1:

```
options mlx4_ib en_ecn=1
```

3.9.1 Enabling ECN

➢ ***To enable ECN on the hosts***

Step 1. Enable ECN in sysfs.

```
/proc/sys/net/ipv4/tcp_ecn = 1
```

Step 2. Enable ECN CLI.

```
options mlx4_ib en_ecn=1
```

Step 3. Restart the driver.

```
/etc/init.d/openibd restart
```

Step 4. Mount debugfs to access ECN attributes.

```
mount -t debugfs none /sys/kernel/debug/
```

Please note, mounting of debugfs is required.

The following is an example for ECN configuration through debugfs (echo 1 to enable attribute):

```
/sys/kernel/debug/mlx4_ib/<device>/ecn/<algo>/ports/1/params/prios/<prio>/<the
requested attribute>
```

ENC supports the following algorithms:

- `r_roce_ecn_rp`
- `r_roce_ecn_np`

Each algorithm has a set of relevant parameters and statistics, which are defined per device, per port, per priority.

`r_roce_ecn_np` has an extra set of general parameters which are defined per device.

ECN and QCN are not compatible. When using ECN, QCN (and all its related daemons/utilities that could enable it, i.e - lldpad) should be turned OFF.

3.9.2 Various ECN Paths

The following are the paths to ECM algorithm, general parameters and counters.

- The path to an algorithm attribute is (except for general parameters):

```
/sys/kernel/debug/mlx4_ib/{DEVICE}/ ecn/{algorithm}/ports/{port}/params/prios/{prio}/
{attribute}
```

- The path to a general parameter is:

```
/sys/kernel/debug/mlx4_ib/{DEVICE}/ ecn/r_roce_ecn_np/gen_params/{attribute}
```

- The path to a counter is:

```
/sys/kernel/debug/mlx4_ib/{DEVICE}/ ecn/{algorithm}/ports/{port}/statistics/prios/
{prio}/{counter}
```

3.10 Power Management

pm_qos API is used by mlx4_en, to enforce minimum DMA latency requirement on the system when ingress traffic is detected. Additionally, it decreases packet loss on systems configured with abundant power state profile when Flow Control is disabled.

The pm_qos API contains the following functions:

- pm_qos_add_request
- pm_qos_update_request
- pm_qos_remove_request

pm_qos feature is both global and static, once a request is issued, it is enforced on all CPUs and does not change in time.

MLNX_EN v2.2-1.0.1 and onwards provides an option to trigger a request when required and to remove it when no longer required. It is disabled by default and can be set/unset through the eth-tool priv-flags.

For further information on how to enable/disable this feature, please refer to Table 7, “ethtool Supported Options,” on page 45.

3.11 XOR RSS Hash Function

The device has the ability to use XOR as the RSS distribution function, instead of the default Toplitz function.

The XOR function can be better distributed among driver's receive queues in small number of streams, where it distributes each TCP/UDP stream to a different queue.

MLNX_EN v2.2-1.0.0 and onwards provides an option to change the working RSS hash function from Toplitz to XOR (and vice versa) through ethtool priv-flags.

For further information, please refer to Table 7, “ethtool Supported Options,” on page 45.

3.12 Ethernet Performance Counters

Counters are used to provide information about how well an operating system, an application, a service, or a driver is performing. The counter data helps determine system bottlenecks and fine-tune the system and application performance. The operating system, network, and devices provide counter data that an application can consume to provide users with a graphical view of how well the system is performing.

The counter index is a QP attribute given in the QP context. Multiple QPs may be associated with the same counter set, If multiple QPs share the same counter its value represents the cumulative total.

- ConnectX®-3 support 127 different counters which allocated:
  - 4 counters reserved for PF - 2 counters for each port
  - 2 counters reserved for VF - 1 counter for each port
  - All other counters if exist are allocated by demand
- RoCE counters are available only through sysfs located under:
  - # /sys/class/infiniband/mlx4_*/ports/*/counters/
  - # /sys/class/infiniband/mlx4_*/ports/*/counters_ext/
- Physical Function can also read Virtual Functions' port counters through sysfs located under:
  - # /sys/class/net/eth*/vf*_statistics/

To display the network device Ethernet statistics, you can run:

```
Ethtool -S <devname>
```

Table 8 - Port IN Counters

Counter	Description
rx_packets	Total packets successfully received.
rx_bytes	Total bytes in successfully received packets.
rx_multicast_packets	Total multicast packets successfully received.
rx_broadcast_packets	Total broadcast packets successfully received.
rx_errors	Number of receive packets that contained errors preventing them from being deliverable to a higher-layer protocol.
rx_dropped	Number of receive packets which were chosen to be discarded even though no errors had been detected to prevent their being deliverable to a higher-layer protocol.
rx_length_errors	Number of received frames that were dropped due to an error in frame length
rx_over_errors	Number of received frames that were dropped due to overflow
rx_crc_errors	Number of received frames with a bad CRC that are not runts, jabbers, or alignment errors
rx_jabbers	Number of received frames with a length greater than MTU octets and a bad CRC
rx_in_range_length_error	Number of received frames with a length/type field value in the (decimal) range [1500:46] (42 is also counted for VLANtagged frames)

Table 8 - Port IN Counters

Counter	Description
rx_out_range_length_error	Number of received frames with a length/type field value in the (decimal) range [1535:1501]
rx_lt_64_bytes_packets	Number of received 64-or-less-octet frames
rx_127_bytes_packets	Number of received 65-to-127-octet frames
rx_255_bytes_packets	Number of received 128-to-255-octet frames
rx_511_bytes_packets	Number of received 256-to-511-octet frames
rx_1023_bytes_packets	Number of received 512-to-1023-octet frames
rx_1518_bytes_packets	Number of received 1024-to-1518-octet frames
rx_1522_bytes_packets	Number of received 1519-to-1522-octet frames
rx_1548_bytes_packets	Number of received 1523-to-1548-octet frames
rx_gt_1548_bytes_packets	Number of received 1549-or-greater-octet frames

Table 9 - Port OUT Counters

Counter	Description
tx_packets	Total packets successfully transmitted.
tx_bytes	Total bytes in successfully transmitted packets.
tx_multicast_packets	Total multicast packets successfully transmitted.
tx_broadcast_packets	Total broadcast packets successfully transmitted.
tx_errors	Number of frames that failed to transmit
tx_dropped	Number of transmitted frames that were dropped
tx_lt_64_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 64-or-less-octet frames
tx_127_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 65-to-127-octet frames
tx_255_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 128-to-255-octet frames
tx_511_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 256-to-511-octet frames
tx_1023_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 512-to-1023-octet frames
tx_1518_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 1024-to-1518-octet frames
tx_1522_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 1519-to-1522-octet frames
tx_1548_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 1523-to-1548-octet frames

Table 9 - Port OUT Counters

Counter	Description
tx_gt_1548_bytes_packets	Number of transmitted 1549-or-greater-octet frames

Table 10 - Port VLAN Priority Tagging (where <i> is in the range 0…7)

Counter	Description
rx_prio_<i>_packets	Total packets successfully received with priority i.
rx_prio_<i>_bytes	Total bytes in successfully received packets with priority i.
rx_novlan_packets	Total packets successfully received with no VLAN priority.
rx_novlan_bytes	Total bytes in successfully received packets with no VLAN priority.
tx_prio_<i>_packets	Total packets successfully transmitted with priority i.
tx_prio_<i>_bytes	Total bytes in successfully transmitted packets with priority i.
tx_novlan_packets	Total packets successfully transmitted with no VLAN priority.
tx_novlan_bytes	Total bytes in successfully transmitted packets with no VLAN priority.

Table 11 - Port Pause (where <i> is in the range 0…7)

Counter	Description
rx_pause_prio_<i>	The total number of PAUSE frames received from the far-end port
rx_pause_duration_prio_<i>	The total time in microseconds that far-end port was requested to pause transmission of packets.
rx_pause_transition_prio_<i>	The number of receiver transitions from XON state (paused) to XOFF state (non-paused)
tx_pause_prio_<i>	The total number of PAUSE frames sent to the far-end port
tx_pause_duration_prio_<i>	The total time in microseconds that transmission of packets has been paused
tx_pause_transition_prio_<i>	The number of transmitter transitions from XON state (paused) to XOFF state (non-paused)

Table 12 - VPort Statistics (where <i>=<empty_string> is the PF, and ranges 1…NumOfVf per VF)

Counter	Description
vport<i>_rx_unicast_packets	Unicast packets received successfully
vport<i>_rx_unicast_bytes	Unicast packet bytes received successfully
vport<i>_rx_multicast_packets	Multicast packets received successfully
vport<i>_rx_multicast_bytes	Multicast packet bytes received successfully
vport<i>_rx_broadcast_packets	Broadcast packets received successfully
vport<i>_rx_broadcast_bytes	Broadcast packet bytes received successfully
vport<i>_rx_dropped	Received packets discarded due to out-of-buffer condition
vport<i>_rx_errors	Received packets discarded due to receive error condition
vport<i>_tx_unicast_packets	Unicast packets sent successfully
vport<i>_tx_unicast_bytes	Unicast packet bytes sent successfully
vport<i>_tx_multicast_packets	Multicast packets sent successfully
vport<i>_tx_multicast_bytes	Multicast packet bytes sent successfully
vport<i>_tx_broadcast_packets	Broadcast packets sent successfully
vport<i>_tx_broadcast_bytes	Broadcast packet bytes sent successfully
vport<i>_tx_errors	Packets dropped due to transmit errors

Table 13 - SW Statistics

Counter	Description
rx_lro_aggregated	Number of packets aggregated
rx_lro_flushed	Number of LRO flush to the stack
rx_lro_no_desc	Number of times LRO description was not found

Table 13 - SW Statistics

Counter	Description
rx_alloc_failed	Number of times failed preparing receive descriptor
rx_csum_good	Number of packets received with good checksum
rx_csum_none	Number of packets received with no checksum indication
tx_chksum_offload	Number of packets transmitted with checksum offload
tx_queue_stopped	Number of times transmit queue suspended
tx_wake_queue	Number of times transmit queue resumed
tx_timeout	Number of times transmitter timeout
tx_tso_packets	Number of packet that were aggregated

Table 14 - Per Ring (SW) Statistics (where <i> is the ring I – per configuration)

Counter	Description
rx<i>_packets	Total packets successfully received on ring i
rx<i>_bytes	Total bytes in successfully received packets on ring i.
tx<i>_packets	Total packets successfully transmitted on ring i.
tx<i>_bytes	Total bytes in successfully transmitted packets on ring i.

4 Troubleshooting

You may be able to easily resolve the issues described in this section. If a problem persists and you are unable to resolve it yourself please contact your Mellanox representative or Mellanox Support at support@mellanox.com.

4.1 General Related Issues

Table 15 - General Related Issues

Issue	Cause	Solution
The system panics when it is booted with a failed adapter installed.	Malfunction hardware component	1. Remove the failed adapter. 2. Reboot the system.
Mellanox adapter is not identified as a PCI device.	PCI slot or adapter PCI connector dysfunctionality	1. Run `lspci`. 2. Reseat the adapter in its PCI slot or insert the adapter to a different PCI slot. If the PCI slot confirmed to be functional, the adapter should be replaced.
Mellanox adapters are not installed in the system.	Misidentification of the Mellanox adapter installed	Run the command below and check Mellanox's MAC to identify the Mellanox adapter installed. `lspci | grep Mellanox' or 'lspci -d 15b3:` Mellanox MACs start with: 00:02:C9:xx:xx:xx, 00:25:8B:xx:xx:xx or F4:52:14:xx:xx:xx"

4.2 Ethernet Related Issues

Table 16 - Ethernet Related Issues

Issue	Cause	Solution
No link.	Misconfiguration of the switch port or using a cable not supporting link rate.	• Ensure the switch port is not down • Ensure the switch port rate is configured to the same rate as the adapter's port

Table 16 - Ethernet Related Issues

Issue	Cause	Solution
Degraded performance is measured when having a mixed rate environment (10GbE, 40GbE and 56GbE).	Sending traffic from a node with a higher rate to a node with lower rate.	Enable Flow Control on both switch's ports and nodes: • On the server side run: `ethtool -A <interface> rx on tx on` • On the switch side run the following command on the relevant interface: `send on force` and `receive on force`
No link with break-out cable.	Misuse of the break-out cable or misconfiguration of the switch's split ports	• Use supported ports on the switch with proper configuration. For further information, please refer to the MLNX_OS User Manual. • Make sure the QSFP break-out cable side is connected to the SwitchX.
Physical link fails to negotiate to maximum supported rate.	The adapter is running an outdated firmware.	Install the latest firmware on the adapter.
Physical link fails to come up while port physical state is **Polling**.	The cable is not connected to the port or the port on the other end of the cable is disabled.	• Ensure that the cable is connected on both ends or use a known working cable • Check the status of the connected port using the `ibportstate` command and enable it if necessary
Physical link fails to come up while port physical state is **Disabled**.	The port was manually disabled.	Restart the driver: `/etc/init.d/openibd restart`

4.3 Performance Related Issues

Table 17 - Performance Related Issues

Issue	Cause	Solution

The driver works but the transmit and/or receive data rates are not optimal.		These recommendations may assist with gaining immediate improvement:
		1. Confirm PCI link negotiated uses its maximum capability
		2. Stop the IRQ Balancer service.
		`/etc/init.d/irq_balancer stop`
		3. Start mlnx_affinity service.
		`mlnx_affinity start`
		For best performance practices, please refer to the *"Performance Tuning Guide for Mellanox Network Adapters"* (www.mellanox.com > Products > InfiniBand/VPI Drivers > Linux SW/ Drivers).

4.4 SR-IOV Related Issues

Table 18 - SR-IOV Related Issues

Issue	Cause	Solution
Failed to enable SR-IOV. The following message is reported in dmesg: `mlx4_core 0000:xx:xx.0: Failed to enable SR-IOV, continuing without SR-IOV (err = -22)`	The number of VFs configured in the driver is higher than configured in the firmware.	1. Check the firmware SR-IOV configuration, run the mlxconfig tool. 2. Set the same number of VFs for the driver.
Failed to enable SR-IOV. The following message is reported in dmesg: `mlx4_core 0000:xx:xx.0: Failed to enable SR-IOV, continuing without SR-IOV (err = -12)`	SR-IOV is disabled in the BIOS.	Check that the SR-IOV is enabled in the BIOS (see Section 3.4.1.2, “Setting Up SR-IOV”, on page 32).

Table 18 - SR-IOV Related Issues

Issue	Cause	Solution
When assigning a VF to a VM the following message is reported on the screen: `"PCI-assgine: error: requires KVM support"`	SR-IOV and virtualization are not enabled in the BIOS.	1. Verify they are both enabled in the BIOS 2. Add to the GRUB configuration file to the following kernel parameter: `"intel_immun=on"` (see Section 3.4.1.2, “Setting Up SR-IOV”, on page 32).