DCB Configuration Needs From The Server Perspective

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Need for Different Admins for the DCB Configuration Task

• Server and storage admin have optimal knowledge on:
  – Application platform requirements
  – Application network and storage fabric needs

• Hypervisor offerings vary in their virtual switch functional feature and management needs

• Network admin has optimal knowledge of core network needs
  – But not necessarily the application and its particular needs

• Customers segregate IT functional responsibilities
  – Network admin focused on core networking
  – Server / storage admin focused on application and fabric edges
Preferred Communication Channel Model

• Bi-directional communication for configuration and management is essential to satisfy the needs between
  – Combination of server / storage admin and hypervisor admin, and
  – Network admin

• One-sided configuration does not align with the reality of today's deployment or customer admin needs
DCBX Goals and Potential Simplification

- “DCB Capability Exchange Protocol” as currently defined
  - Provides a common framework for different DCB features
  - Provides the ability to exchange DCB parameters between two endpoints on a link

- Some concerns were raised on feature enablement issues

- Feature state machine is considered too complex

- In the rush to “simplify” DCBX
  - Need to keep in mind the different needs between server/storage admin and network admin
  - Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water