# Non-Industrial Use of P802.3cg

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Jon Lewis: Dell EMC

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## **Current Server Architecture**

- Device to device communication in a server uses a variety of bus technologies typically connected using multiple topologies.
  - SMBus/MDIO (or I2C)
  - SPI
  - UART
- These legacy busses while having performed well for many years are a design challenge for baseboard management controllers (BMCs) especially from a SW perspective.
  - Many of the devices while claiming "compliance" require special drivers to operate properly

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#### Block Diagram – Current Architecture



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#### PCH could be connected using an internal Ethernet port or through other host bus interface through the BMC(e.g. PCIe VDM) ChO DIMM1 DIMM0 DDR Likely some of these would be connected CPU1:N) DIMM1 DIMM0 PCH through bridging devices either in the switch or stand-alone devices 12C Control Panel CLK IC(s) Sensors IEEE 802.3cg Ethernet Controls Connections Debug Fans Switch (could be implemented in VRs and **IMONS** the chipset) PSU1 PSU 2 RGMII-2 TPM Mgmt Network Datacenter GEE MGMT RGMII-1 BMC MGMT Port Slot0 Could be Standard PCIe slot, OCP or other custom Mezzanine slot SlotN-1

### Proposed new architecture (Near Term)

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#### Future new architecture (Long Term)



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# Why 10 Mbps Single Twisted Pair Ethernet?

- Same number of pins as SMBus which would maintain current PCIe standard pin count while adding network functionality.
- Using Ethernet allows for discovery of devices using a common BMC driver.
  - Going from >10 custom drivers to a standard Ethernet driver reduces complexity on the BMC coding and will greatly reduce validation time now required for all custom implementations.
- As the compute node and networking "converge" there is a fine line between what is in a traditional server and what is in the networking "Ether"
  - External PCIe Expanders
  - Chassis servers
  - Modular server implementations. Ethernet provides a standard ubiquitous management communication path
- Easier for automated alerts than multi-master SMBus.
  - Using SMBus multiplexers makes multi-master difficult → impossible. Thus scanning the bus continuously is required.
  - Using Ethernet the endpoint could transmit the alert at any time without a master/slave relationship.

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# What is being requested?

- PHY capable of supporting at least 24" of PWB trace on standard FR4 material using standard routing guidelines.
- Potential for silicon vendors to provide bridging devices to expedite moving to this topology.
- Consider multi-drop to reduce the total number of required segments.
  - Some manageable devices do not need a substantial amount of data transfer. These devices would still benefit from moving away from the master/slave topology and allow automated alerts.
    - > DIMMs are one example where this could be used. Alternatively a bridge device could be designed that would act as a DIMM controller for management features (temp, ...)

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