Xgig 10GE FCoE Load Tester

Introduction Guide

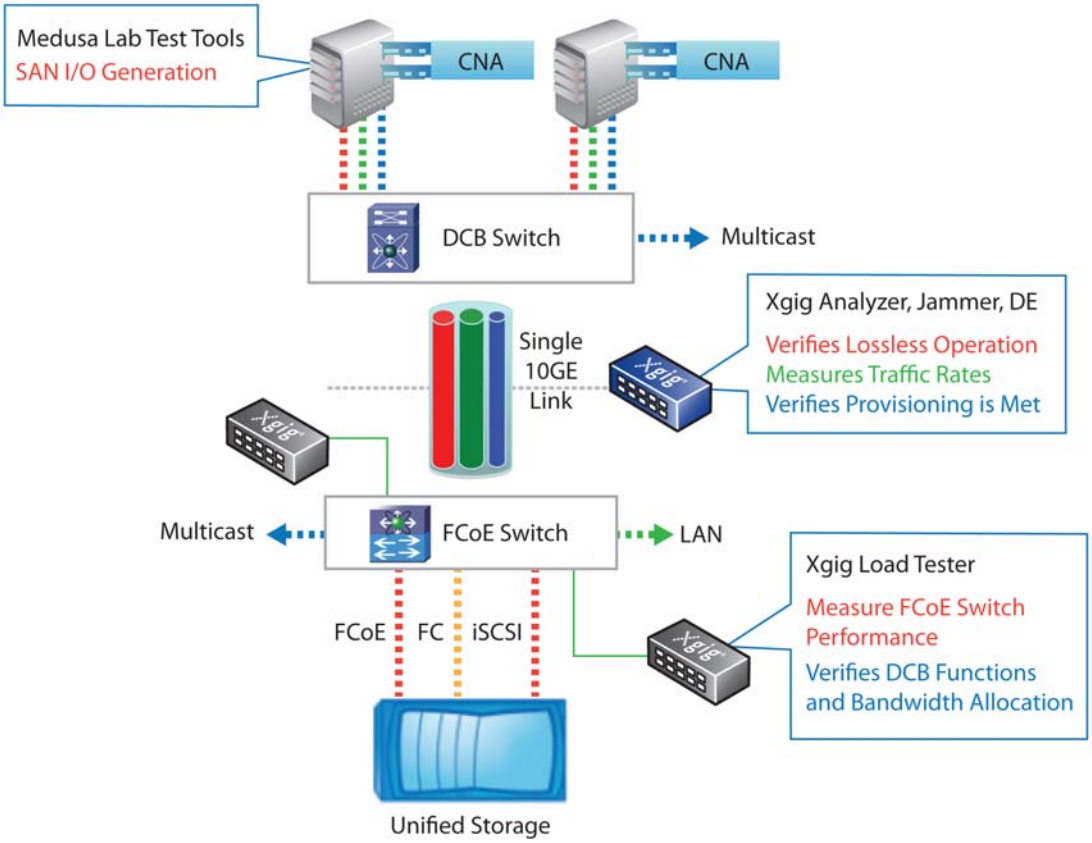
This document provides task-based instructions for using the 10GE FCoE Load Tester features. Topics covered in this document include the following:

Overview

Viavi has made available the industry's highest density FCoE traffic generation tool for comprehensively testing FCoE switches.

FCoE Load Tester generates layer-2 and layer-3 networking traffic with various traffic identities, FCoE traffic, and IP/TCP/UDP traffic. In addition, FCoE Load Tester ports can be combined with FC Load Tester ports to create FC to FCoE topology for mixed protocol performance tests. FCoE Load Tester is capable of FCF-based (supporting both FC-BB-5 and FC-BB-6 standards), as well as direct attached topology tests.

The tool is fully scriptable for automation. Single Frame Tx/Rx - the embedded tool, allows users to manually configure and transmit any custom frames through Load Tester. FCoE Load Tester forms the cornerstone for testing and verifying the design of FCoE equipment and Data Center Bridging (DCB) networks, giving developers complete flexibility and visibility into FCoE traffic.



When combining the newly added control frame capture feature, Xgig FCoE Load Tester will meet the test demands to verify system performance, data integrity, scalability, network robustness, and equipment interoperability.

Switch Testing Summary

Xgig FCoE Load Tester can perform the following tests on the 10Gigabit Ethernet and FCoE switch:

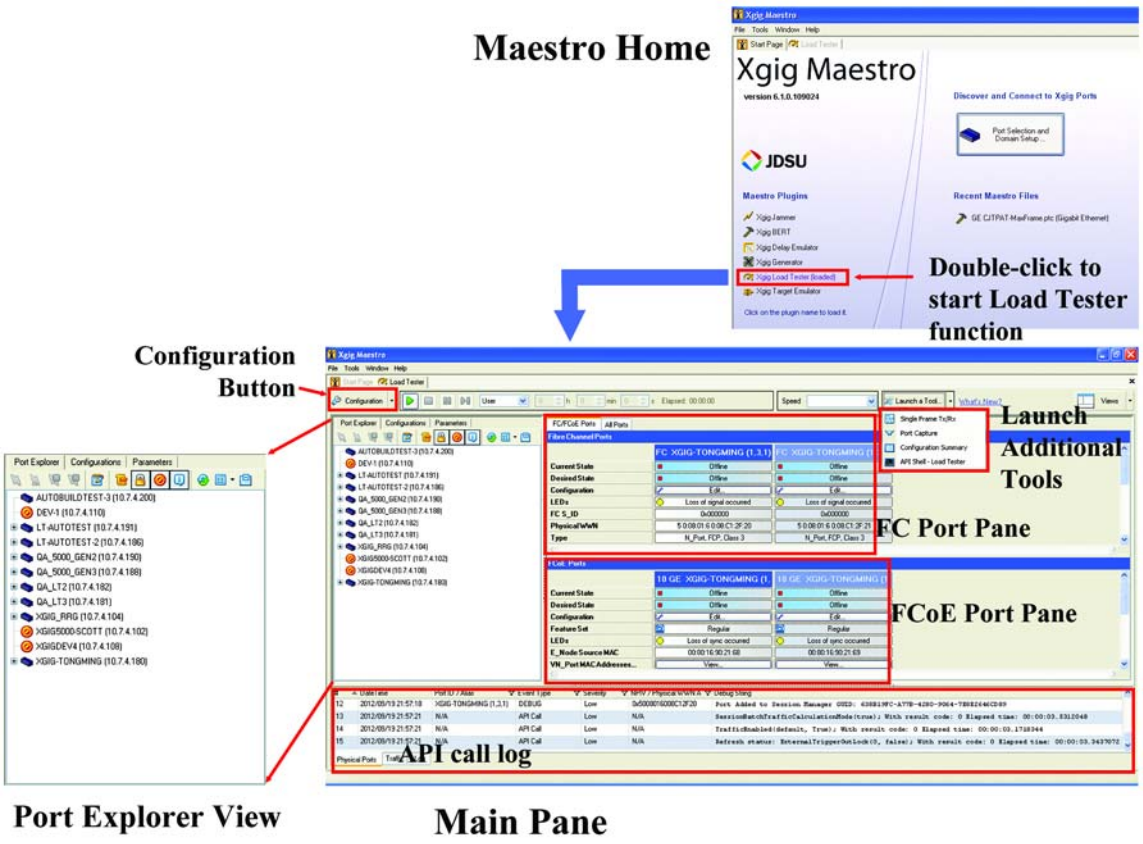
- Functional tests. FCoE Load Tester is used to verify the capability of the switch and directly attached device to successfully establish FCoE links and topologies. The tests include:
  - DCB
    - Priority Flow Control (PFC)
    - Enhanced Transmission Selection (ETS)
    - Data Center Bridging eXchange (DCBX)
  - FIP
    - VLAN discovery
    - FCoE link services
  - FCF/VN
    - Encapsulation and decapsulation functionality

In addition to FCoE traffic, the Load Tester now supports IP, TCP and UDP traffic. To generate this traffic, you are able of configure MACs, VLANs, IP addresses and TCP/UDP source and destination ports.

- Performance tests for FCoE and IP/TCP/UDP applications. Load Tester can create multi-profiles and multi-streams traffic to the switch/fabric and measure the throughput, latency, and errors under extremely stressful conditions:
  - Verify zero frame loss of FCoE traffic under fully meshed traffic topology and random traffic pattern
  - Measure Latency at the advertised maximum switch throughput
  - Measure the maximum forwarding rate, throughput and latency for IP/TCP/UDP traffic with typical and jumbo packets
  - Test upper and lower boundary conditions as well as random variation with minimum payload, maximum payload, random payload size and forced errors
- Debugging. With the release of powerful control frame capture feature, now FCoE Load Tester is capable of creating random traffic profiles as well as decoding the control frames to find and debug the switch’s corner case bugs.

Main Pane

Port selection and license management of Load Tester is now different from other functions under Maestro. The Discovery pane is eliminated and now the port lock/unlock function has been integrated into the Main Pane where it also displays the live status of the locked Load Tester ports.



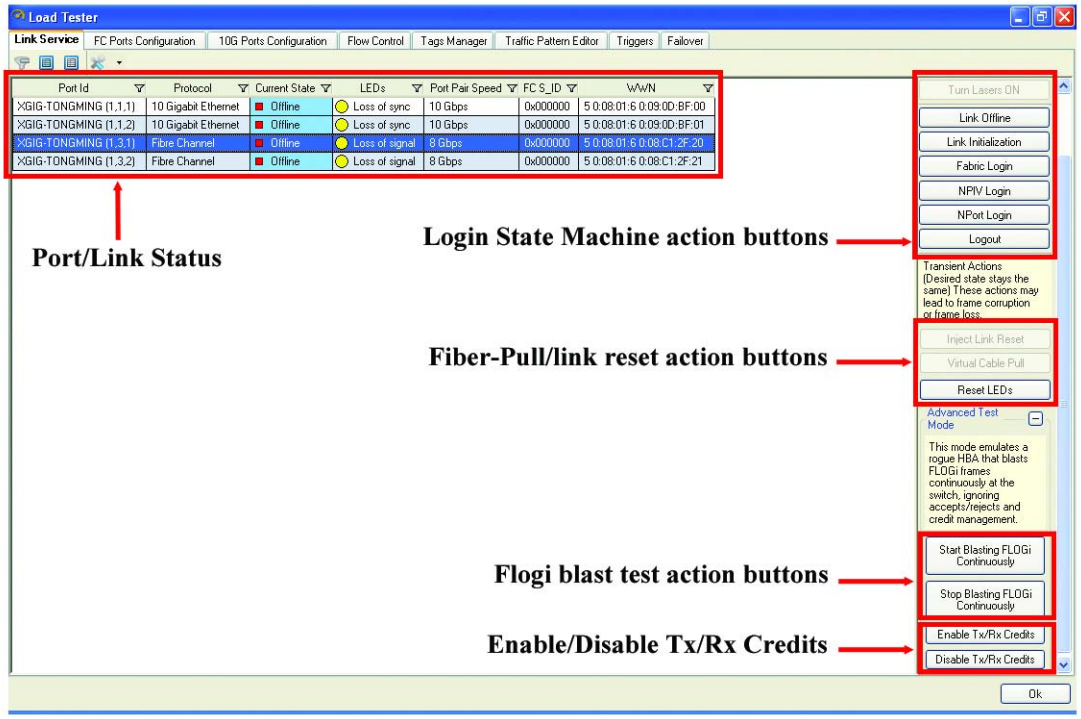
New Chassis/Port Explorer View

The main Load Tester test targets are the switches and fabric. This involves a large number of ports in one test and selecting and managing them could be a challenge for the test setup. With the new Chassis/Port Explorer View, you can access the ports similar to how you would use Windows® Explorer. The time-synced chassis represents the “file folder” and the ports represent the individual “files”. The icon next to each port shows the port status. You can also sort the ports through port status: locked, licensed, unlicensed, incompatible, etc.

The FCoE and FC ports are listed under a separate sub-pane. Both the FCoE and FC ports can be configured together if needed. From this main tab, a user can choose to setup the Load Tester configuration, to start or stop a test, to monitor the port status, and to view the API log. The API log displays an entry for each action taken by the GUI. There is also a timer to configure and count the test duration.

Link Service Setup and Testing

As for establishing FCoE link, Xgig Load Tester provides capabilities for explicit control over the Login State machine. The step-by-step manual control allows turning the laser on and off, Link Initialization, Fabric Login, NPIV Login, NPort Login and Logout. The Port/Link Status indicates the result of each link instantiation process.



"Link Service" tab can be accessed by clicking "configuration" button.

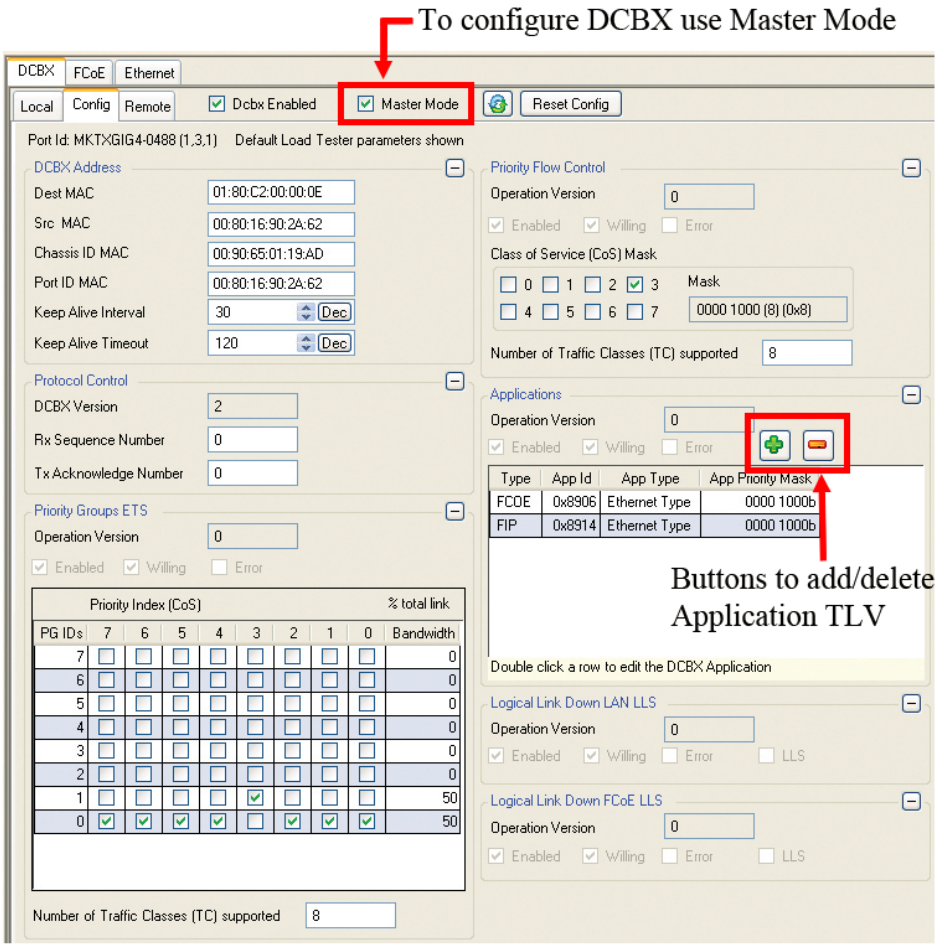
In this pane, the user can also conduct the following tests:

- Manually inject Link Resets
- Emulate a virtual Cable Pull event
- Emulate Flogi blast ignoring login status
- Enable/Disable Tx/Rx credits

DCBX Functional Test

FCoE Load Tester follows the DCBX standard to negotiate the DCB parameters with the connected peers. Flexible in the master or slave mode, Load Tester can conduct interoperability and compliance tests for the DCBX TLV protocol.

DCBX configuration can be accessed from the “10G Ports Configuration” tab. Xgig Load Tester distinguishes itself with the unique capability of simulating converged Ethernet traffic. A user can configure FCoE and Ethernet (LAN) port characteristics concurrently. Together with associated DCBX parameters, it defines how the virtual link, priority group and application are setup in the DCB network.



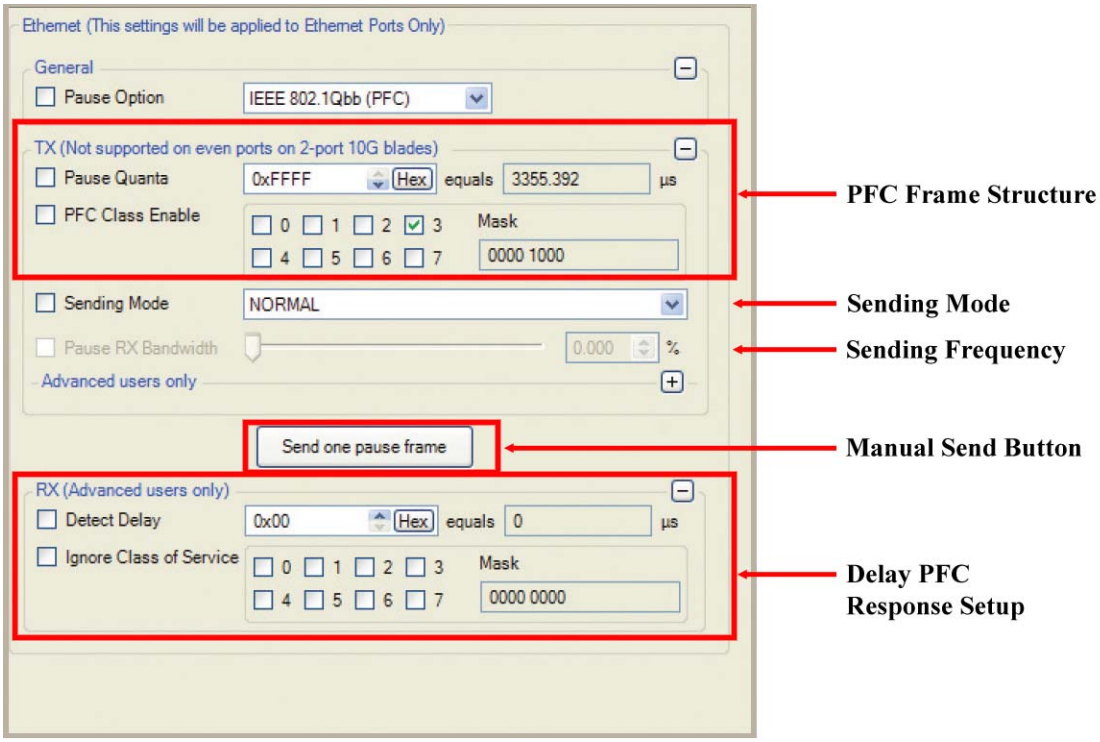
Load Tester is capable of emulating the following DCBX behaviors:

- Master mode – when using master mode, the ETS and PFC TLV are fully configurable. Users can add/edit/delete Application TLV. The default TLVs are FCoE and FIP.
- Slave mode – when using slave mode, Load Tester will display the DCBX TLV parameters from DUT master (remote) and result from slave (local).

DCBX exchanges can also be turned off and other DCBX parameters can be configured.

PFC Tests

Xgig Load Tester offers superior capabilities for PFC testing. In addition to normal traffic flow control mode, which FCoE Load Tester ports pause per PFC request, FCoE Load Tester is also capable of generating user-defined PFC frames.



The special PFC testing can be configured in the “Flow Control” tab. There are three user-forced generation modes:

- Send same PFC frame with specific pause time
- Iterate between Pause(x)=FFFF (TX_Off) to pause TX and Pause(x)=0 (TX_on) to resume TX
- Send multiple TX_Off to pause TX then multiple TX_On to resume TX

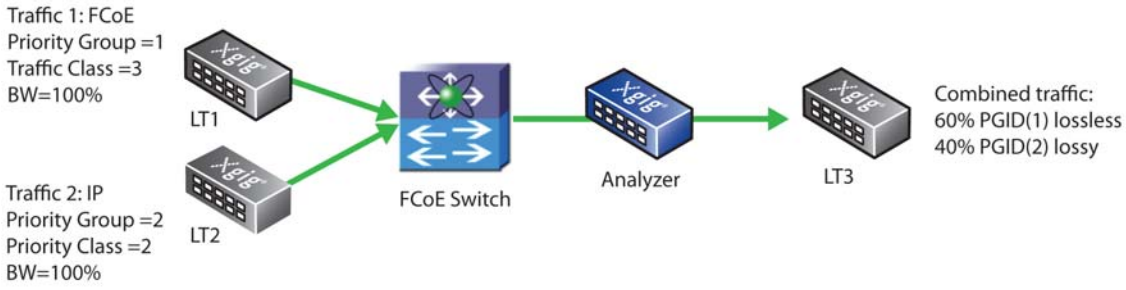
The PFC frame transmission frequency is defined by the paused RX Bandwidth of Load Tester. A user can also configure this by setting up individual time durations.

These special PFC generation modes are useful to verify the interoperability of DUT to different pause request behaviors. Together with Analyzer which will measure the DUT’s PFC response time, they test the robustness of PFC implementation.

In additional to force pausing TX of DUT, a user can also force to delay the response to PFC frames from DUT or ignore the PFC request on selected traffic class. This feature can be used to measure switch ingress buffer margin.

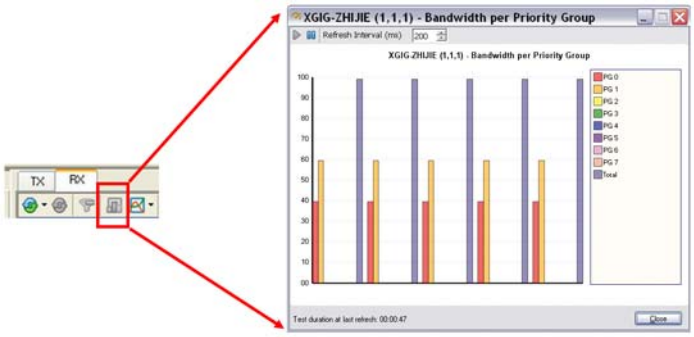
Enhanced Transmission Selection (ETS)

ETS is the arbitration mechanism on the EGRESS side of the switch. FCoE Load Tester verifies the ETS function and performance of the switch. The ETS negotiation result is shown in DCBX parameter window and there is a graphic display for RX throughput per each priority group. The statistics will help to verify that the switch is complying with the negotiated bandwidth for each traffic priority at congestion.



NOTE

The throughput chart can be initiated from the Traffic/RX pane.

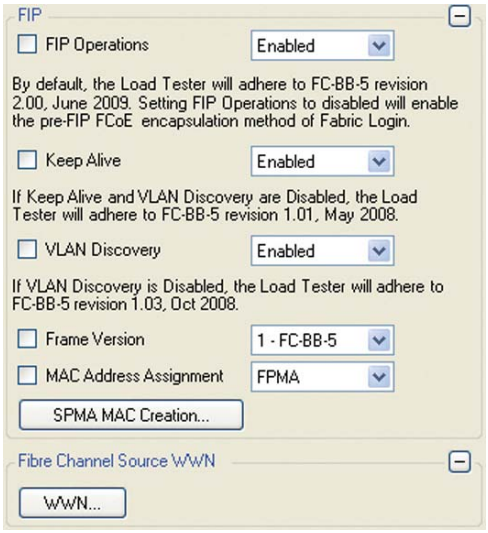


FIP Functional Tests

FIP is the link service protocol for FCoE. Xgig Load Tester supports the ratified FIP standard and various interim drafts to facilitate interoperability tests. Below is the reference table of configurations for FIP versions.

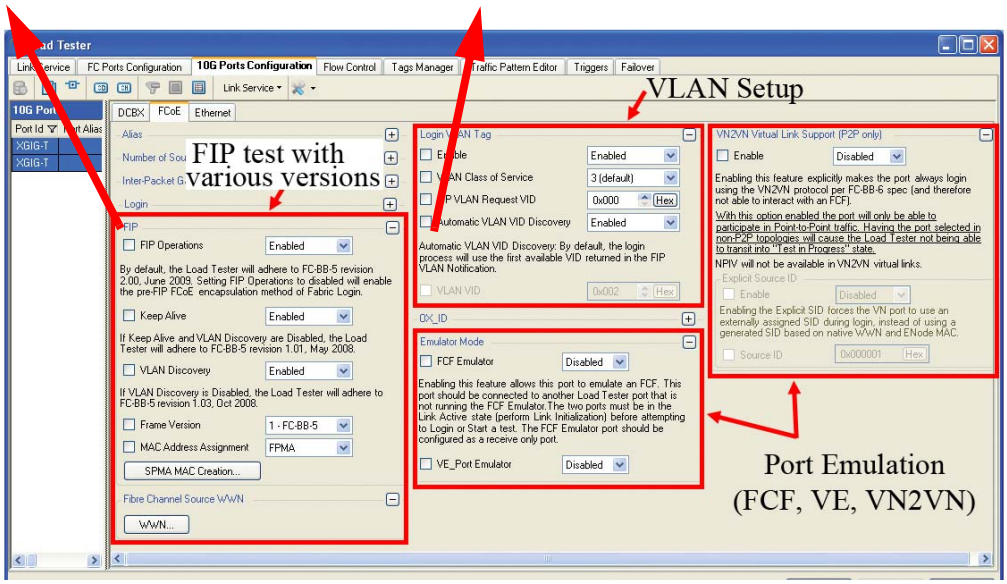
FIP Version	FIP Operation	Keep_Alive	VLAN Discovery	Frame Version	MAC Address Assignment
V2.0	enable	enable	enable	1	FPMA
V1.0.3	enable	enable	disable	1	FPMA
V1.0.1	enable	disable	disable	0	FPMA
Pre-FIP *	disable	disable	disable	0	FPMA or SPMA

*** Support legacy FCOE FLOGI - wrap FLOGI in FCoE frame**



FIP configuration can be accessed from "Configuration" > "10G Ports Configuration" tab > "FCoE" sub-tab. In the same pane, you can further customize the VLAN tag of FIP frames.

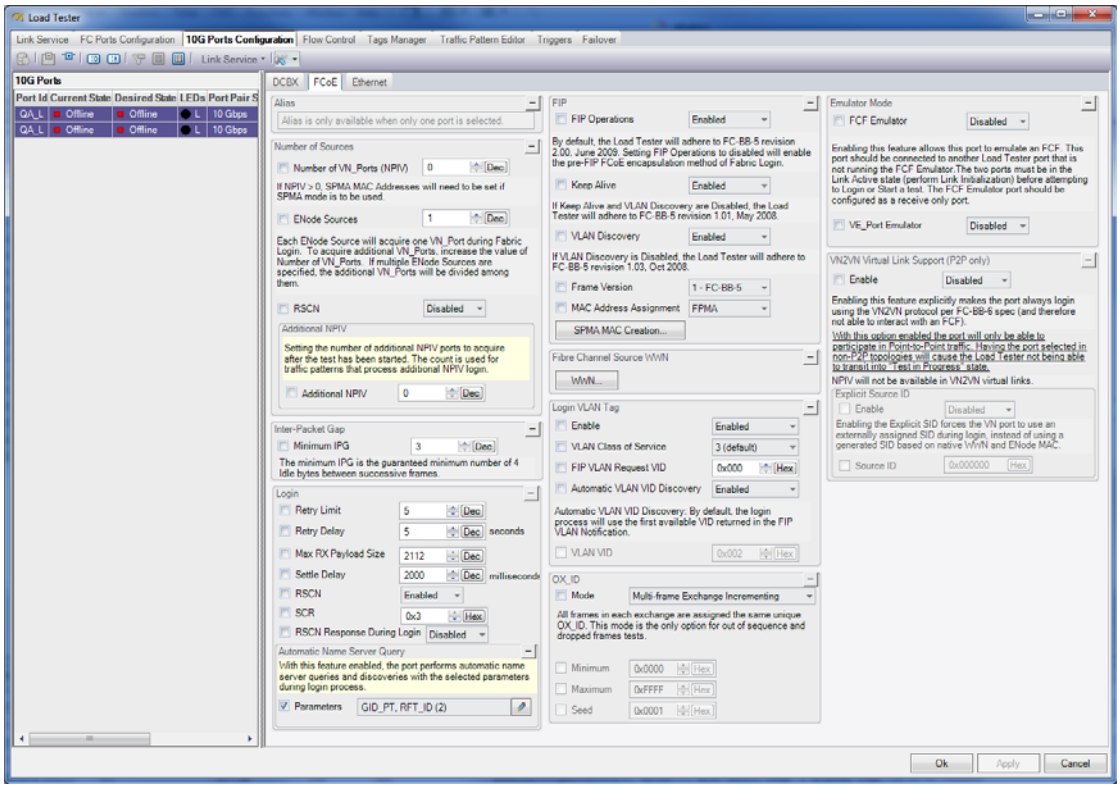
By default, the Load Tester port emulates VN port of FC-BB-5 model. In the same pane, a user can also configure the Load Tester port to emulate FCF port, VE_Port and VN_Port to VN_Port direct attached topology following FC-BB-6 specification. When connected to a FCF DUT, FCF emulator is disabled and the Load Tester verifies the FCF and VE port functionality with VN_Port and VE port emulation. When connected to an end node, FCF emulator or VN2VN virtual link service is enabled and the Load Tester can verify the DUT's FIP link services.



FCoE Port Configuration

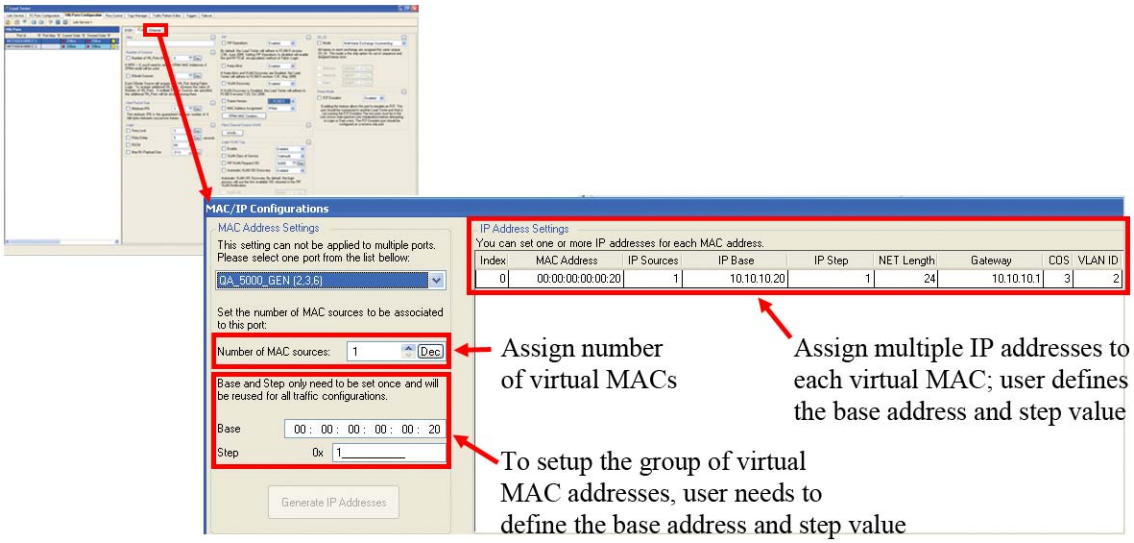
Similar to FC Load Tester, FCoE port configuration also allows the user to configure the following parameters:

- Virtual port (NPIV) setup (up to 255 NPIV ports per Load Tester port)
- Login retry and link reset options
- Custom name server query configuration (full command library for Flogi, NPort Login and zoning)
- WWN custom configuration (automatic assignment by default)
- OX_ID mode configuration:
  - Multi-frame Exchange Incrementing – multiple frames in each exchange. Each exchange and all frames within the exchange are assigned a unique OX_ID. The OX_ID value increments per exchange depending on the starting value (OX_ID Base), sequential step value (OX_ID Step), and number of frames per exchange (Exchange Length). These options can be set in the Profile Parameters window in the Traffic Pattern Editor tab.
  - Single-frame Exchange Incrementing – single frame in each exchange. OX_ID value increments sequentially in each transmitted frame within the pre-configured range set with (OX_ID Min, OX_ID Max).
  - Single-frame Exchange Random – single frame in each exchange. OX_ID value in each transmitted frame varies randomly within the pre-configured range set with (OX_ID Min, OX_ID Max, OX_ID Seed).



Ethernet MAC and IP Address Configuration

For setting up the port characteristics for IP/TCP or UDP virtual inks, use the “Ethernet” sub-tab under “10G Ports Configuration”. The user can configure custom virtual MAC and multiple IP addresses for each virtual MAC. They can also configure gateway and subnet length so that Load Tester can setup IP traffic properly when using ARP. The TCP or UDP source and destination port setup is however part of traffic pattern definition and configured in the “traffic profile configuration” tab instead.

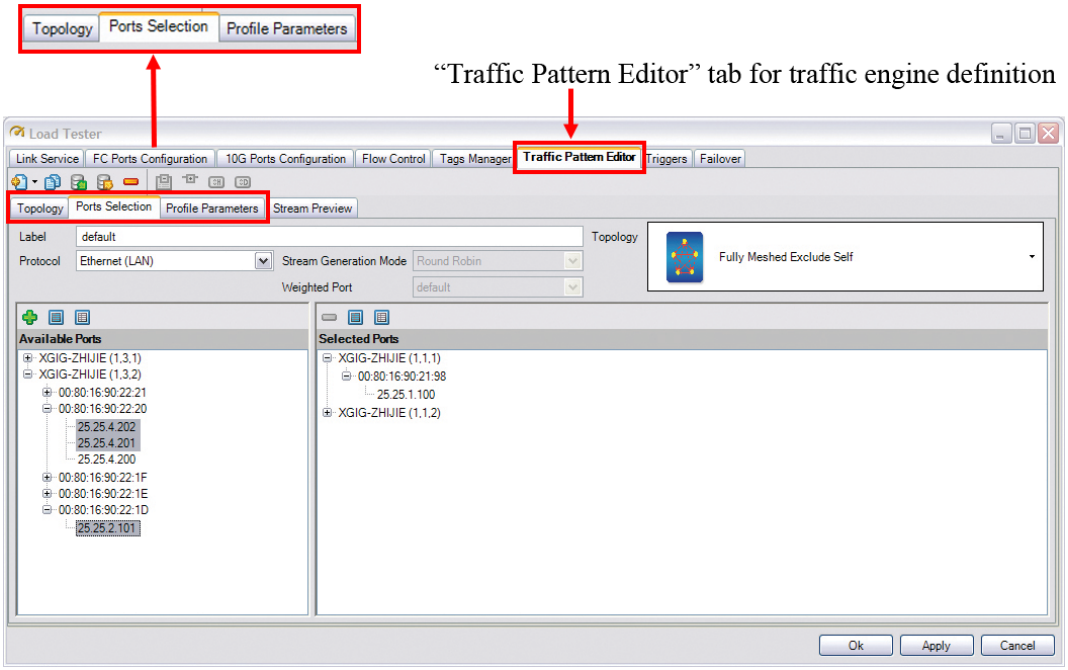


NOTE

FCoE virtual link is always present by default. For Ethernet/IP traffic only test, the user needs to disable FCoE login from this tab.

FCoE and DCB Switch Performance Test

One important use of Load Tester is to verify the performance of the FCoE/DCB switch and fabric by creating a test case that stresses the DUT at its full line rate. Xgig Load Tester is capable of generating up to 1024 data streams per physical port with various complex topologies. The stream generation is controlled by eight traffic profile engines for each port (6 for 2-port Xgig 10GE blade).



Defining Traffic Profile Engine

Each engine is responsible for generating one or more data streams depending on the topology setup. In a converged test environment, each engine can be used to define a specific traffic priority group or traffic class, i.e. the FCoE traffic or IP traffic.

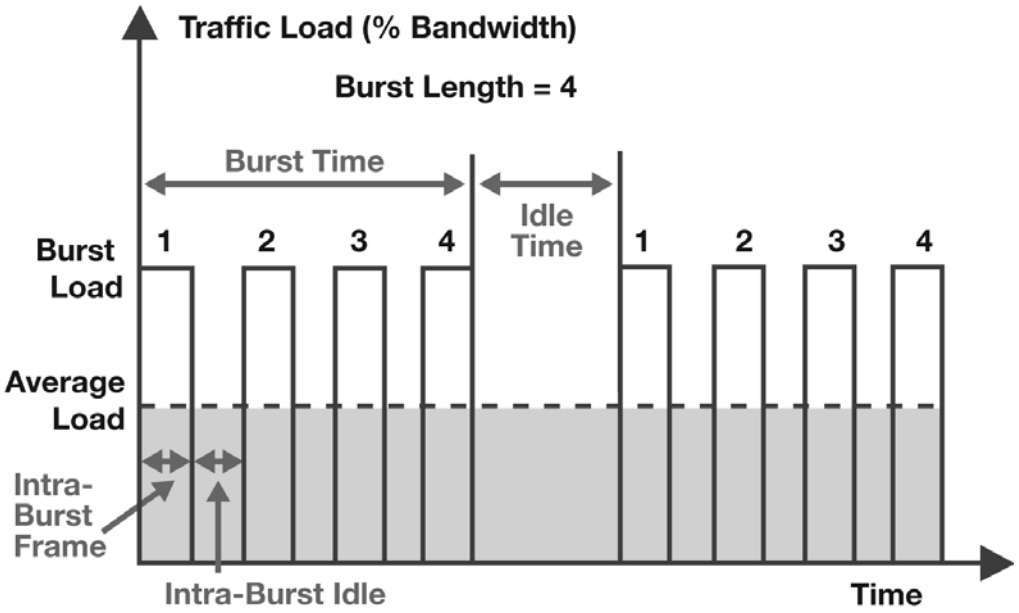
A traffic profile engine is defined using the "Traffic Pattern Editor" tab. There are three sub-tabs defining three steps of configuration and the following parameters are required to define an engine:

- Application type: FCoE or LAN Ethernet
- Load characteristics
- Topology setup
- Exchange/transaction setup
- Payload configuration and TCP/UDP plug-in
- Frame error generation

Use the "Stream Preview" tab to preview the data streams created by the traffic profile engine.

Burst Profile Definition

Load Tester can generate data traffic in a step load pattern. This diagram shows the burst traffic profile. The Burst Load profile is defined by Average Load, Burst Load and frame length.



The definition of each parameter is as follows:

Burst Load: Average of burst load time + zero load time/total time

Average Load: The overall average load over the time

Burst Length: The number of frames during the burst load transmission

The Burst Time, Idle Time, Intra-Burst Frame Time and Intra-Burst Idle Time are calculated values from the above parameters.

Defining Load Characteristics

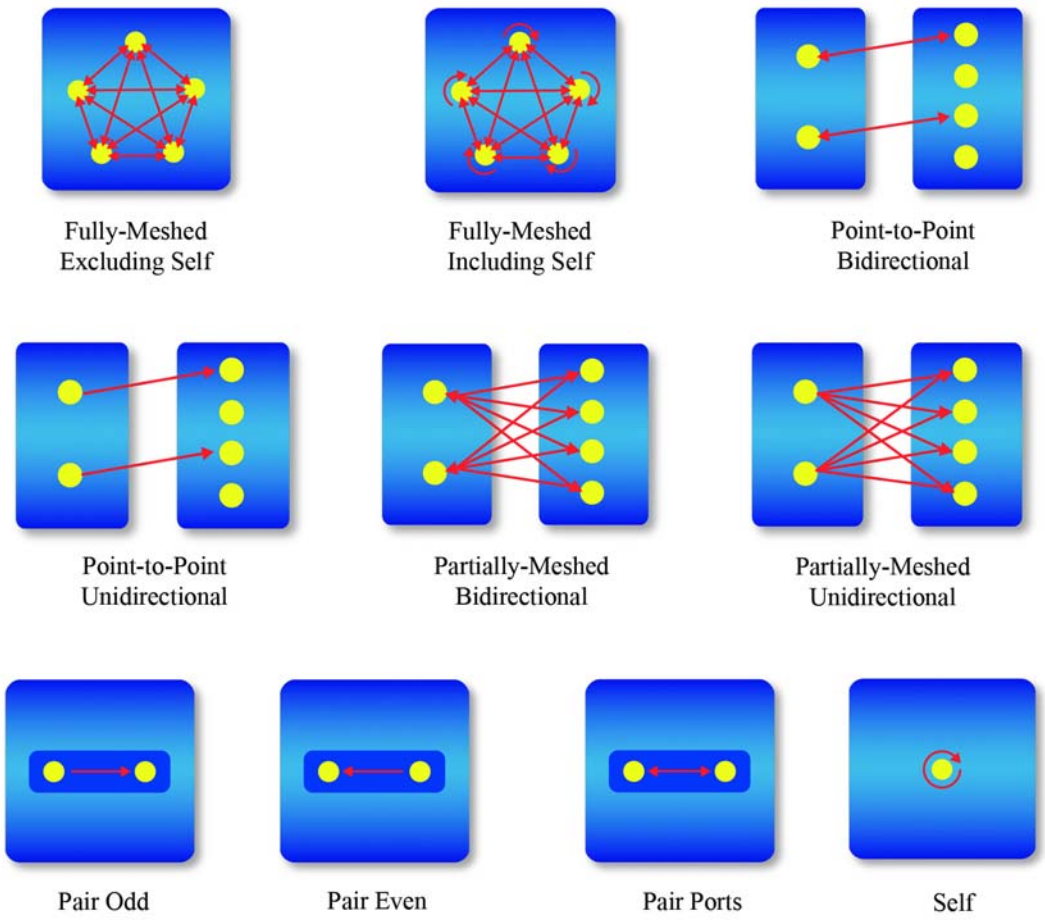
The load defined here indicates the desired throughput at transmission. There are two load modes available – continuous load and burst load, both of which are defined as % relative to the theoretical throughput maximum of the physical link (e.g. for 10GE the maximum load is 1000MB/s).

Note that the bandwidth sharing among multiple virtual links in one physical pipeline is determined by the "stream generation mode". Xgig Load Tester supports two options which can be selected from "Port Selection" sub-tab:

- Round Robin – Bandwidth are equitably shared with all streams
- Weighted – streams are interleaved per exchange base (1-32 frames per exchange) and weighted based on priority

Topology Options

Load Tester has the following topology options:



The topology can be configured at either the MAC port or the IP levels port.

Exchange/Stream Setup

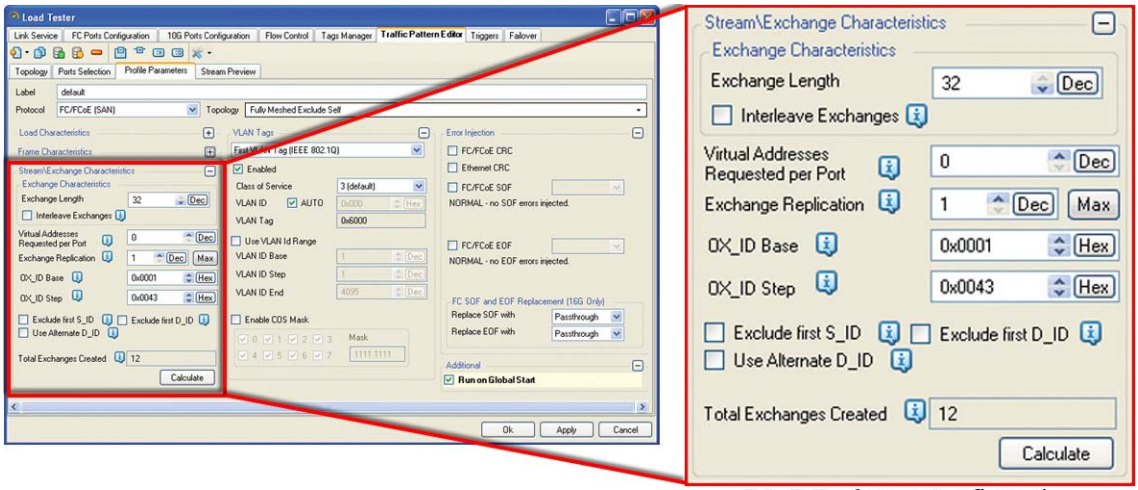
Each traffic profile engine might generate more than one stream/exchange. The number of exchanges (for FCoE traffic) or streams (for LAN Ethernet traffic) generated from each traffic profile engine is determined by different parameters.

FCoE exchange is defined by the combination of three parameters:

- S_ID
- D_ID
- OX_ID

Ethernet stream is defined by the combination of five parameters:

- source MAC
- destination MAC
- source IP
- destination IP
- VLAN



FCoE Exchange Configuration

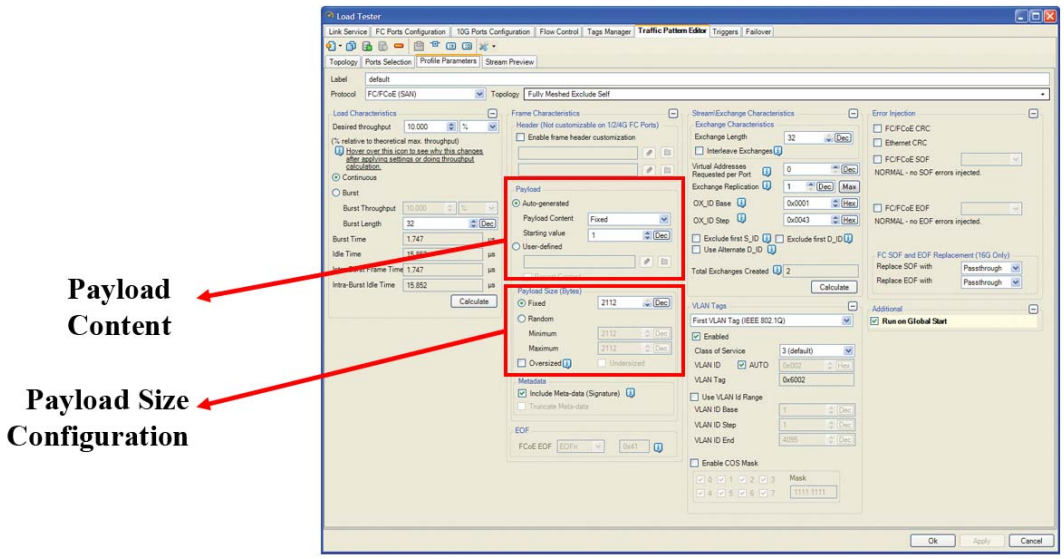
The number of exchanges/streams in one engine is calculated by the following formula and listed in the pane for your reference:

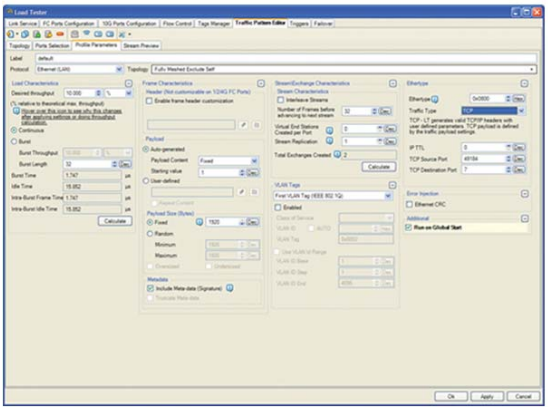
Number of exchanges/Streams = Number of links FCoE Exchange configuration by topology exchange stream replication

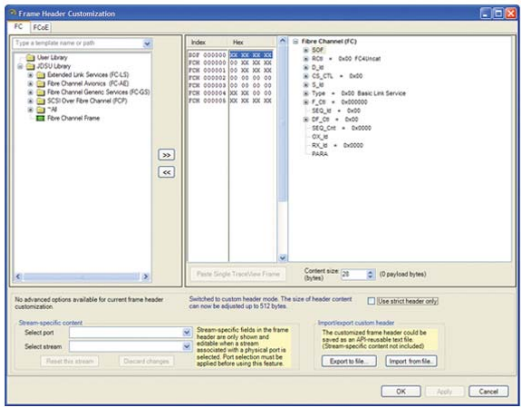
Frame Construction - Frame Header and Payload Setup

Xgig Load Tester allows user to construct any standard and custom frames/packets through header and payload configuration.

For header configuration, the GUI provides the header template similarly to Analyzer to facilitate building the frame header structure. A user also has an option to load the header content directly from a .txt file.







Options for payload content

- Fixed/Incrementing/Long Mixed/Random/Rotate Left/Rotate Right patterns
- Stressful noise patterns such as CRPAT, CJTPAT
- Random payload content
- Custom payload directly loaded from data file

Options for payload size

- Fixed 24-2112 byte for FCoE traffic
- Fixed 46-16384 byte for LAN Ethernet traffic
- Random

NOTE

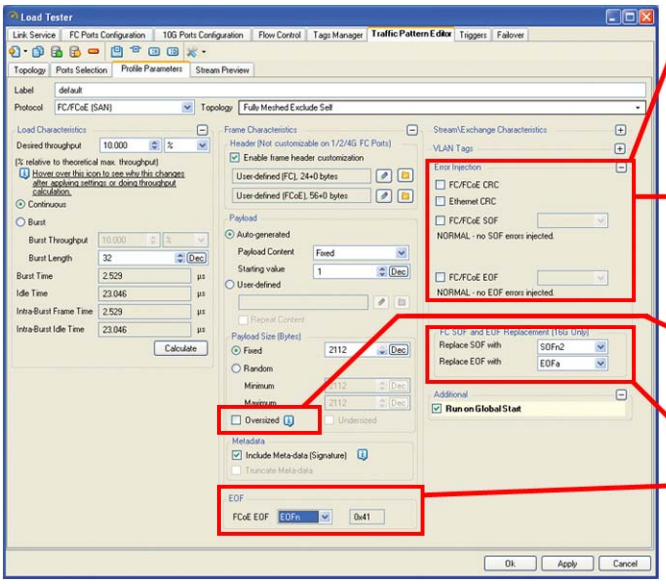
By eliminating metadata, frames with zero payloads can be generated.

TCP/UDP plug-in

- IP TTL
- Source port value
- Destination port value

Frame Error Generation

Xgig Load Tester offers options to plug-in errors when generating frames.



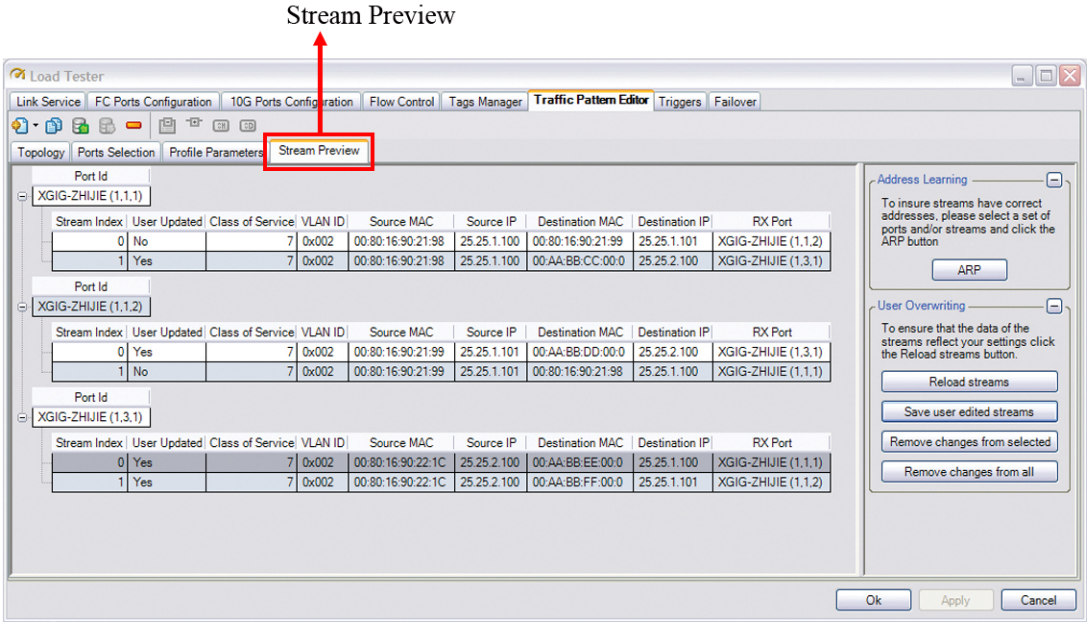
For Ethernet traffic, Ethernet CRC errors can be created to each packet.

For FCoE traffic, errors include:

- FCoE dual CRC error
- Corrupted SOF
- Corrupted EOF
- Oversized frame
- Zero payload and undersized frame
- Invalid SOF/EOF error (FC)
- Invalid EOF error (FCoE)

Stream Preview

After the traffic profile engines are configured, a user can preview the results in the “Stream Preview” tab before starting the traffic. The streams are listed under each Load Tester port. A user can also make changes to each stream directly from this tab.



NOTE

Click “ARP” button to notify any address changes to the address server.

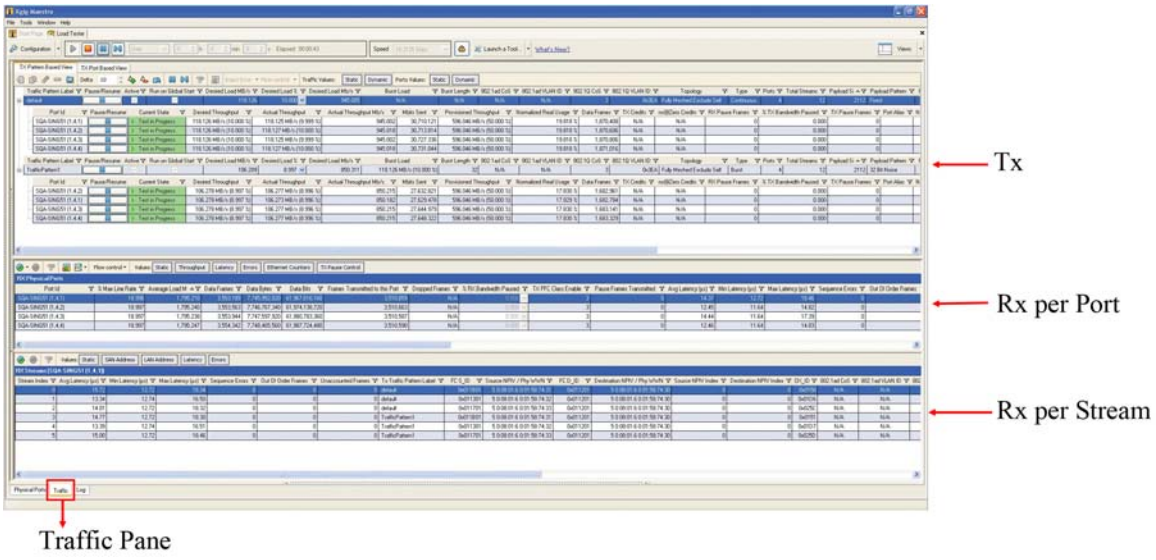
TX and RX Statistics

Xgig FCoE Load Tester provides comprehensive counters to verify every aspect of switch performance including throughput, latency, frame counts, frame type counts, frame errors and exchange errors. The user can monitor data streams from different views.

For TX, there are data views per physical port, per traffic profile or TX stream.

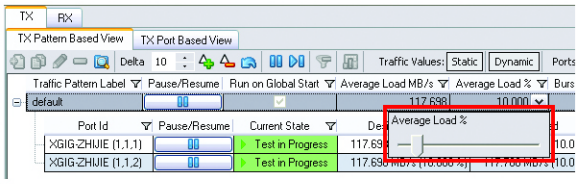
For RX, there are data views per physical port and per stream.

TX and RX views can be displayed in different tabs or can be tiled horizontally or vertically and are seen on the same screen.

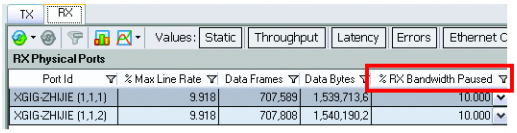


Adjusting Live Traffic

While displaying statistical measurements on the Traffic pane, the user can also adjust the data streams on-the-fly. This gives the user incredible flexibility in managing live data streams.



Adjust the TX Load % with the Sliding Bar

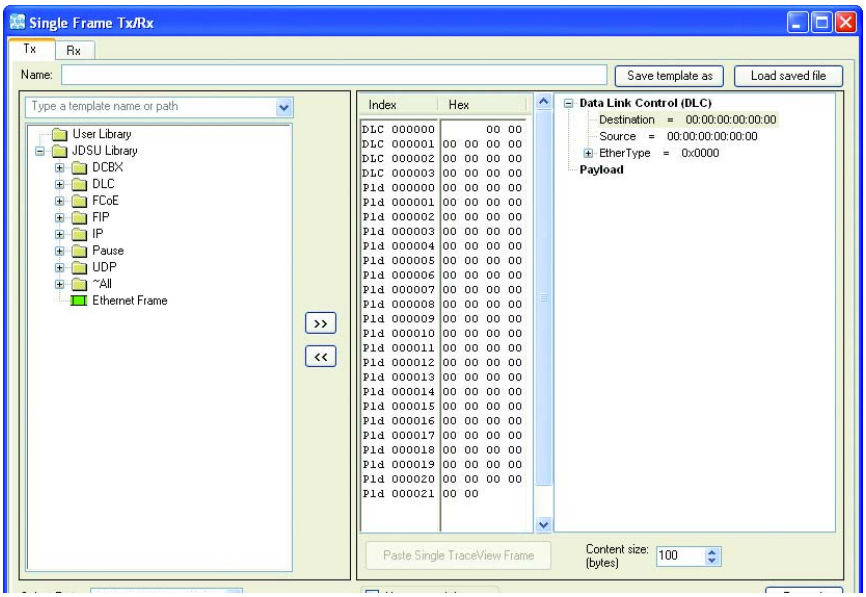


Adjust the RX Bandwidth Pause %

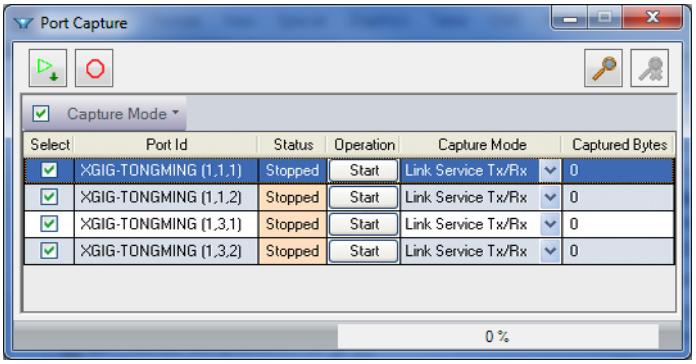
Tools Embedded in Xgig Load Tester

Clicking “Launch a Tool” button on the top of main pane provides the user with direct access to the following embedded tools:

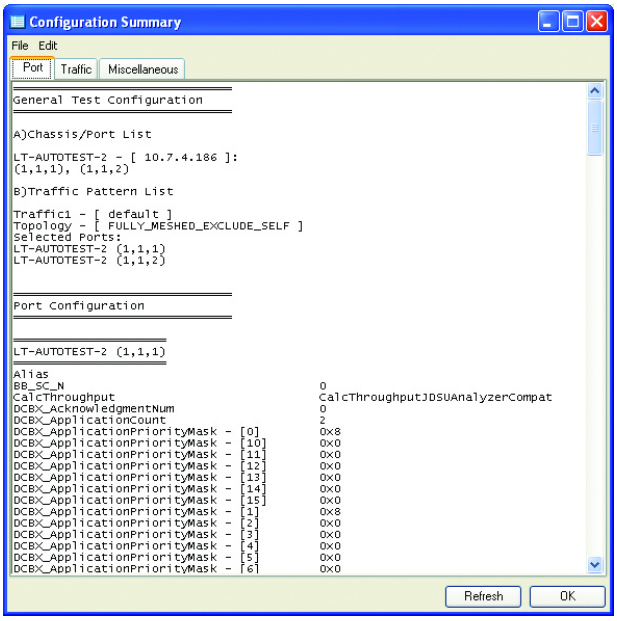
- **Single Frame Tx/Rx** — This tool allows users to directly control the transmission engine and access the receiving buffer for incoming frames. With the help of frame template, a user can construct any frame from the GUI and manually transmit it on the link. Meanwhile, frames received from DUT can be retrieved and displayed one frame at a time. The Rx buffer saves up to 64 frames and is purged after retrieving. This tool can be used for protocol compliance test, functional verification and manual exchange management.



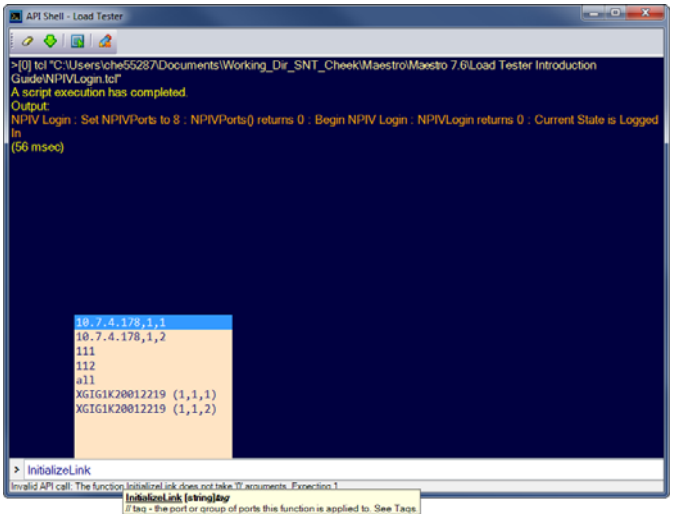
- **Port Capture** — This tool is used to enable, manage, and view the trace capture at each Load Tester port. Up to 128MB of control frames only or all frames can be captured per port. This tool gives complete visibility of DUT behaviors in addition to performance statistics by capturing protocol traces. The traces follow Xgig TraceView format. There is a hot key available to directly launch TraceView on the GUI.



- **Configuration Summary** — This tool helps to review and summarize the detailed configuration results of each Load Tester port on a single list view.

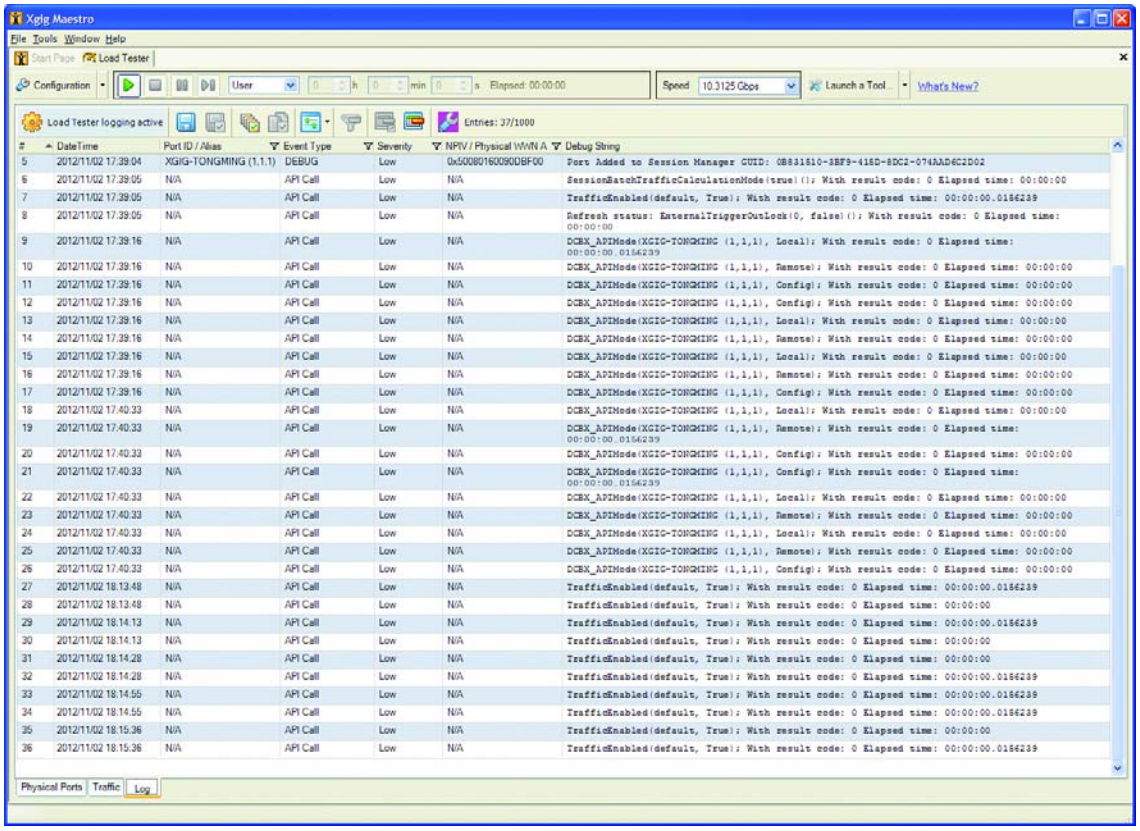


- **API Shell: Load Tester** — This tool is designed to facilitate automation programming. The user is able to expedite coding with API function pop-up hints, load and execute scripts and review results from this tool.



API Log and Test Automation

All the Xgig Load Tester functions are supported with appropriate APIs to facilitate test and manufacturing automation through scripts. The log view lists the operation history. Scripting languages supported are C/C++ and Tcl.



Terminology Abbreviations

API	Application Programming Interface	LAN	Local Area Network
DCB	Data Center Bridge	MAC	Media Access Control
DCBX	DCB Exchange protocol	NPIV	N_Port ID Virtualization
DUT	Device Under Test	PFC	Priority Flow Control
ETS	Enhanced Transmission Selection	TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
FCoE	Fibre Channel over Ethernet	TTL	Time To Live
FIP	FCoE Initialization Protocol	TLV	Transistor-Transistor Logic
GUI	Graphical User Interface		Type-Length-Value
IP	Internet Protocol	UDP	User Datagram Protocol

Technical Assistance

If you require technical assistance, call 1-844-GO-VIAVI (1-844-468-4284) or e-mail Techsupport-snt@viavisolutions.com.

For the latest TAC information, go to http://www.viavisolutions.com/en/services-and-support/support/technical-assistance.

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