

ATTO Thunderbolt™ 2 Technology Enabled Desklink Devices

What is Thunderbolt 2?

Thunderbolt technology was designed to transmit data and video information over the same wire. By allowing simultaneous DisplayPort and PCI Express transactions to be carried over a single interface, the number of discrete ports on an ultra-slim device can be minimized. It also allows for sleeker designs since less physical area is required for interconnect. With 20Gb/s transfer rates, Thunderbolt 2 is 40X faster than USB 2.0 and 20x faster than FireWire.

How is Thunderbolt 2 different from Thunderbolt technology?

Thunderbolt 2 combines Thunderbolt's two independent 10Gb/s channels into one 20Gb/s bi-directional channel that supports data and/or display. This provides sufficient bandwidth to enable simultaneous 4K video display and file transfer to fast disk storage.

In what ways is the computing industry adopting Intel's Thunderbolt technology?

According to Intel, more than 220 companies worldwide are developing Thunderbolt-enabled workstations and workbooks (laptops) as well as devices for PC and Mac platforms including adapters, cameras, computers, displays, motherboards and storage.

What environments use Thunderbolt 2?

Typical Thunderbolt environments include imaging, digital video capture/ingest, digital video and audio post production, data collection in field locations, data archive and restore, and many others. All these involve portable, mobile or all-in-one computer platforms and workbooks.

What is Plug and Play?

Plug and Play is intended to simplify the connection of multiple peripherals to a Thunderbolt-enabled compute platform. Thunderbolt devices conforming to Plug and Play should work as soon as they are connected.

What type of cable can be used for Thunderbolt 2?

All Thunderbolt cables and connectors are compatible with Thunderbolt 2.

Can I connect multiple Thunderbolt-enabled devices on the same bus?

Yes. You can daisy chain up to six data and video devices by connecting a Thunderbolt cable to each device through its available ports.

Can ATTO HBAs and Desklink devices be combined in the same Thunderbolt 2 environment?

ATTO provides Thunderbolt-aware Mac and PC drivers for existing ATTO HBAs when used with a qualified PCI expansion chassis. Desklink Devices are designed to natively connect Thunderbolt-enabled hosts to direct-attached SAS/SATA storage or networked Fibre Channel or Ethernet storage.

What does ATTO do to maintain hardware and software interoperability in Desklink Thunderbolt 2 enabled products?

ATTO has strong industry partnerships. We are a member of the Intel Thunderbolt Developer Community, having met the rigorous certification requirements for participation in the program. ATTO's membership in the Apple OS X Mac Developer and Microsoft Developer Communities also ensures that the latest OS compatible drivers are available across ATTO product lines.

What types of Thunderbolt-enabled products are currently available?

ATTO Thunderbolt 2 Desklink devices provide 20Gbps connectivity to 10GbE and Fibre Channel networks and SAS/SATA storage. ATTO ThunderStream devices provide high performance, low-latency RAID protection to SAS/SATA JBOD storage.

The following products Thunderbolt 2 products are currently available for purchase

- ThunderStream SC 4808D - 6Gb/s SAS/SATA RAID
- ThunderLink SH 2068 - 6Gb/s SAS/SATA
- ThunderLink FC 2162 - 16Gb/s FC Thunderbolt
- ThunderLink FC 2082 - 8Gb/s FC
- ThunderLink NS 2102 - (SFP+) 10GbE
- ThunderLink NT 2102 - 10GBASE-T