

Re: e1000 with serdes only shows a fiber port

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- *From:* Pierre Ossman <[drzeus-list@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:drzeus-list@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 14 Mar 2006 09:11:15 +0100
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John Ronciak wrote:

On 3/13/06, Pierre Ossman <[drzeus-list@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:drzeus-list@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Hi!

I'm having problems with the e1000 card in a Dell Poweredge 1855. This model has support for both copper and fiber and has two cards on the PCI bus (might supposed to be one for each type).

If it's a blade server blade then it's really not fiber or copper (i.e. no PHY), it's a serdes connection to the backplane in the blade server. I have never seen one of these not always have link (if the blade is plugged into the backplane it must have link).

So what versions of things are you running? OS? Driver? Version number of the blade? BIOS (must have the latest)? Windows doesn't use the BIOS but does everything itself regarding HW setup.

I have tried Linux 2.6.11 and 2.6.15. I've also tried the independent variant of the driver, version 6.3.9 and 7.0.33. We've also tried Dell's version for RHEL4 (5.7.6.1).

BIOS has been confirmed to be the latest version.

Did you go back to Dell for support on this? What did they say? Are you using a version of Linux that Dell supports on this hardware?

We haven't contacted Dell at this point no. Partly because we run Fedora Core and not one of the supported dists (this will be a terminal server so we want a more recent desktop on it).

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There might need to be some special drivers that are needed which Dell supplies with their versions for specific HW. I'm not a blade server expert but I've seen things like this before.

One suggestion is to disable auto-negotiation and force the link to 1 gigabit full duplex to see what that does.

We started doing this and discovered that the card started working when we plugged it into a gigabit port (copper). ethtool still says fiber though. So the immediate panic has settled. :)

It would still be nice to plug this into a 100 Mbps port since the gigabit ports are a bit scarce.

Rgds  
Pierre

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