



DPDK Vhost/Virtio Performance Report

Release 21.02

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Author: Intel DPDK Validation Team



Revision History

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Audience and Purpose

The primary audience for this test report is architects and engineers implementing the Data Plane Development Kit (DPDK). This report provides information on packet processing performance testing for the specified DPDK release on Intel® architecture. The initial report may be viewed as the baseline for future releases and provides system configuration and test cases based on DPDK examples.

The purpose of reporting these tests is not to imply a single “correct” approach, but rather to provide a baseline of well-tested configurations and procedures with reproducible results. This will help guide architects and engineers who are evaluating and implementing DPDK solutions on Intel® architecture and can assist in achieving optimal system performance.

Test setup:

The device under test (DUT) consists of a system with an Intel® architecture motherboard populated with the following;

- A single or dual processor and PCH chip, except for System on Chip (SoC) cases
- DRAM memory size and frequency (normally single DIMM per channel)
- Specific Intel Network Interface Cards (NICs)
- BIOS settings noting those that updated from the basic settings
- DPDK build configuration settings, and commands used for tests

Connected to the DUT is an IXIA*, a hardware test and simulation platform to generate packet traffic to the DUT ports and determine the throughput at the tester side. The IXIA is used to implement RFC2544 on the DUT.

Benchmarking a DPDK system requires knowledge of networking technologies including knowledge of network protocols and hands-on experience with relevant open-source software, such as Linux*, and the DPDK. Engineers also need benchmarking and debugging skills, as well as a good understanding of the device-under-test (DUT) across compute and networking domains.

DPDK Testpmd Test Case: Documentation may be found at http://www.dpdk.org/doc/guides/testpmd_app Ug/index.html.

The testpmd application can be used to test the DPDK in a packet forwarding mode and also to access NIC hardware features. Note in the Testpmd example if the `-i` argument is used, the first core is used for the command language interface (CLI).

RFC2544 Zero packet loss test case: Used to determine the DUT throughput as defined in RFC1242(<https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1242.txt>). Note RFC6201 <https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc6201.txt> has updated RFC2544 and RFC1242. Please check the link for more details. In this report, RFC2544 test uses DPDK testpmd as test application.

Procedure: Send a specific number of frames at a specific rate through the DUT and then count the frames that are transmitted by the DUT. If the count of offered frames is not equal to the count of

received frames, the rate of the offered stream is reduced and the test is rerun. The throughput is the fastest rate at which the count of test frames transmitted by the DUT is equal to the number of test frames sent to it by the test equipment.

DPDK Phy-VM-Phy(PVP) RFC2544 test case:

This test setup is shown in Figure1. The traffic is generated by Ixia running RFC2544(IxNetwork* 8.12 with 0.001% packet loss, and the duration for each round is 60 seconds). The flow is one fixed flow. In this test setup, one port(40G) of Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter XL710-QDA2 is used to inject traffic to Vhost/virtio. The case is to measure vhost/virtio system forwarding throughput, and the theoretical system forwarding throughput is 40 Gbps. Both Vhost and Virtio is DPDK polling mode driver. The flow is as below: IXIA→NIC port0→Vhost-user0→Virtio→Vhost-user0→NIC port0→IXIA.

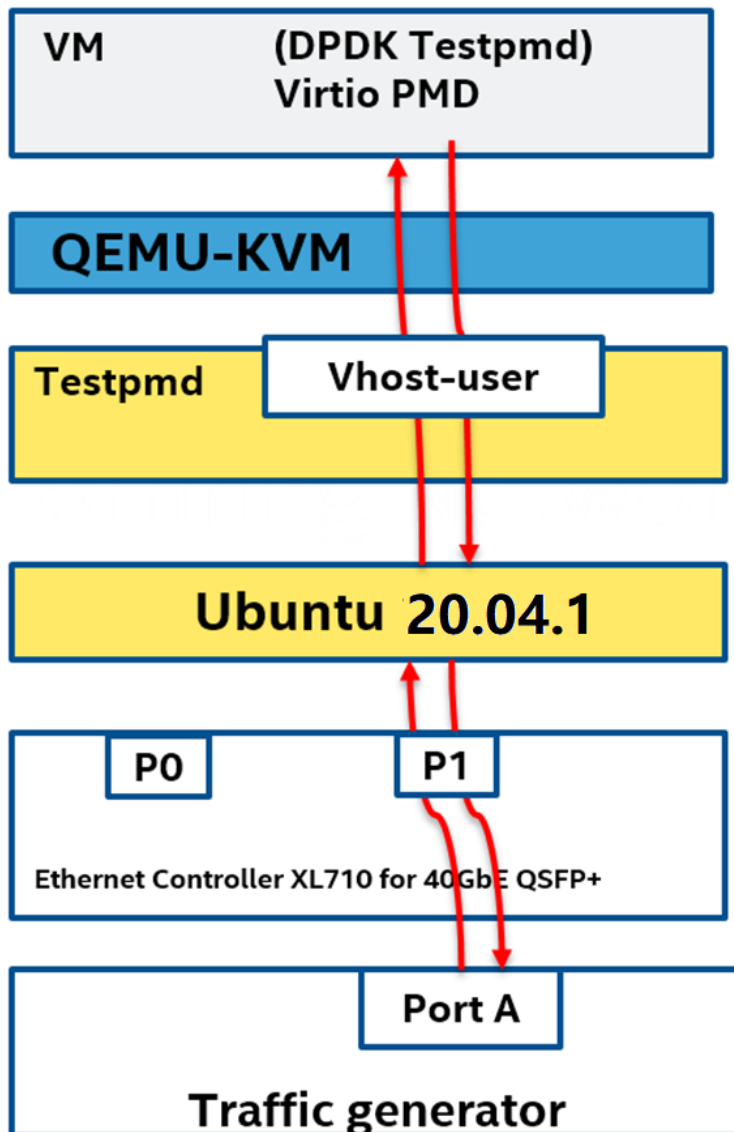
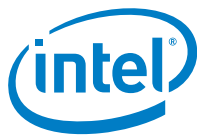


Figure1. DPDK PVP test setup



Intel® Xeon® Processor Platinum 8180 (39.5M Cache, 2.50 GHz)

Hardware & Software Ingredients

Item	Description
Server Platform	Intel® Server Board S2600GZ Intel® Server Board S2600GZ Family
CPU	Intel(R) Xeon(R) Platinum 8180 (39.5M L3 Cache, 2.50 GHz) Number of cores 56, Number of threads 112.
Memory	Total 96GB over 8 channels, DDR4 @2666 Mhz
PCIe	1 x PCIe Gen3 x8
NICs	Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter XL710-QDA2 (2x40G)
BIOS	SE5C620.86B.00.01.0013.030920180427
Microcode version	0x2006906
Host Operating System	Ubuntu 20.04.1
Host Linux kernel version	5.4.0-42-generic
Host GCC version	gcc (Ubuntu 9.3.0-17ubuntu1~20.04) 9.3.0
Host DPDK version	21.02
Guest Operating System	Ubuntu 20.04 LTS
Guest GCC version	gcc (Ubuntu 9.3.0-10ubuntu2) 9.3.0
Guest DPDK version	21.02
Guest Linux kernel version	5.4.0-37-generic

Boot and BIOS settings

Item	Description
Host Boot Settings	hugepagesz=1G hugepages=120 default_hugepagesz=1G isolcpus=1-15 intel_iommu=on iommu=pt intel_pstate=disable numa_balancing=disable nmi_watchdog=0 mitigations=off Note: nohz_full and rcu_nocbs is to disable Linux* kernel interrupts, and it's important for zero-packet loss test. Generally, 1G huge pages are used for performance test.
VM Boot Settings	hugepagesz=2M hugepages=512 isolcpus=1-2 nohz_full=1-2 rcu_nocbs=1-2
BIOS	CPU Power and Performance Policy <Performance> CPU C-state Disabled CPU P-state Disabled Enhanced Intel® Speedstep® Tech Disabled Turbo Boost Disabled
Host Real Time Settings	echo -1 > /proc/sys/kernel/sched_rt_period_us echo -1 > /proc/sys/kernel/sched_rt_runtime_us echo 10 > /proc/sys/vm/stat_interval echo 0 > /proc/sys/kernel/watchdog_thresh



VM Real Time Settings	<pre>echo 0 > /proc/sys/kernel/watchdog echo 0 > /proc/sys/kernel/nmi_watchdog echo -1 > /proc/sys/kernel/sched_rt_period_us echo -1 > /proc/sys/kernel/sched_rt_runtime_us</pre>
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Test Case 1 – RFC2544 0.001% packet loss test for Split ring Vhost/Virtio PVP Mergeable

Item	Description
Test Case	RFC2544 0.001% packet loss test for Split ring Vhost/Virtio PVP Mergeable
NIC	Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter XL710-QDA2 (2x40G)
Driver	i40e DPDK PMD
Test Configuration	<p>Test tool: IxNetwork 9.10.2007.7</p> <p>Qemu Version: 4.2.1</p> <p>Vring size: 1024, the max Vring size Qemu support</p> <p>Hugepage size: 1G</p> <p>Virtio Mergeable: On</p> <p>Forward Mode: testpmd mac forward</p> <p>Vhost: 1 queue 1 logic core</p> <p>Virtio: 1 queue 1 logic core</p> <p>Totally 2 logic cores from 2 physical cores are used.</p>
Flow Configuration	1 Flow with fixed source and destination IP.
Test Step	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bind one 40G NIC port to vfio-pci 2. Launch vhost: <pre>chrt -f 95 ./x86_64-native-linuxapp-gcc/app/testpmd -l 9-10 -n 4 -v --file-prefix=vhost\ --vdev 'eth_vhost0,iface=vhost-net,queues=1' -- -i --txd=1024 --rx=1024 --nb-cores=1 testpmd>set fwd mac testpmd>start</pre> 3. Launch VM : <pre>taskset -c 11,12,13 qemu-system-x86_64 \ -name us-vhost-vm1 -cpu host -enable-kvm -m 20480 \ -object memory-backend-file,id=mem,size=2048M,mem-path=/mnt/huge,share=on \ -numa node,memdev=mem -mem-prealloc \ -smp cores=2,sockets=1 -drive file=/home/osimg/ubuntu20-04.img \ -chardev socket,id=char0,path=./vhost-net \ -monitor unix:/tmp/vm2_monitor.sock,server,nowait -device e1000,netdev=ntts1 -netdev user,id=ntts1,hostfwd=tcp:127.0.0.1:6013-:22 \ -netdev type=vhost-user,id=mynet1,chardev=char0,vhostforce \ -device virtio-net-pci,mac=52:54:00:00:00:01,netdev=mynet1,mrg_rxbuf=on,rx_queue_size=1024,tx_queue_size=1024 -vnc :10 --monitor stdio</pre>

4. Use monitor to bind vcpu with physical cpu on host machine:
qemu monitor: info cpus #check pid
taskset -cp 12 xxx #xxx is the pid number
taskset -cp 13 xxx
5. Enter vm and bind port to vfio-pci:
modprobe vfio-pci
echo 1 > /sys/module/vfio/parameters/enable_unsafe_noiommu_mode
6. Bind vdev to vfio-pci and launch virtio in VM:
./x86_64-native-linuxapp-gcc/app/testpmd -c 0x3 -n 4 -- -i --txd=1024 --
rxd=1024
testpmd>set fwd mac
testpmd>start

Test Result:

Packet Size (Bytes)	Throughput (Mpps)	Line Rate[40G] (Mpps)
64	7.50	59.52
128	6.61	33.783
256	5.79	18.116
512	3.95	9.398
1024	2.75	4.789
1280	2.60	3.846
1518	2.33	3.251

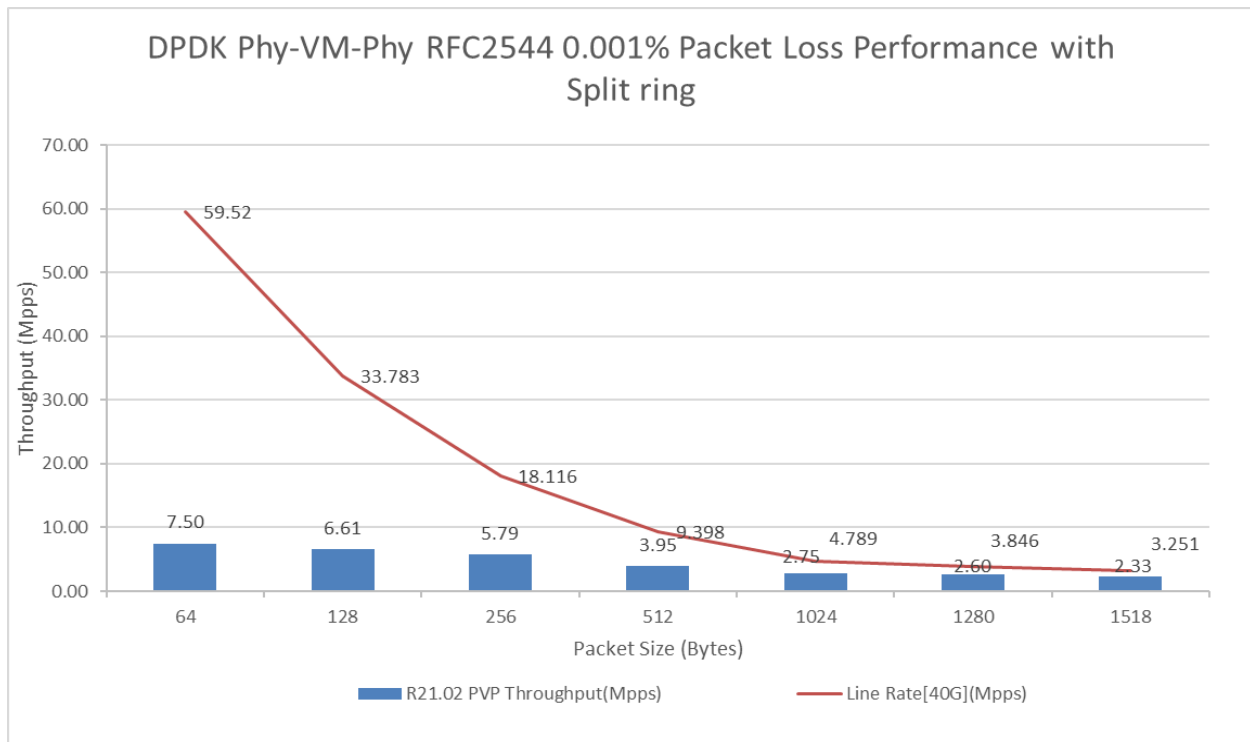


Figure3. RFC2544 0.001% packet loss performance with Split ring Vhost/Virtio PVP Mergeable



Test Case 2 – RFC2544 0.001% packet loss test for Packed ring Vhost/Virtio PVP Mergeable

Item	Description
Test Case	RFC2544 0.001% packet loss test for Packed ring Vhost/Virtio PVP Mergeable
NIC	Intel® Ethernet Converged Network Adapter XL710-QDA2 (2x40G)
Driver	i40e DPDK PMD
Test Configuration	<p>Test tool: IxNetwork 9.10.2007.7</p> <p>Qemu Version: qemu-4.2.1</p> <p>Vring size: 1024, the max Vring size Qemu support</p> <p>Hugepage size: 1G</p> <p>Virtio Mergeable: On</p> <p>Forward Mode: testpmd mac forward</p> <p>Vhost: 1 queue 1 logic core</p> <p>Virtio: 1 queue 1 logic core</p> <p>Totally 2 logic cores from 2 physical cores are used.</p>
Flow Configuration	1 Flow with fixed source and destination IP.
Test Step	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bind one 40G NIC port to vfio-pci 2. Launch vhost: <pre>chrt -f 95 ./x86_64-native-linuxapp-gcc/app/testpmd -l 9-10 -n 4 -v --file-prefix=vhost \ --vdev 'eth_vhost0,iface=vhost-net,queues=1' -- -i --txd=1024 --rxd=1024 --nb-cores=1 testpmd>set fwd mac testpmd>start</pre> 3. Launch VM : <pre>taskset -c 11,12,13 qemu-system-x86_64 \ -name us-vhost-vm1 -cpu host -enable-kvm -m 2048 \ -object memory-backend-file,id=mem,size=2048M,mem-path=/mnt/huge,share=on \ -numa node,memdev=mem -mem-prealloc \ -smp cores=2,sockets=1 -drive file=/home/osimg/ubuntu20-04.img \ -chardev socket,id=char0,path=./vhost-net \ -monitor unix:/tmp/vm2_monitor.sock,server,nowait -device e1000,netdev=nttsip1 -netdev user,id=nttsip1,hostfwd=tcp:127.0.0.1:6013-:22 \ -netdev type=vhost-user,id=mynet1,chardev=char0,vhostforce \ -device virtio-net-pci,mac=52:54:00:00:00:01,netdev=mynet1,mrg_rxbuf=on,rx_queue_size=1024,tx_queue_size=1024,packed=on -vnc :10 --monitor stdio</pre> 4. Use monitor to bind vcpu with physical cpu on host machine: <pre>qemu monitor: info cpus #check pid taskset -cp 12 xxx #xxx is the pid number</pre>

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taskset -cp 13 xxx

5. Enter vm and bind port to vfio-pci:
modprobe vfio-pci
echo 1 > /sys/module/vfio/parameters/enable_unsafe_noiommu_mode

6. Bind vdev to igb_uio and launch virtio in VM:
./x86_64-native-linuxapp-gcc/app/testpmd -c 0x3 -n 4 -- -i --txd=1024 --
rx=1024
testpmd>set fwd mac
testpmd>start
    
```

Test Result:

Packet Size (Bytes)	Throughput (Mpps)	Line Rate[40G] (Mpps)
64	9.11	59.52
128	8.18	33.783
256	7.05	18.116
512	5.33	9.398
1024	3.62	4.789
1280	3.22	3.846
1518	2.85	3.251

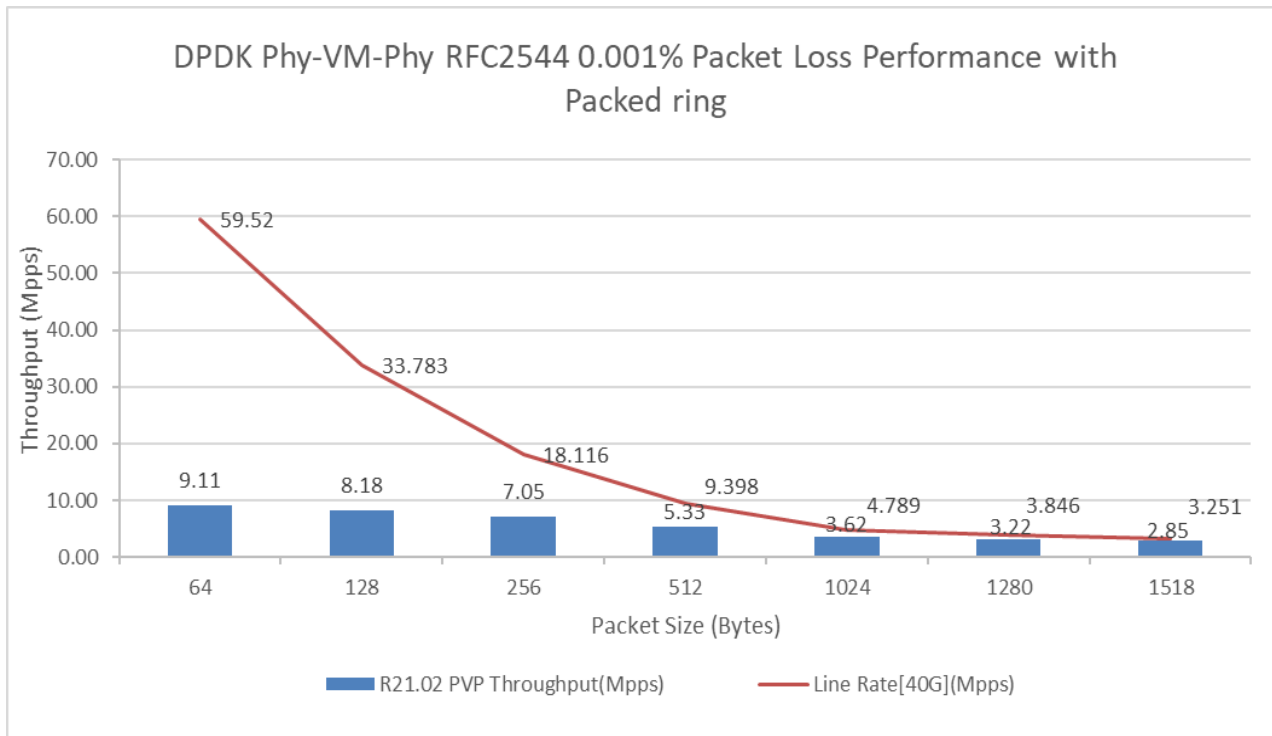
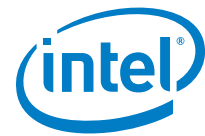


Figure4. RFC2544 0.001% packet loss performance with Packed ring Vhost/Virtio PVP Mergeable



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