



Liquid-Markets-Solutions

ÜberNIC & Precision Time in Financial Services

v2024-03-22



Financial Services Key Contexts

Financial Services Profoundly Changed

intel.
partner
alliance

1998



2008



2016



Today's Trading Is Electronic & Automated

intel.
partner
alliance



It's Expensive! Exchange Co-Location

US\$ 3.155 Million

4x Racks

US\$ 410,400

10G Co-Lo Links

US\$ 759,600

Market Data

US\$ 916,680

10G External Links

US\$ 1,068,540

Annual Recurring Cost for One NY-Based Exchange Co-Lo Data Center w/External Connectivity to NY Metro and Chicago Metro

It's Expensive! Co-Lo Trading Deployment

US\$ 614 Thousand

30 1U Servers 120 ULL/HPC NICs

US\$ 246,900

US\$ 150,500

4 ULL Switches 4 TOR TS Devices

US\$ 76,000

US\$ 140,000

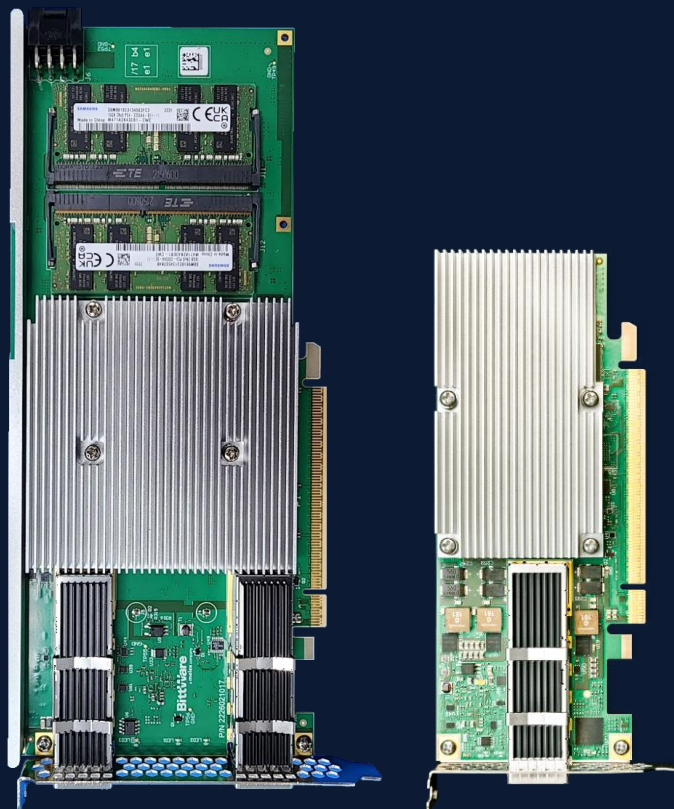
One-Time Build-Out Cost for One NY-Based Exchange Co-Lo Data Center w/External Connectivity to NY Metro and Chicago Metro



ÜberNIC Introduction

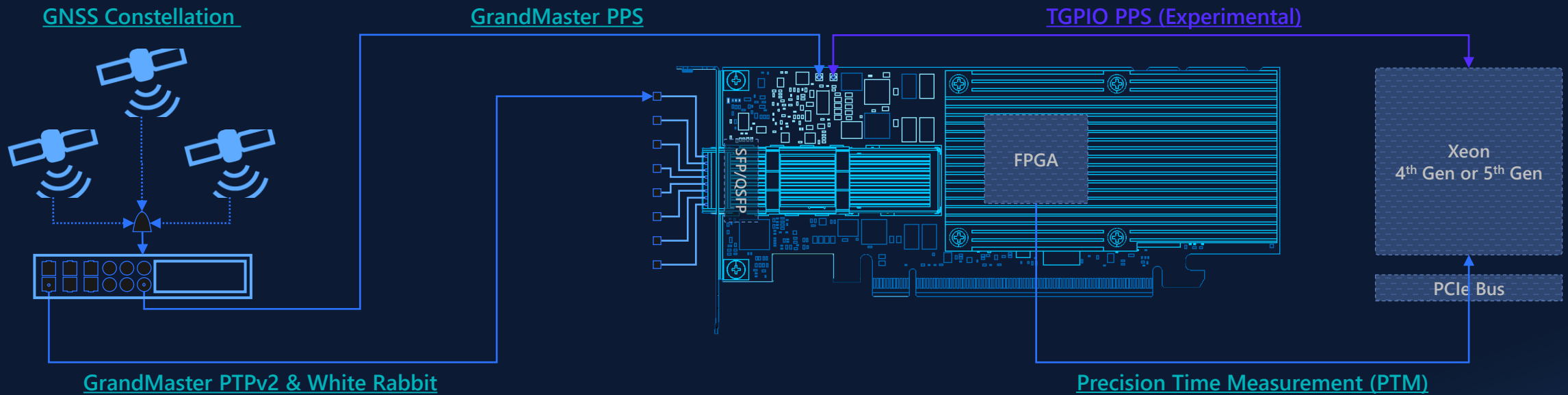
ÜberNIC

FPGA Network Controller & Network Stack



- 100% FPGA-Based Standards-Compliant Network Stack
- Supports PCIe 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 & CXL 1.1, 2.0
- Significant Fiber Density; Max 16 FPs
- Multi-GB On-Board Memory; Max 64GB
- MAC-Level Timestamp, PCAP & Port Span
- PPS, NTP, PTPv2, PTM, TGPIO PPS, & White Rabbit
- SmartNIC Capabilities:
 - Add-On LMS Extensible Logic
 - Add-On End-User or 3rd Party Logic
- Single PCIe Slot, HH ½L or FH ¾L

ÜberNIC Precision Time Synchronization

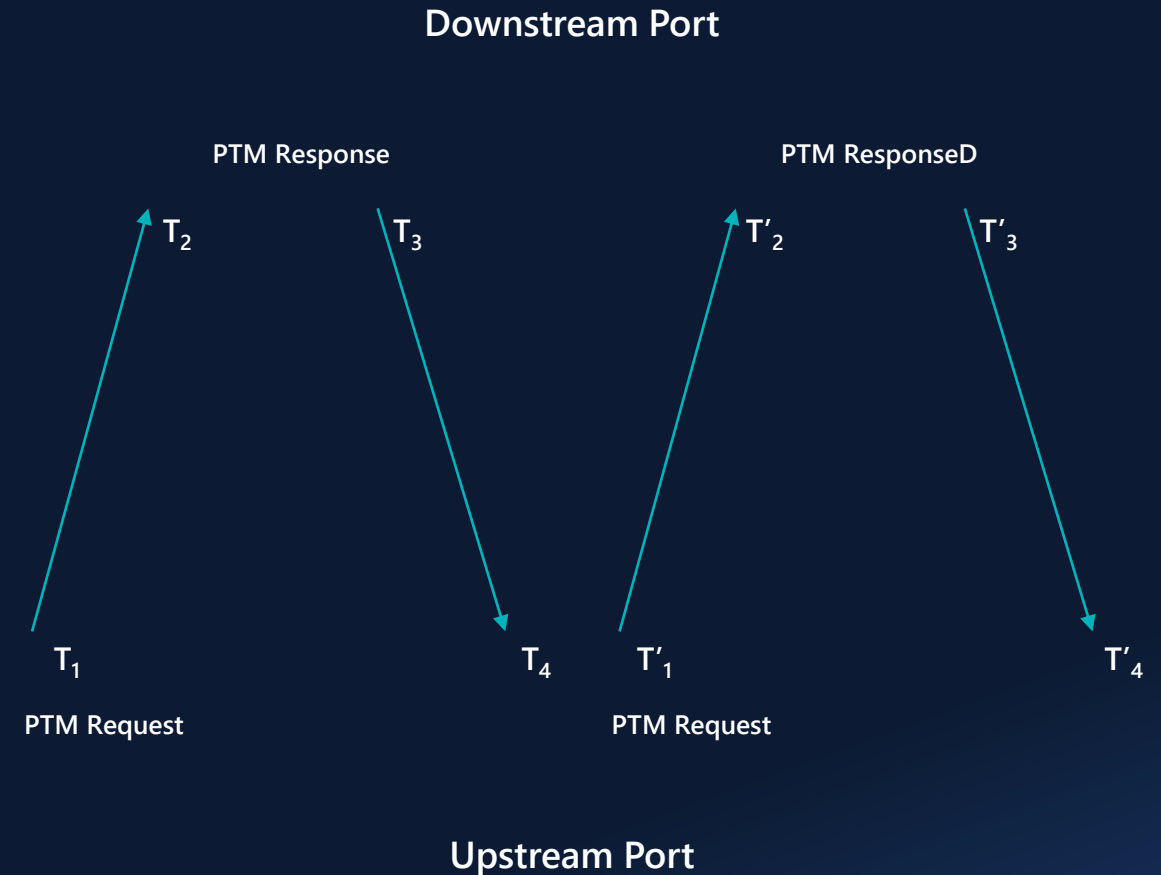


LMS is a Member of the OCP Time Appliances Project and a Founding Member of the CERN White Rabbit Collaboration Partnership



ÜberNIC Precision Time Measurement (PTM)

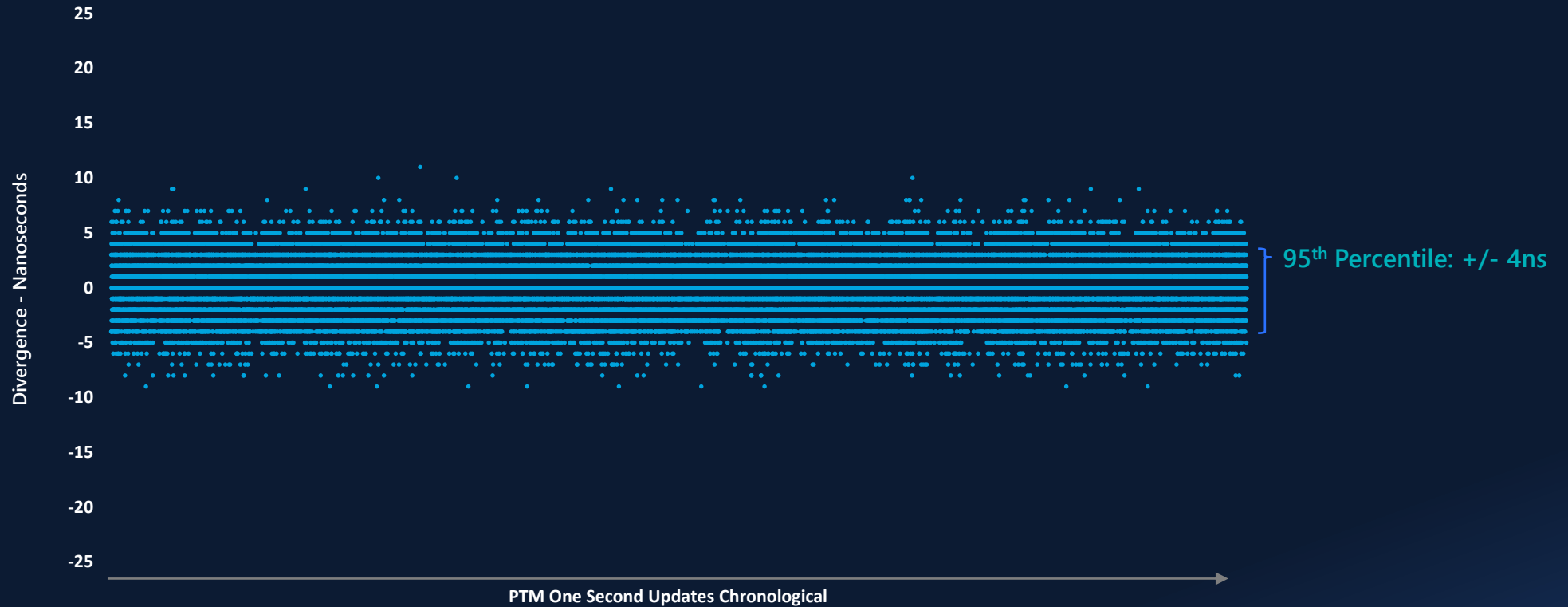
- IEEE1588 + White Rabbit Accurately Measures Time Across the Datacenter and Communicates Time Values to an Ethernet PCIe NIC
- PCIe NIC to Host Time Updates Negatively Impacted by CPU Load-Induced Degradation Whereby Software-Based PCIe NIC PTP Clock Reads Introduce Significant Error
- PCIe PTM Eliminates Clock Uncertainty via a Hardware Protocol, Substantially Reducing the Offset Between CPU Clock and PCIe Device Clock





ÜberNIC PTM Synchronization

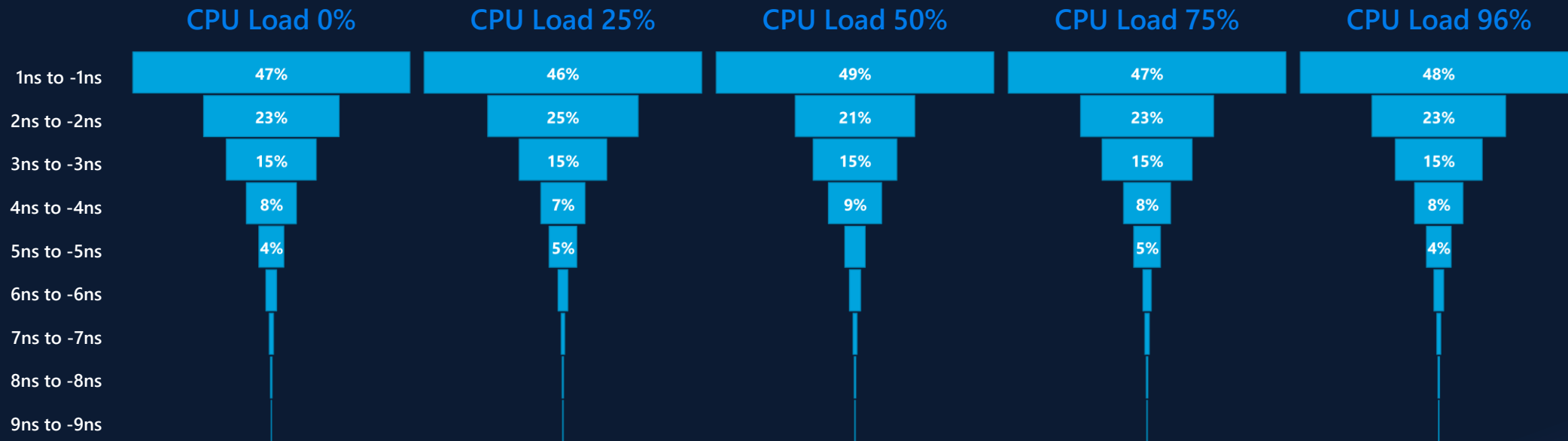
Host/ÜberNIC Host Real-Time Clock Post-Update Time Value Divergence



27180 One-Second Updates | | SuperMicro X13SEI-F w/Xeon 4th Gen 6442Y

ÜberNIC PTM Synchronization and CPU Load

Host/ÜberNIC Host Real-Time Clock Post-Update Time Value Divergence



27180 One-Second Updates Per CPU Load Percentage | SuperMicro X13SEI-F w/Xeon 4th Gen 6442Y



Precision Time In Financial Services



MiFID 2 Mandates Host-Level Precision Time

- System Clocks Must be Synced to UTC via an Identifiable Source
- Clock Offset Accuracy Must be Provable
- Timestamp Divergence Limit from UTC:
 - If Exchange Access Latency > 1ms, 1.00ms
 - Else If Exchange Access Latency < 1ms, 0.10ms
 - Else If HFT, 1.00μs
- Timestamp Granularity:
 - If Exchange Access Latency > 1ms, 1.00ms
 - Else If Exchange Access Latency < 1ms, 1.00μs
 - Else If HFT, 1.00μs
- Demonstrate Location and Consistency (of Location) of Timestamp Implementation

United States SEC Rule 613 Introduces Similar Requirements



Accusation! Market Manipulation

- Regulator Accuses “Investor A” of Buying and Selling to Itself
- Regulators Globally Consider Such Activity Manipulative:
 - Creates the Appearance of a Vibrant and Active Market Attracting Other Investors
 - Market Movement Allows “Investor A” to Inappropriately Profit
- Regulator’s Evidence is Single-Second Granularity Timestamps
- Conclusion:
 - Timestamps w/Nanosecond Precision Demonstrate “Investor A” Innocent
 - Regulator Apologizes to “Investor A”
 - Regulator Implements Remediation Plan to Introduce Microsecond-Granular Timestamps



Accusation! Violation of Best Execution Rules

- Regulator Accuses “Broker C” of Inappropriately Transmitting Buy Orders to “Exchange A”
- At Time of Transmission “Exchange B” Selling Price US\$ 0.10 Lower Than “Exchange A”
- “Broker C” Clients Negatively Impacted by US\$ 52k Overpayment
- Regulator’s Evidence is “Exchange B” Microsecond Granularity Data Transmission Timestamps
- Conclusion:
 - Timestamps w/Nanosecond Precision Demonstrate “Broker C” Innocent
 - Data from “Exchange B” Received by “Broker C” After Orders Transmitted to “Exchange A”
 - Regulator Implements Remediation Plan to Incorporate Transmission Latency in Data Analysis



Accusation! "Investor B" Crashes Exchange GW

- Regulator Accuses "Investor B" of Intentionally Crashing 1 of 4 "Exchange A" Gateways
- Duplicate Connections on All 4 GWs Caused by Fully Duplicated Source and Destination IP/Port
- Fully Duplicated Source and Destination IP/Port Provided to "Investor B" by "Broker A"
- Multi-Million-Message Two-Way TCP Handshake; 1 GW Server No Longer Available
- Conclusion:
 - PCAPs Showed RST From "Investor B" Followed by GW Activity for 14.1 Seconds
 - Exchange Admits Automated Actions Responsible for GW Commanded Shutdown
 - Regulator Apologizes to "Investor B"
 - Regulator Requires Multi-Component Remediation Plan from "Broker A" and "Exchange A"



Quantitative Trading Correlation Optimization

- Often, A Specific Security is Tradable on Different Venues at the Same Time
- Often, Related and Non-Related Securities Trade in Ways Correlated to Each Other
- Correlation Reflects Relation Not Necessarily Causation
- Identifying & Seizing Opportunities:
 - Granular Timestamps Empower Nuanced Analysis, Back-Testing, & Opportunity Identification
 - Comparing Index, Bond, or Single-Name Futures or ETF's to their Underlying Constituents and Identifying Those Trading at a Premium or a Discount Relative to Others or Those Trading According to, or in Defiance of, Short-Term, Mid-Term, or Long-Term Historical Relationships Represent Attractive Opportunities.



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Thank You



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