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International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) and Optica Technologies Incorporated have successfully completed connectivity testing of the PRIZM product in IBM System z[®] server environments. The Optica PRIZM FICON[®] to ESCON[®] converter allows attachment of FICON channels (CHPID type FC) to ESCON control units (CUs). Attachment can be direct or through any supported FICON switch or director. All ESCON control units are considered supported with this letter.

Intended support is for the following environments:

- * FICON channel attached to the IBM eServer[™] zSeries[®] 900 (z900) and IBM eServer zSeries 800 (z800) at driver 3GF
- * FICON channel attached to the IBM eServer zSeries 990 (z990) and IBM eServer zSeries 890 (z890) at driver 55K
- * FICON channel attached to the IBM System z9[®] Enterprise Class and Business Class (z9[®] EC and z9 BC) at driver 67L
- * FICON channel attached to the IBM System z10[™] Enterprise Class (z10 EC[™]) at drivers 73G and 76D
- * FICON channel attached to the IBM System z10 Business Class[™] (z10 BC[™]) at driver 76D

Note: Check with IBM service personnel to ensure all required patches have been applied.

- * It is anticipated that the Optica PRIZM will operate with all FICON supported switches and directors.
- * It is anticipated that the Optica PRIZM could be used to attach any ESCON control unit which adheres to the ESCON architecture.
- * It is also anticipated that the Optica PRIZM will operate with System z operating systems such as z/OS[®] V1.7 and later, System Automation for OS/390[®] (SA OS/390), z/VM[®], z/VSE[™], and z/TPF that support FICON as well as z/VM and z/VSE that support FCP.

Specific Optica Technologies Incorporated product hardware and firmware release levels used during the testing were as follows:

- Software version 1.3.4.0
- ESCON board level 1.0.3.0
- Spartan programmed version 23

Limitations

The following considerations and limitations apply to the tested configurations:

- Before an Optica PRIZM is attached to an ESCON channel on an IBM System Storage[™] DS8000[®] that has been enabled for High Performance FICON for System z (zHPF), z/OS PTFs are required to avoid performance degradation. The PTFs for the following z/OS APARs are required: OA29017 and OA30406 for z/OS V1.9 and later. PTFs will be available in 4Q2009.

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