



Network switch chip creates a soft-assignable array

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Fulcrum Microsystems announced general availability of the PivotPoint FM1010, the industry's first SPI-4.2 switch chip. The six-port System Packet Interface 4 Phase 2 (SPI-4.2) switch chip seamlessly interconnects devices (such as transceivers, NPUs, traffic managers, co-processors, and custom ASICs and FPGAs) used in high-performance networking and storage applications. PivotPoint replaces discrete daisy-chain designs and inflexible system buses, converting a fixed hardware configuration into a soft-assignable array of computing and packet processing resources. A hardware development kit is also available that features the FM1010 on a modular reference board simplifying the evaluation of the chip alongside other SPI-4.2 devices. The kit includes reference software, a design guide, and all of the electronic files necessary for easy integration of the FM1010 into a board design. The core of the FM1010 is a non-blocking Terabit crossbar circuit called Nexus that was developed using Fulcrum's patented circuit technology. Leveraging Nexus, the FM1010 offers data rates up to 14.4Gbps per SPI-4.2 interface, with ball-to-ball latency under 250ns, and power consumption that scales linearly based on activity. The FM1010 is available in a 1036-ball BGA package, and is priced at \$225 per chip in 1,000-piece quantities. Fulcrum Microsystems Inc, Calabasas Hills, CA 91301, USA.