Flex System PCIe Expansion Node
Product Guide (withdrawn product)

The Flex System™ PCIe Expansion Node provides the ability to attach additional PCI Express cards, such as High IOPS SSD adapters, fabric mezzanine cards, and next-generation graphics processing units (GPU), to supported Flex System compute nodes. This capability is ideal for many applications that require high performance I/O, special telecommunications network interfaces, or hardware acceleration using a PCI Express GPU card. The PCIe Expansion Node supports up to four PCIe adapters and two additional Flex System I/O expansion adapters.

Figure 1 shows the Flex System PCIe Expansion Node attached to a Flex System x240 Compute Node.

Figure 1. Flex System PCIe Expansion Node (right) attached to an x240 Compute Node (left)

Did you know?

The PCIe Expansion Node is ideal for application environments that are written to take advantage of acceleration and visualization performance using GPUs that are connected to Flex System Compute nodes. It is also useful for environments that require specific PCIe adapter connectivity to a Flex System Compute node.

Part number information

Table 1. Ordering part number and feature code

Description	Part number	Feature code
Flex System PCIe Expansion Node	81Y8983	A1BV

The part number includes the following items:

- Flex System PCIe Expansion Node
- Two riser assemblies
- Interposer cable assembly
- Double-wide shelf
- Two auxiliary power cables (for adapters that require additional +12V power)
- Four removable PCIe slot air flow baffles
- Documentation package

Supported servers

The Flex System PCIe Expansion Node is supported when it is attached to the Flex System compute nodes listed in Table 2. Only one Expansion Node can be attached to each compute node.

Table 2. Supported servers

Part number	Description	x220 (7906)	x222 (7916)	x240 (8737, E5-2600)	x240 (8737, E5-2600 v2)	x240 (7162)	x240 M5 (9532)	x240 M5 NEBS	x440 (7917)	x440 (7167)	x880/x480/x280 X6 (7903)	x280/x480/x880 X6 (7196)
81Y8983	PCIe Expansion Node	Y*	N	Y*	Y*	Y*	Y*†	N	N	N	N	N

* The PCIe Expansion Node requires that both processors be installed in the compute node.
† Support for the x240 M5 with NVIDA adapters only when the compute node has 1 TB or less of memory installed.

Features

The PCIe Expansion Node has the following features:

- Support for up to four standard PCIe 2.0 adapters:
  - Two PCIe 2.0 x16 slots that support full-length, full-height adapters (1x, 2x, 4x, 8x, and 16x adapters supported)
  - Two PCIe 2.0 x8 slots that support low-profile adapters (1x, 2x, 4x, and 8x adapters supported)
- Support for PCIe 3.0 adapters by operating them in PCIe 2.0 mode
- Support for one full-length, full-height double-wide adapter (consuming the space of the two full-length, full-height adapter slots)
- Support for PCIe cards with higher power requirements
  The Expansion Node provides two auxiliary power connections, up to 75W each for a total of 150W of additional power using standard 2x3, +12V six-pin power connectors. These connectors are placed on the base planar so that they both can provide power to a single adapter card (up to 225W), or to two adapters (up to 150W each). Power cables are used to connect from these connectors to the PCIe adapters and are included with the PCIe Expansion Node.
- Two Flex System I/O expansion connectors
  The I/O expansion connectors are labeled I/O expansion 3 connector and I/O expansion 4 connector in Figure 2. These I/O connectors expand the I/O capability of the attached compute node.

The layout of the PCIe Expansion Node is shown in Figure 2. The four PCIe slots are routed through two riser connectors on the system planar.

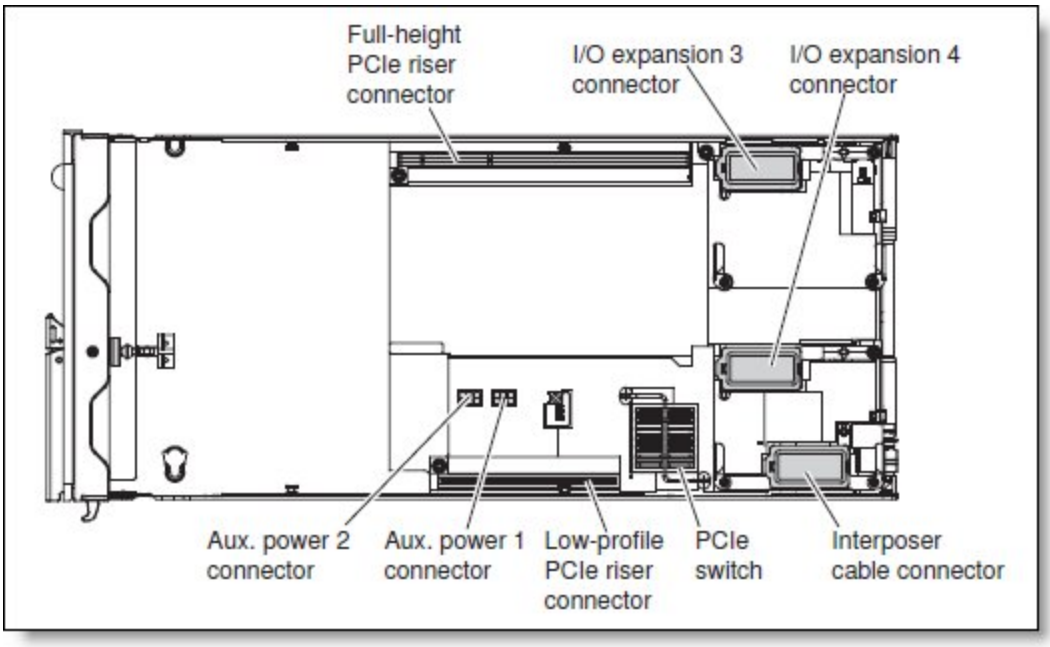

Figure 2. Layout

of the PCIe Expansion Node

Figure 3 shows a top-down view of the PCIe Expansion Node connected to the x240 Compute Node.

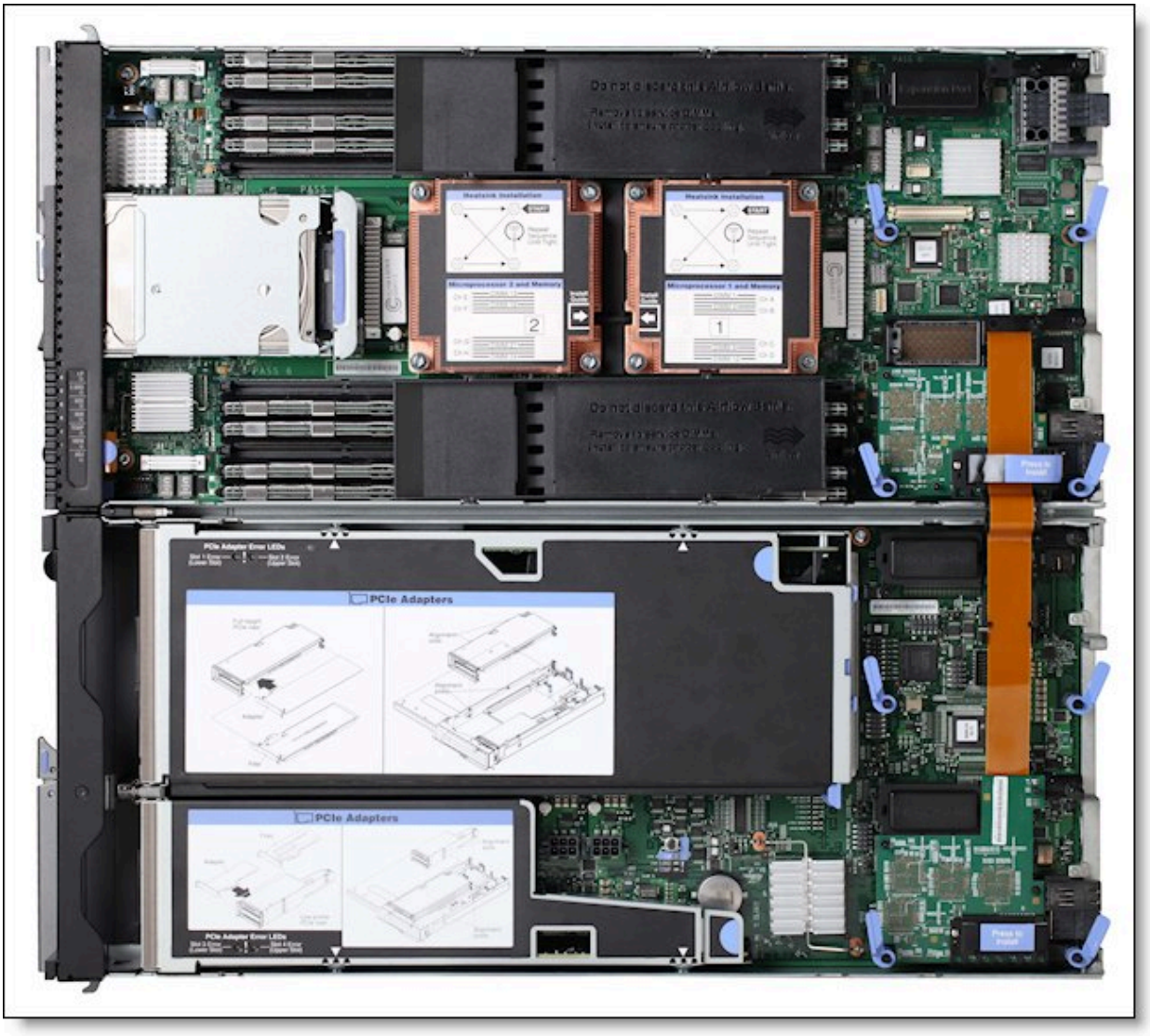

Figure 3. Open view of the PCIe Expansion Node (bottom) connected to the x240 Compute Node (top).

For additional views of the PCIe Expansion Node attached to an x240 M5, see the Flex System x240 M5 Interactive 3D Tour, available from:
https://lenovopress.com/lp0447-flex-system-x240-m5-interactive-3d-tour

Architecture

Figure 4 shows the architecture of the PCIe Expansion Node when connected to a compute node.

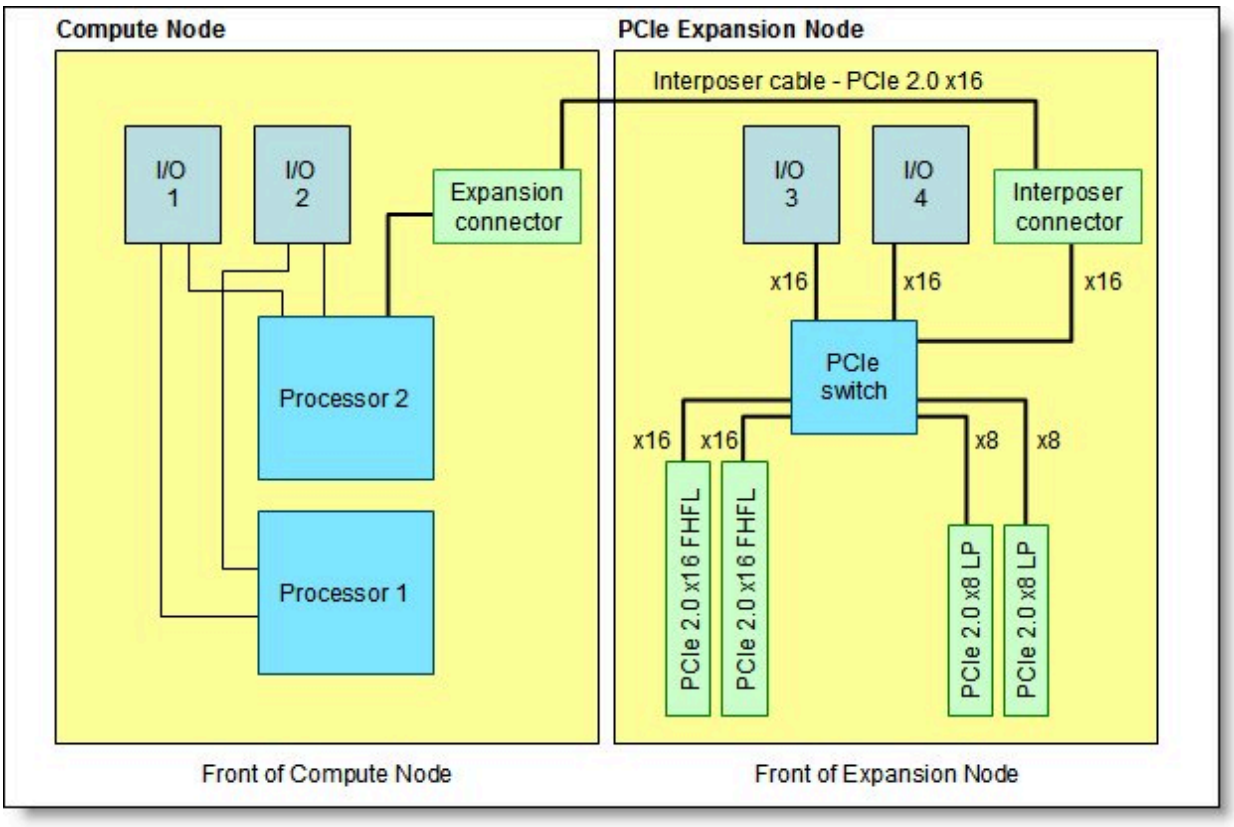

Figure 4. Architecture of the PCIe Expansion Node

The Expansion Node connects to a standard-width compute node using the interposer cable which plugs into the expansion connector and interposer connector on the compute node and Expansion Node respectively. This link forms a PCIe 2.0 x16 connection between the compute node and the PCIe switch in the Expansion Node. The PCIe switch has connections to the six PCIe slots in the Expansion Node:

- PCIe 2.0 x16 connections to the two full-length full-height PCIe slots
- PCIe 2.0 x8 connections to the two low-profile PCIe slots
- PCIe 2.0 x16 connectors to the two Flex System I/O expansion slots (labeled I/O 3 and I/O 4 in the figure).

Notes:

- In compute nodes, such as the x220 and x240, I/O expansion slot 1 and 2 in the server operate at PCIe 3.0 speeds. However, I/O expansion slots 3 and 4 in the PCIe Expansion Node (and also the four standard PCIe slots) operate at PCIe 2.0 speeds.
- The expansion connector in the compute node is routed through processor 2. Therefore, processor 2 must be installed in the compute node.

When adapters are installed in the two I/O expansion slots, they connect to the chassis midplane and provide additional connections to I/O module bays in the chassis. Table 3 shows the connections between the expansion slots and the module bays. Note that the ports available from the adapter vary, depending on whether the adapter is a 2-port or 4-port adapter. Similarly, the number of ports to the I/O module

depend on the number of ports activated in the switch.

Table 3. Adapter-to-I/O bay correspondence

I/O expansion slot	**Port on the adapter**	**Corresponding I/O module bay in the chassis**
Slot 1 (Compute Node)	Port 1	Module bay 1
	Port 2	Module bay 2
	Port 3*	Module bay 1**
	Port 4*	Module bay 2**
Slot 2 (Compute Node)	Port 1	Module bay 3
	Port 2	Module bay 4
	Port 3*	Module bay 3**
	Port 4*	Module bay 4**
Slot 3 (Expansion Node)	Port 1	Module bay 1
	Port 2	Module bay 2
	Port 3*	Module bay 1**
	Port 4*	Module bay 2**
Slot 4 (Expansion Node)	Port 1	Module bay 3
	Port 2	Module bay 4
	Port 3*	Module bay 3**
	Port 4*	Module bay 4**

* Ports 3 and 4 require that a four-port card be installed in the expansion slot.
** Might require one or more port upgrades to be installed in the I/O module.

Supported PCIe adapter cards

The Expansion Node supports the following general adapter characteristics:

- Full-height cards, 4.2 in (107 mm)
- Low-profile cards, 2.5 in (64 mm)
- Half-length cards, 6.6 in (168 mm)
- Full-length cards, 12.3 in (312 mm)
- Support for up to four low-profile PCIe cards
- Support for up to two full-height PCIe cards
- Support for up to one full-height double-wide PCIe card
- Support for PCIe standards 1.1 and 2.0 (PCIe 3.0 adapters supported operating in PCIe 2.0)

The front-facing bezel of the Expansion Node is inset from the normal face of the compute nodes. This inset is to allow for the use of cables connected to PCIe adapter cards that support external connectivity. The Expansion Node provides up to 80 mm of space in the front of the PCIe adapter cards to allow for the bend radius of these cables.

The following table lists the PCIe adapters that are supported in the Expansion Node. Some adapters must be installed in one of the full-height slots as noted. If the NVIDIA Tesla M2090 is installed in the Expansion Node, then an adapter cannot be installed in the other full-height slot. The low-profile slots and Flex System I/O expansion slots can still be used, however.

Note: If an NVIDIA adapter is installed, the maximum system memory that can be installed is 1 TB. See https://support.lenovo.com/us/en/solutions/HT114952 for details.

Table 4. Supported PCIe adapters

Part number	Feature code	Description	Maximum Supported	x220 (7906)	x240 (8737, E5-2600)	x240 (8737, E5-2600 v2)	x240 (7162)	x240 M5 (9532, E5-2600 v3)	x240 M5 (9532, E5-2600 v4)
Flash Storage Adapters									
00YA800*	AT7N	io3 1.25TB Enterprise Mainstream Flash Adapter	4	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
00YA803*	AT7P	io3 1.6TB Enterprise Mainstream Flash Adapter	4	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
00YA806*	AT7Q	io3 3.2TB Enterprise Mainstream Flash Adapter	4	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
00YA809*	AT7R	io3 6.4TB Enterprise Mainstream Flash Adapter	2	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
00YA812*	AT7L	Intel P3700 1.6TB NVMe Enterprise Performance Flash Adapter	4	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
00YA815*	AT7M	Intel P3700 2.0TB NVMe Enterprise Performance Flash Adapter	4	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
00AE995*	ARYP	1000GB Enterprise io3 Flash Adapter	4	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
00AE998*	ARYQ	1300GB Enterprise io3 Flash Adapter	4	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
00JY001*	ARYR	2600GB Enterprise io3 Flash Adapter	4	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
00JY004*	ARYS	5200GB Enterprise io3 Flash Adapter	2	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GPUs									

Part number	Feature code	Description	Maximum Supported	x220 (7906)	x240 (8737, E5-2600)	x240 (8737, E5-2600 v2)	x240 (7162)	x240 M5 (9532, E5-2600 v3)	x240 M5 (9532, E5-2600 v4)
47C2137*	A5HD	NVIDIA Tesla K40 for Flex System PCIe Expansion Node	1†‡	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7C57A02891	AX8L	NVIDIA Tesla M10 GPU, PCIe (passive)	1‡	N	N	N	N	N	Y

* Withdrawn from marketing
† If this adapter is installed in the Expansion Node, then another adapter cannot be installed in the other full-height slot. The low-profile slots and Flex System I/O expansion slots can still be used
‡ NVIDIA adapters supported only in servers with 1 TB or less memory installed

Consult the ServerProven® site for the current list of adapter cards that are supported in the Expansion Node:
http://www.lenovo.com/us/en/serverproven/flexsystem.shtml

For information about the Flash Storage Adapters, see the list of Internal Storage Product Guides from Lenovo:
https://lenovopress.com/servers/options/ssdadapter

Note: Although the design of Expansion Node allows for a much greater set of standard PCIe adapter cards, the preceding table lists the adapters that are specifically supported. If the PCI Express adapter that you require is not on the ServerProven web site, use the ServerProven Opportunity Request for Evaluation (SPORE) process to confirm compatibility in the desired configuration.

Supported I/O expansion cards

The following table lists the Flex System I/O expansion cards that are supported in the PCIe Expansion Node.

Table 5. Supported Flex System adapter cards

Part number	Feature code	Description	Supported in PEN
Converged Network adapters			
88Y5920*	A4K3	CN4022 2-port 10Gb Converged Adapter	Yes
00JY800*	A5RP	CN4052 2-port 10Gb Virtual Fabric	Yes
00AG540	ATBT	CN4052S 2-port 10Gb Virtual Fabric Adapter	Yes**
00JY804	A5RV	CN4052 Virtual Fabric Adapter SW Upgrade (FoD)	Yes
00AG590	ATBS	CN4054S 4-port 10Gb Virtual Fabric Adapter	Yes**
90Y3558*	A1R0	CN4054 Virtual Fabric Adapter SW Upgrade (FoD)	Yes
94Y5160*	A4R6	CN4058S 8-port 10Gb Virtual Fabric	Yes
94Y5164	A4R9	CN4058S Virtual Fabric Adapter SW Upgrade (FoD)	Yes
Ethernet adapters			
49Y7900*	A10Y	EN2024 4-port 1Gb Ethernet Adapter	Yes
90Y3466*	A1QY	EN4132 2-port 10 Gb Ethernet Adapter	Yes**
00AG530	A5RN	EN4172 2-port 10Gb Ethernet Adapter	Yes
90Y3482*	A3HK	EN6132 2-port 40Gb Ethernet Adapter	No
Fibre Channel adapters			
69Y1938	A1BM	FC3172 2-port 8Gb FC Adapter	Yes
95Y2375*	A2N5	FC3052 2-port 8Gb FC Adapter	Yes
88Y6370*	A1BP	FC5022 2-port 16Gb FC Adapter	Yes
95Y2379*	A3HU	FC5024D 4-port 16Gb FC Adapter	No
95Y2386*	A45R	FC5052 2-port 16Gb FC Adapter	Yes
95Y2391	A45S	FC5054 4-port 16Gb FC Adapter	Yes
69Y1942*	A1BQ	FC5172 2-port 16Gb FC Adapter	Yes
InfiniBand adapters			
90Y3454	A1QZ	IB6132 2-port FDR InfiniBand Adapter	Yes
90Y3486*	A365	IB6132D 2-port FDR InfiniBand Adapter	No
SAS			
90Y4390*	A2XW	ServeRAID M5115 SAS/SATA Controller	No

* Withdrawn from marketing
** Operates at PCIe 2.0 speeds when installed in the PCIe Expansion Node. For best performance install adapter directly on Compute Node.

Consult the ServerProven site for the current list of adapter cards that are supported in the Expansion Node:
http://www.lenovo.com/us/en/serverproven/flexsystem.shtml

For information about these adapters, see the Product Guides for Flex System adapters:

- Network adapters: https://lenovopress.com/servers/blades/nic
- Storage adapters: https://lenovopress.com/servers/blades/hba

Physical specifications

Dimensions and weight (approximate):

- Height: 56 mm (2.2 in)
- Depth: 489 mm (19.25 in)
- Width: 217 mm (8.6 in)
- Maximum weight: 5.4 kg (11.9 lb)

Shipping dimensions and weight (approximate):

- Height: 240 mm (9.5 in)
- Depth: 680 mm (26.8 in)
- Width: 601 mm (23.7 in)
- Weight: 9.5 kg (21 lb)

Operating environment

When the unit is powered on, it is supported in the following environment:

- Temperature: 5° C to 40° C (41° F to 104° F)
- Humidity, noncondensing: -12° C dew point (10° F) and 8% - 85% relative humidity
- Maximum dew point: 24° C (75° F)
- Maximum altitude: 3048 m (10,000 ft)
- Maximum rate of temperature change: 5° C/hr (41° F/hr)

Regulatory compliance

The unit conforms to the following standards:

- ASHRAE Class A3
- FCC - Verified to comply with Part 15 of the FCC Rules Class A
- Canada ICES-004, issue 3 Class A
- UL/IEC 60950-1
- CSA C22.2 No. 60950-1
- NOM-019
- Argentina IEC 60950-1
- Japan VCCI, Class A
- IEC 60950-1 (CB Certificate and CB Test Report)
- China CCC (GB4943); (GB9254, Class A); (GB17625.1)
- Taiwan BSMI CNS13438, Class A; CNS14336
- Australia/New Zealand AS/NZS CISPR 22, Class A
- Korea KN22, Class A, KN24
- Russia/GOST ME01, IEC 60950-1, GOST R 51318.22, GOST R
- 51318.249, GOST R 51317.3.2, GOST R 51317.3.3
- IEC 60950-1 (CB Certificate and CB Test Report)
- CE Mark (EN55022 Class A, EN60950-1, EN55024, EN61000-3-2,
- EN61000-3-3)
- CISPR 22, Class A
- TUV-GS (EN60950-1/IEC 60950-1, EK1-ITB2000)

Related publications

For more information, see the following resources:

- PCIe Expansion Node User Guide
  https://pubs.lenovo.com/flexsystem-pcie-expansion-node/
- ServerProven hardware compatibility page for Flex System
  http://www.lenovo.com/us/en/serverproven/flexsystem.shtml
- Product Guides for Flex System compute nodes
  https://lenovopress.com/servers/blades/server
- Flex System Interoperability Guide
  http://lenovopress.com/fsig
- US Announcement Letter
  http://ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=dd&subtype=ca&&htmlfid=897/ENUS112-139

Related product families

Product families related to this document are the following:

- Blade Expansion Units
- GPU adapters

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