

Adding Enclosures to a Live RAID System

Affected Products

Xyratex RAID controllers — F5402E, F5412E, E5412E and F6412E

Description

When replacing an expansion enclosure I/O canister or adding a full enclosure to an online system, the user must assure that all SAS cabling remains disconnected from the added components for at least 30 seconds after power is applied.

Follow these steps if replacing an I/O canister from an expansion enclosure.

- Remove any SAS cable connected to the I/O canister and remove the canister.
- Insert the new I/O canister. Make sure that no cables are connected to the canister.
- Wait 30 seconds and insert the SAS cable to the newly inserted canister.

Follow these steps if adding a full enclosure to an online system.

- Power up the additional enclosure without connecting any SAS cable.
- Wait for at least 30 seconds before connecting any cables.
- Proceed to connect the cables as specified by the user's manual.

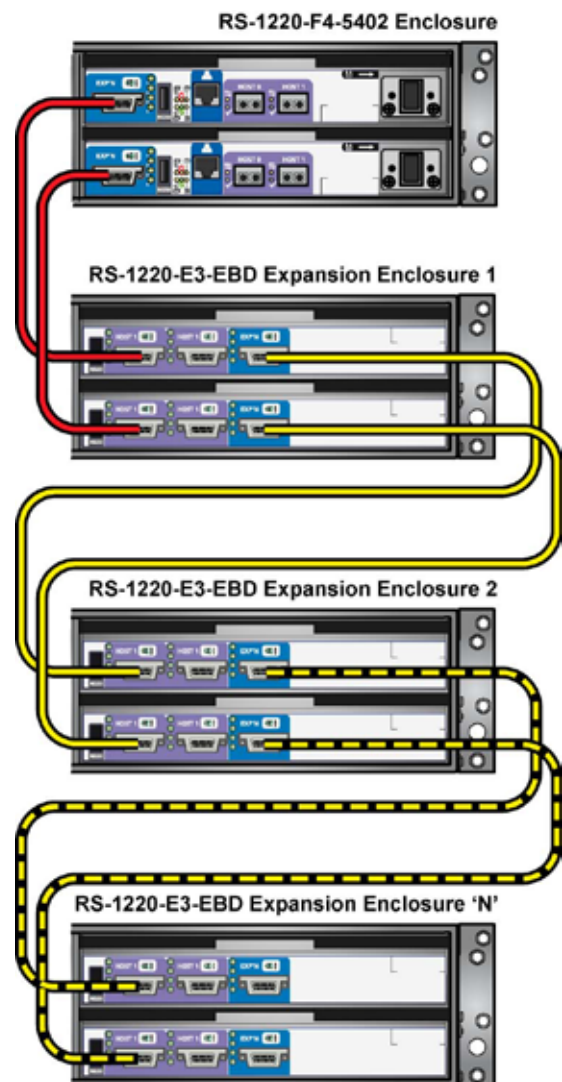
Background

In a perfect scenario, for any daisy chained configuration, enclosures are interconnected and turned on at the same time. The RAID controller takes about 2 minutes to boot-up versus the 30 seconds required to power up an expansion enclosure. Logically, the RAID controller will scan the expansion enclosures a while after they are ready for access.

In some circumstances it is necessary to replace an I/O canister or to add an expansion enclosure. The user must make sure that the I/O canisters in the expansion enclosures are powered on for at least 30 seconds before connecting any SAS cable. If the RAID controller scans the expanders before they are ready for access, the expander information will be incorrect or unstable.

Reasons

If the RAID controller reads the I/O canister expanders before they are ready, I/O may not be possible.



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