

With Myri10GE, can I use MSI-X interrupts on Linux 2.6.18 and earlier?

Model:

ARC Series E Adapters

Software:

N/A

Operating System:

Supports Linux Operating System.

Information:

No, we do not recommend using MSI-X interrupts with Linux 2.6.18 and earlier.

The Linux 2.6.18, and earlier kernels, have obsolete MSI/MSI-X subsystems which do not allow one to switch between MSI and MSI-X without rebooting. Once a MSI interrupt has been registered for a device, it cannot be switched to MSI-X, and vice versa. To use MSI-X, you'll need to ensure that the driver is loaded with the correct parameters the first time.

In general, we do not suggest using MSI-X on 2.6.18 and earlier kernels because the kernel's MSI-X code unnecessarily masks and unmask the MSI-X interrupt vector on every interrupt, which results in additional system loads. Things should work but it may be slower than MSI or even legacy interrupts.

The best thing you could do would be to upgrade your kernel to something from kernel.org, or to use a distribution based on a more modern kernel.

**Note that 2.6.19 has a memory leak for MSI/MSI-X, so we'd suggest at least 2.6.20.

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Change</u>
1	7/4/2016	Initial Draft
2	8/19/2016	Feedback EDits

