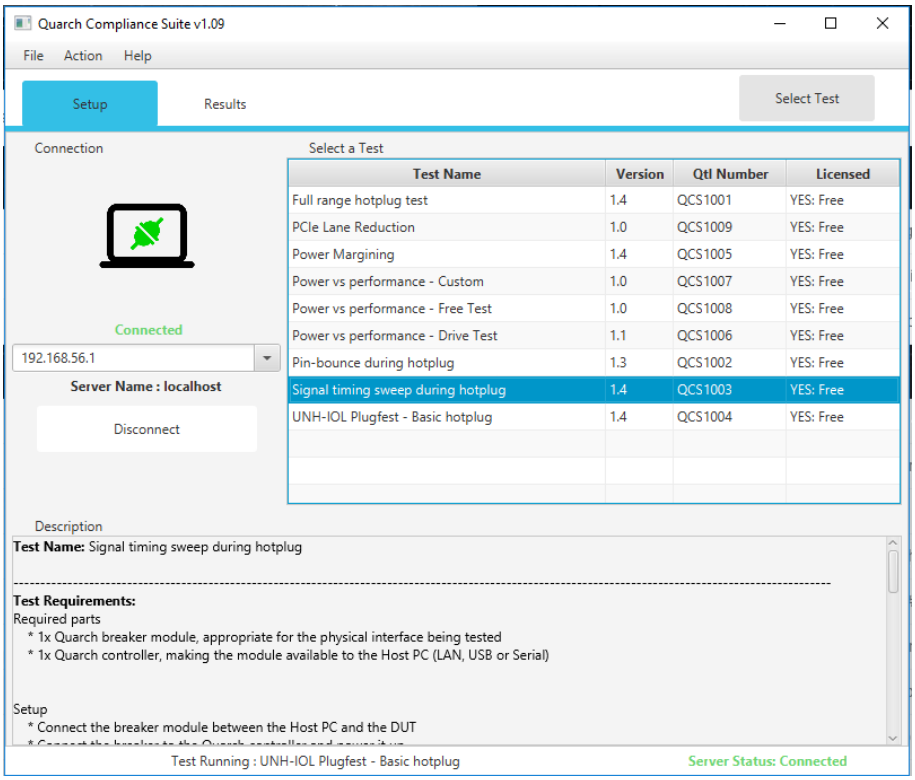
Quarch Technology Ltd

Quarch Compliance Suite

Setup & Test Specification

QCS1003 – Signal timing sweep during hotplug

V1.4



Change History

1.0		Initial Release
1.1		Written in new format
1.3		Updated documentation
1.4		Improved report layout

Contents

Introduction

To make known some of Quarch Breaker module's features, Quarch has created the Signal timing sweep during Hotplug test.

Each signal is in turn individually exposed to a short delay of power during the plug event. For the PCIe devices, rather than a lane's Tx & Rx pair being tested simultaneously, each individual differential signal is instead tested.

During manual hotplug events, some pins may not mate cleanly and take a period of time longer to do so. These events have been known to cause faults during power up of a device. Using a Quarch breaker module, this test is able to automatically replicate a number of scenarios that may cause fault on the drive.

Requirements

Host PC

- This is the PC which will mount the storage device under test (DUT). This system required admin privileges to install and execute the QCS server. Windows and Linux are supported.

Client PC

- This is the PC which will run the QCS client and record the results. This can be the same as the Host PC but it NOT recommended for this test. Windows and Linux are supported.

Quarch breaker module.

- A breaker module with the correct form factor and generation as the drive under test.

Device under Test (DUT)

- Your storage device. SAS, SATA and PCIe NVMe devices are supported.

Installation

Initial installation and setup is described in the QCS ‘Quickstart’ guide. Please see this document if you are setting up for the first time. It will walk you through the QCS install process.

Setup

Host and Client PC setup is common across all QCS tests, so some of the steps below are only required the first time you prepare for testing

- Setup the Host PC
    - As described in the QCS Quickstart document
    - Ensure the Host PC is connected to the LAN (assuming a separate Client PC is in use)
    - Use of WIFI is highly discouraged for this testing.
- Setup the Client PC
    - As described in the QCS Quickstart document
    - Ensure the Client PC is connected to the LAN (assuming a separate Host PC is in use)
    - Use of WIFI is highly discouraged for this testing.
- Setup the Quarch Breaker module
    - Place the Quarch breaker between the DUT and host slot. Connect the ribbon cable to the Quarch Interface kit or Quarch array module. Connect this to the Host PC.
    - Power on the Quarch Module

      Choose either USB or Serial for the Quarch Breaker Module. The Module must be accessible to the **Host** PC, so be sure you cable to the right one if using USB.

If you need to configure the breaker module settings, you can do so via TorridonTerminal: https://quarch.com/file/torridon-terminal/

This is also helpful to ensure you have connected the module correctly and can see it. If you cannot see the module and wish to check it is turned on, use TorridonTerminal to issue the command:

```
> run:power up
```

Typical equipment layout

A typical equipment layout is shown below.

Begin the test

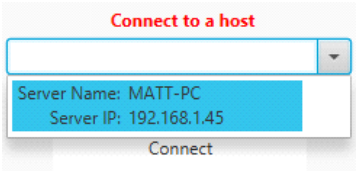
- Start QCS server of the Host PC
- > python -m quarchpy.run qcs

The server should start up almost immediately. Note the IP address and mDNS name which you will use to connect to the server later.

- Start QCS application on the Client PC
- > Double click on the QCS icon to start

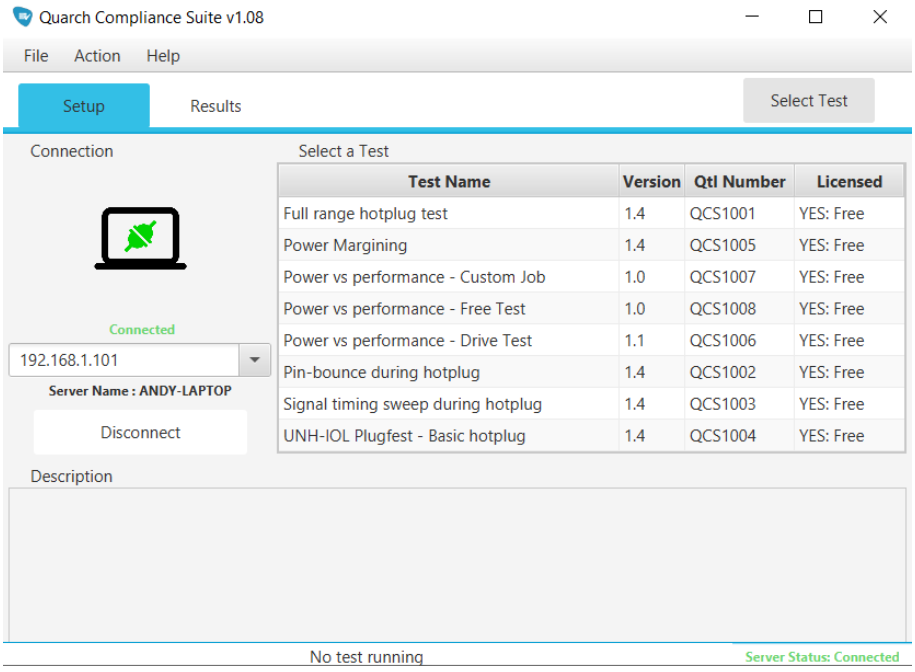
- Connect the Client to the Server

- Enter the IP address of the Server into the Client connection box. If ‘zeroconf’ is installed on the server then it should autodetect and be visible in the connection drop-down menu for fast connection.



- Select the test to run

- In this case, select the QCS1003, ‘Signal timing sweep during Hotplug’ and either double-click or select ‘Select Test’



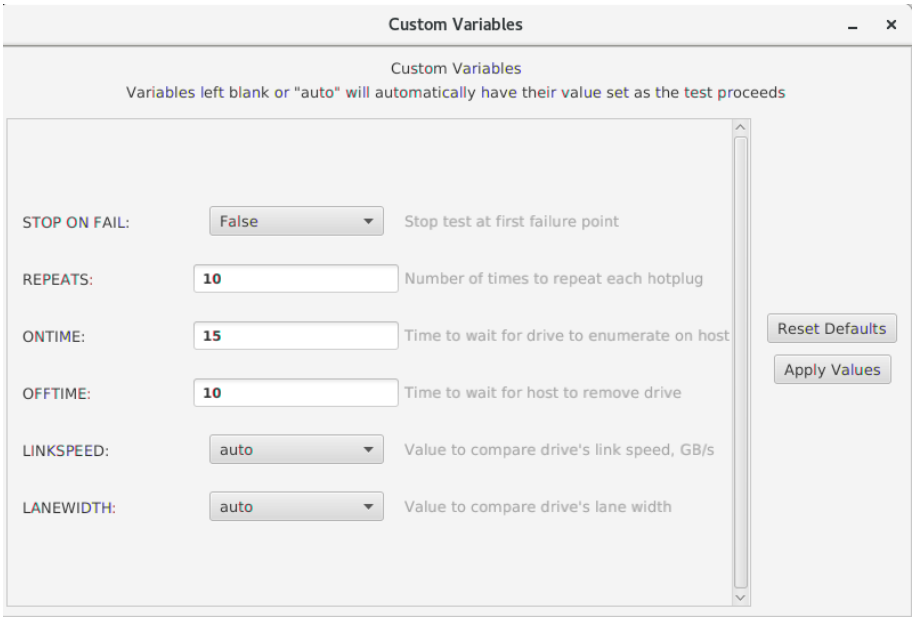
- This process can take 30 seconds or so, as the test is sent to the Server and the required applications are started on the Client.

- When the test is ready, the ‘Start/Play’ button will become available to begin running. If you want to change any setting for the test, you can do so now in the ‘Custom Variables’ window.
- When you have made any changes you require, press the run button to begin.

Custom variables

Most tests have several variables that can be set. These allow for things such as setting the number of times that a test loops or setting the time to wait for a drive to enumerate. These will be different in each test suite.

QCS1003 has several useful settings to consider:



Stop on fail

- When set to true, the test will halt if there are any errors or test failures

Repeats

- Amount of times to repeat each section of this test

OnTime

- Time to wait for drive to enumerate on system after a hotplug

OffTime

- Time to wait for host to remove drive

Link Speed

- Value to **compare** drive's link speed against – If this is left as Auto, the link speed to be used will be the speed it is currently at when it is selected in the test.

Lane Width

- Value to **compare** drive's lane width against - If this is left as Auto, the lane width used to be used will be the width it is currently at when it is selected in the test.

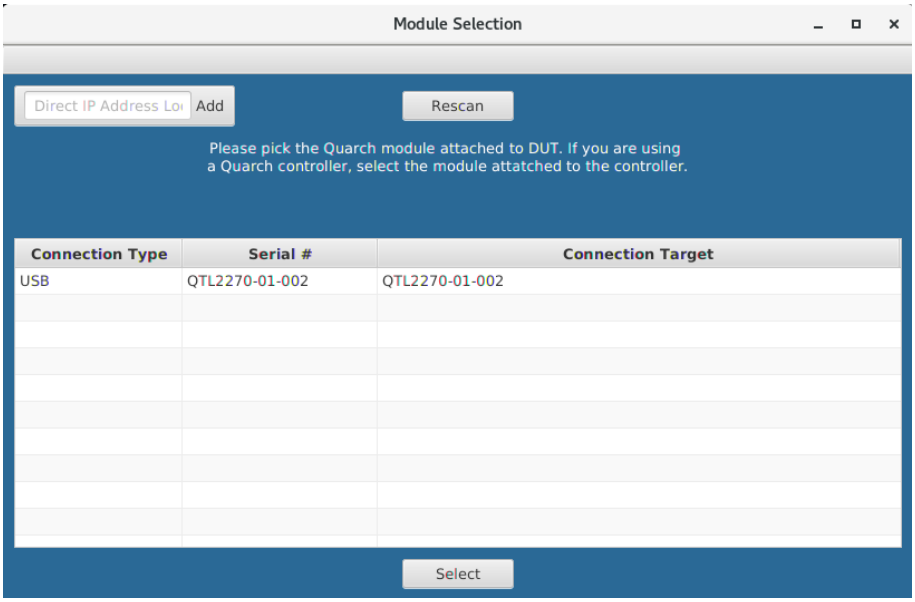
Select the devices

As the test starts running, you will be prompted to select the Quarch Breaker Module and storage device to use. The dialogs have a rescan button: just in case you have forgotten to plug something in!

Select the breaker module

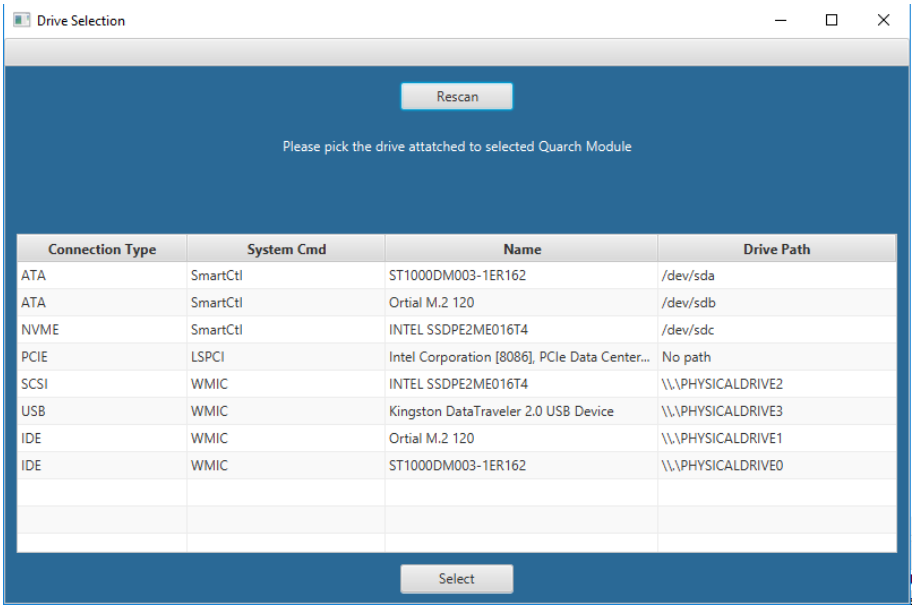
First you will be prompted to select the Breaker Module. Here we have a QTL2270 (Gen4 PCIe U.3) module connected to the Client PC via USB.

The breaker module must be available to the **Host** PC. If this is not the case, you will not see it shown here.



Select the storage device (DUT)

Next you will be prompted to select the storage device to test.



Be sure that you select the correct DUT.
Selecting the wrong drive will show fail test points throughout half of the test as the drive being monitored in QCS is not the drive being hotplugged.

View test progress

Real time results are displayed in the log. Any failures will be clearly marked in red, and noted on the error counters.

If many failures occur early on, it is likely that you have a problem with the setup of the equipment. Expanding the failed rows gives more information on the failure.

Common test failures

- **Command to a Quarch module fails to get a response**.
- Module has become disconnected or powered down. Check your cabling.
- **Command to a Quarch module returns a bad command or invalid parameter error.**
- The Module connected is not the correct one for the test, or it required an upgrade.
- **The DUT is not removed from the system correctly during the power cycle test.**
- The wrong DUT may be selected. Make sure you have chosen the right device. If uncertain, you can use TestMonkey or TorridonTerminal to manually hot swap the DUT and verify that it is powering the correct drive.
- **The DUT is not enumerated on the system after each hotplug test.**
- Does the DUT and Host system support hot plug? If you cannot manually hot plug a device in the Host and have it enumerated correctly, then the test will not work.

- **The Signals being used in the test are not the ones associated with the drive.**
- Signals for each test are automatically detected from the Quarch module picked at test start. Should the signals be different to those expected, ensure the Quarch module chosen is correct and compatible with the DUT.

Test specification

Basis for testing

This test is to enable users to test signal timing delays and see effects it has on a drive.

Your comments, requests and suggestions are very welcome and can be directed to support@quarch.com.

Future versions of the test suite will aim to include these improvements where practical.

Assumptions

We assume that the drive connected is in ‘optimal’ condition, to begin testing (ie: that it is empty and in ‘out the box’ condition).

We assume setup is correct with DUT and Host being capable of hotplug.

We assume PC’s are connected across LAN.

Test Itinerary

- All signals associated with Quarch module chosen are delayed individually at the following timings.
    - Delay: 0mS
    - Delay: 10mS
    - Delay: 20mS
    - Delay: 30mS
    - Delay: 40mS
    - Delay: 60mS
    - Delay: 100mS
    - Delay: 1000mS

- Each signal delay is run once. (*This can be altered in the custom variables*)

- Signals to be delayed are discovered from the Quarch module selected during the start of the test.

Test steps

1. **Check drive powered up**

   Ensure drive under test is powered on and discovered by the system.

2. **Run power down to drive**

   Send “run power down” command to Quarch module.

3. **Wait 3 seconds for drive to ensure drive is powered off – Check the drive removed from system**

   Sleep test for 3 second.

4. **Apply new timing delay to signal under test**

   Each signal is subjected to every signal delay timing noted earlier in this document.

5. **Check drive is enumerated on the system**

   Poll system commands to check for drive enumeration on system

6. **Check link speed (PCIE devices only)**

   Compare link speed against link speed custom variable

   (*Note – If there was no custom value input, the link speed to compare against will be what the drive originally started with)*

7. **Check lane width (PCIE devices only)**

   Compare link speed against lane width custom variable

   (*Note – If there was no custom value input, the lane width to compare against will be what the drive originally started with)*

Test completion

1. **Generate Test Report**

   Under the “Action” tab, there is an option to auto generate a test report upon completion of the test.

Commented [LH1]: Perhaps make mention of the test report generation on all test descriptions?

Passing a pull event.

After sending a “run power down” to the Quarch module, the test will consistently query the system command used to find the drive. A drive passes this check point if it is successfully removed from the list of drives returned from the system command.

Passing a plug event.

After sending a “run power up” to the Quarch module, the test will consistently query the system command used to find the drive. A drive passes this check point if it is successfully added to the list of drives returned from the system command.

Passing a link speed check – NVMe / PCIe devices.

After the DUT is powered up and discovered, the test queries the LSPCI command using “lspci –vvv”, giving a very verbose output of the drive capabilities. Found within these capabilities is its current link speed. A drive passes this check point if the link speed is consistent as to what was expected. By default – This is the link speed a drive has at the beginning of the test.

Passing a lane width check – NVMe / PCIe devices.

After the DUT is powered up and discovered, the test queries the LSPCI command using “lspci –vvv”, giving a very verbose output of the drive capabilities. Found within these capabilities is its current lanewidth. A drive passes this check point if the lane width is consistent as to what was expected. By default – This is the lane width a drive has at the beginning of the test.