Will copper replace optical modules

Overview

At the GTC 2026 conference, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang explicitly corrected the market misconception of "optics replacing copper," stating that copper cables remain indispensable inside AI server racks due to their physical advantages like zero power consumption and low latency, while. At the GTC 2026 conference, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang explicitly corrected the market misconception of "optics replacing copper," stating that copper cables remain indispensable inside AI server racks due to their physical advantages like zero power consumption and low latency, while. The transition from copper to 800G optical interconnect — and increasingly 1. 6T — architectures is how next-generation AI infrastructure scales. As AI infrastructure scales at an unprecedented rate. But there is still plenty of copper wiring lurking within data centers, presenting a ripe opportunity for optical vendors like Corning. Unlike existing copper and optical links, which rely (a) Copper link reach. In the coming years, scaling up AI accelerator clusters in data centers will face compounding.

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