

Show Me The Data: Simplifying Storage Management



As storage management grows increasingly challenging thanks to the continued explosion of data, it's absolutely vital for organizations to simplify and streamline this area of their business if they are to make the most of their storage media. How, though, can this be done?

During a recent conversation with a customer, we asked: as a Storage Manager, are you positioning your business for success? Rather than the anticipated response of, "We're technicians, so we don't bother with the business side of things," we saw proof that IT is becoming more aligned with business than ever before. The response was, "Everything is about managing cost, and reducing the number of people involved in delivering our service to the business."

With organizations' digital information growing from gigabytes to petabytes to whatever-bytes seemingly overnight, Storage Managers are forever catching up and are facing mounting obstacles every day.

It's all about the data

Business success depends on mission-critical information – as we know, it's all about the data. However, unless your storage is properly managed and available – and data can be quickly stored, processed and protected in your enterprise – your data is useless. Consider this:

- Have you ever wondered if there were ways to reduce costs associated with your current storage practices?
- Are you using too many niche tools from the various hardware vendors deployed in your shop?
- Can your data be quickly and easily shared with customers, employees, partners and suppliers?
- The hourly cost of downtime for a typical company can range from \$10,000 to \$1M. Can you afford this risk?
- Are you under increasing pressure to keep information secure and compliant?

Pushed to the edge

In today's modern IT landscape, the challenges facing Storage Managers are constantly growing and evolving. Ever-expanding amounts of data are pushing storage systems to the edge of their capabilities and rapidly exhausting available storage.

As a result, IT teams are constantly racing to optimize available space, add capacity (i.e. buy even more storage) and keep up with the latest business demands. Rather than racing to complete a growing list of daily tasks, perhaps a more simplified approach to storage management can help.

Managing and optimizing your storage environment while ensuring high availability can be costly and complicated. Storage Managers not only manage and provision petabytes of storage, they must also reduce risk, improve business services, manage costs and align IT investments with the needs of the business.

Storage management checklist

Storage Managers are challenged to manage the expanding storage hierarchy (DASD and tape) with existing resources and head count, help provide efficient utilization, media optimization and show consistent value to the business. Ask yourself if your storage management strategy features these capabilities:

- A hardware vendor-neutral storage monitoring and policy-based automation that is designed to unify and simplify complex administrative tasks
- Centralized storage management to enable efficient analysis and administration of the entire storage environment.
- See at-a-glance the status of storage media across multiple CPUs, including “in-transit” and off-site locations.
- Maximize existing resources by identifying trends and forecasting storage utilization with enterprise-wide automation, monitoring, reporting and forecasting.
- Improve business service levels by proactively identifying and eliminating problems
- And finally, your personal development: are you an active participant in local user groups or communities? Do you attend storage conferences annually to learn new techniques?

Dressed for success?

That leads me back into the original question: Are you positioning your business for success?

Storage Management solutions from CA Technologies are designed to help you get the most out of your investments. Plus, we can help you address compliance and green initiatives while also increasing efficiency and improving the security of your business information.

CA provides automated storage management services to industry-leading mainframe hardware and software storage platforms from CA Technologies, IBM®, EMC, Hitachi Data Systems (HDS), Oracle® (StorageTek™) and others. It allows these platforms to be managed using a consistent interface and automation system, without the need to learn multiple niche utilities.

We also enjoy a robust community of storage management professionals just like yourself. Here, anyone can learn more, collaborate with peers and colleagues, and communicate directly with Storage Subject experts.

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