Solution Brief

NetApp All-SAN Array for Business-Critical Enterprise Applications

Key Benefits

Availability and Performance

- Continuous data access during unplanned storage/path outages and planned upgrades and maintenance
- The symmetric Active/Active architecture enables data access using paths from either controller to all LUNs. This means that there will always be active available paths.
- Market-leading performance, even when storage efficiency, encryption, and data protection are in use

Worry-free Operation

- Like all NetApp AFFs it is optimized to meet the rigorous storage and data services requirements for business-critical applications
- Availability guarantee, performance guarantee, and storage efficiency guarantee

Future-proof Infrastructure

- Ensures response times are great, with continuous access to your data
- Non-disruptive upgrades ensure an uninterrupted user experience

The Challenge

Most large enterprises run their core operational workloads on SAN (block-based) storage systems, because they need non-stop availability and performance. To simplify operations, in many cases they run these workloads on a dedicated part of their infrastructure.

Even when IT departments are running both SAN and NAS (file-based) workloads, many companies prefer to operate them separately. Business unit leaders often have the autonomy to allocate the resources they decide are needed to support specific initiatives. By coordinating with their counterparts in IT, they can dedicate resources to ensure that specific workloads run at peak performance under all circumstances.

Some companies have found it technically simpler to segregate block-based and file-based workloads due to lower training and overhead costs for administrators and support personnel. Or a business may have found that a unified (SAN and NAS) architecture complicates their planning, implementation, and maintenance operations.

Part of the challenge is that data center technologies are constantly evolving. When a company decides to refresh one part of their infrastructure, such as upgrading their Fibre Channel network, they often will also update their storage systems to keep up with performance improvements in the network or hosts.

Or when legacy storage hardware systems near the end of their support contracts, companies may reexamine their data management operations to gain efficiencies or reduce costs. Application upgrades, such as moving to the latest version of Oracle, SQL Server or SAP databases, are also important transitions with storage implications. Given that these SAN systems typically run business-critical workloads, a primary concern for buyers is non-stop availability. Even in the edge case where a failover has occurred, it's essential that user access not be interrupted. High-availability architecture is a key requirement.

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The Solution

NetApp's All-SAN Array (ASA) delivers a simplified and dedicated SAN experience that provides continuous data availability for your organization's mission-critical databases and other SAN workloads. Like all NetApp AFF systems, it offers market-leading performance, even with inline storage efficiency, encryption, and active data protection.

The ASA features a symmetric active-active controller architecture, to ensure continuous access to your data during planned and unplanned outages, including upgrades and maintenance. With best-in class data services integration with Oracle, SAP, and Microsoft SQL Server databases, plus VMware and other leading hypervisors, ASA delivers accelerated time to value for enterprise database applications.

The All-SAN Array is an HA pair with both active controllers equally capable of communicating to a LUN. This symmetric active-active configuration provides uninterrupted access to your LUNs, with virtually instantaneous failover recovery. The systems are simple to configure, provision, and manage—even by an IT generalist. The new System Manager.next interface makes the user experience especially easy and intuitive, and all the other goodness of ONTAP's data management capabilities are built in. It's a dedicated and simple SAN experience.

NetApp's leadership in the hybrid multicloud provides CIOs and other IT leaders with optimal control over their strategy, seamlessly mixing on-premises and cloud technologies to deliver maximum performance, security, and cost-efficiency. There's no better way to future-proof your infrastructure investments.

About NetApp

NetApp is the data authority for hybrid cloud. We provide a full range of hybrid cloud data services that simplify management of applications and data across cloud and on-premises environments to accelerate digital transformation. Together with our partners, we empower global organizations to unleash the full potential of their data to expand customer touchpoints, foster greater innovation and optimize their operations.
For more information, visit www.netapp.com. #DataDriven