

REPORT CARD: GRADING OUR 2010 PREDICTIONS

A

Thin Provisioning

Thin provisioning has gone from good idea to basic storage system feature in just a few years. We thought 2010 would see it take its place in the pantheon of storage array must-haves, so we think we're spot on in calling this one.

A

8 Gbps Fibre Channel

We might have tossed ourselves a soft ball with this one, but we'll take the credit anyway. According to our surveys, 8 Gig currently accounts for approximately 25% of Fibre Channel gear, almost double the number of the previous year. Maybe 16 Gig for 2012?

B

Backup for Virtual Servers

If we were graded on how much one of our hot technologies was talked about over the past year, we'd get an A+ for this one. Most of what we heard was a lot of complaining about what a pain it is to back up virtual machines. But the big news—and maybe a future hot technology—came from VMware with its new APIs that will lighten the load for backup apps.

B

Solid-State Storage

We give ourselves a "B" for the buzz around solid-state storage, even though it didn't take hold as we thought it would. There's no doubt that solid state moved beyond the early adopter phase, but it's way short of pervasive. Don't let anybody fool you; it's still all about price.

C+

Data Deduplication for Primary Storage

This is another technology that scored high on hype but failed to make its mark in the mainstream. Last year we noted that only a handful of vendors were in this game, now—with some notable acquisitions—there are even fewer players. We might still be a little early with this one, but we're dusting it off and reprising it for 2011.