



2011 EDITORIAL CALENDAR (June – December)

JUNE 2011

○ **Data Reduction in Primary Storage**

Data reduction in primary storage—what we like to call DRIPS—might be the hottest topic in storage systems today. Having seen the space efficiencies that can be realized with data deduplication in disk-based backup operations, users are now looking for the same kind of economies in primary storage systems. While some systems vendors can boast data reduction features today, many others are scurrying to add those capabilities—in some cases, by scooping up the startups that provided much of the innovation in primary storage data reduction. We'll cover the players and methods, and offer implementation suggestions.

○ **Storage Management Apps for Virtual Server Environments**

Virtualized servers have created numerous problems for storage managers, not the least of which is keeping track of the relationships between storage assets and what can be very mobile virtual servers. Some storage management products have adapted to this new environment, providing the capability of keeping track of virtual servers, the applications they host and the storage they use.

○ **Quality Awards VI: Backup & Recovery Software**

Backup is still Job #1 for storage managers, and their main tool to get that job done is their backup app. In this sixth round of the Storage magazine/SearchStorage.com Quality Awards, we survey storage managers to gauge their level of satisfaction with the backup applications they're currently using. CommVault has been dominant in this Quality Awards category, winning four of the five previous surveys.

JULY 2011

○ **Backing Up Virtual Servers: Traditional Backup Apps vs. VM-specific Backup Tools**

At one time, VMware's Consolidated Backup (VCB) looked like a good alternative to trying to force traditional backup methods into a virtualized server environment, but VCB never caught on and even VMware said it wasn't the best fit. Now, backup managers have an array of backup choices tailored for virtual environments, including built-from-the-ground-up backup apps that focus solely on virtual servers and tried-and-true traditional backup apps that take

advantage of new hooks into virtual server environments. We run down the choices, tell you what to consider and offer some suggested best practices.

- **Soup Up Your Storage: Storage System Performance Troubleshooting and Tune-Up Tips**
It's hard not to focus on disk storage capacity these days, but array performance is often just as critical. You can add more disk to cope with capacity, but kicking performance up a notch usually isn't that easy. This article identifies the most likely performance-sapping bottlenecks in storage environments and offers suggestions for speeding up storage systems.
- **Turn Your Data Center Storage into a Storage Cloud**
There's been a lot of talk about private storage clouds ... and a lot of confusion. Just what constitutes an internal storage cloud, and what are the specific benefits over traditional storage infrastructures? We provide a definition by listing the key characteristics that turn traditional storage into cloud storage, and then describe the tools and products that can help you turn your data center storage into a private cloud storage service.

AUGUST 2011

- **The State of Backup Dedupe**
We all agree, data deduplication should be a part of most disk backup systems. The last couple of years, we've debated source vs. target dedupe approaches, whether dedupe is better implemented in hardware or software, global vs. local dedupe and so on. In this story, we'll take stock of where backup data deduplication is now and where it's heading, including what the major players are doing, de facto standards that are getting attention, and new or enhanced deduplication products.
- **Storage Virtualization: It's Ready, Are You?**
Storage virtualization always seemed like a good idea, but it also seemed hard to do and inevitably lead to vendor lock-in. Today's storage virtualization products--for both and file--are easier to implement than ever and offer the kinds of efficiencies storage managers are trying to squeeze out of their installed systems. We'll take a look at major trends in storage virtualization, and provide some insight into some of the most popular hardware and software virtualization choices.
- **New Trends in Storage**
Sometimes the bigger storage vendors may seem to lumber along, with their product lines evolving at a relatively slow pace. But that doesn't mean innovation isn't happening. Many smaller and often more nimble storage vendors are breaking ground with new or revamped technologies. We'll look at some of the more intriguing players, products and technologies that are likely to have an impact on mainstream storage systems.

SEPTEMBER 2011

- **The Pros and Cons of FC, iSCSI and NAS for Virtual Server Storage**
Matching virtualized servers to the right type of storage can be a critical decision, but there's no single type of networked storage that's hands-down the best for virtual servers. We'll review the pros and cons of each array alternative and suggest where each would fit best.
- **Quality Awards VI: Midrange Arrays**
The midrange segment of the storage array market remains the hottest and, arguably, most interesting as innovative technologies meet up with capabilities that were only available on high-end systems just a few years ago. Our Quality Awards program surveys midrange systems users for the sixth time to get their feedback on the service, reliability and functionality of their installed midrange arrays. Three vendors that won four out of the first five Quality Awards in this category--StorageTek, EqualLogic and Compellent--have

been acquired by larger companies. We'll see if last year's winner--Compellent--can repeat now that it's in Dell's stable.

- **Backing Up to the Cloud**

Backup was one of the first services offered by cloud storage vendors, and it's still the most popular way of using cloud storage. Until recently, however, cloud backup was considered an alternative for only smaller companies. Today, enterprises are interested in and actively employing cloud back services. We'll cover how the technology works, when it's a viable alternative, how it can integrate with traditional backup, how much it costs, and other pros and cons of cloud backup services.

OCTOBER 2011

- **What Storage Managers Are Buying (Storage Purchasing Intentions)**

Twice a year, Storage magazine/SearchStorage.com surveys storage managers to see how they plan to spend their budgets, the technologies they're implementing or evaluating, and other initiatives and issues. This is the seventh year of our exclusive Purchasing Intentions Survey; we analyze the current survey results and compare them to past data to determine the storage buying trends that will emerge in 2011.

- **Storage Networking Decisions**

Often overlooked, storage networking is receiving renewed attention as new or enhanced technologies take their place in our data centers. We'll take a look at some of the storage networking technologies that are likely to have the most impact in today's and tomorrow's data centers. We'll consider how FCoE will fit in, if Fibre Channel is really dead, how Ethernet is poised to dominate and whether new techs like virtual I/O are really ready.

- **The State of Solid State**

Solid-state storage has carved out a fairly specialized and still rather small niche in the storage ecosystem, but it has certainly established itself as a viable alternative. We'll look at state of solid state today: what technologies are working now, the most popular and effective implementations of the technology, and what to expect both near-term and further down the road.

NOVEMBER 2011

- **Overpaid, Underpaid or Just Right: How Storage Salaries Fared in 2011 and Prospects for 2012**

For the ninth year in a row, we survey storage professionals to see how their salaries and benefits stack up. Our exclusive survey includes analysis of such key factors as education, experience, specialization, geographic location and industry segments.

- **DR Readiness Monitoring Apps**

Putting together a disaster recovery (DR) plan can be an arduous process, and testing--a necessary element to ensure success--is often difficult, time-consuming and expensive. A new class of application can offer some much-needed help. These DR monitors don't replace real testing but they can scour your systems and find the gaps in your DR planning, saving countless hours and dollars, and reducing test time significantly. We'll tell you about these products, and describe what they can (and can't) do as part of your DR planning efforts.

- **NAS System Buying Decisions**

File storage is growing at a faster pace than for any other kind of storage, so companies are adding more and bigger NAS systems than ever before. In this guide, we'll highlight the newest features of leading NAS systems and offer suggestions to help ensure you get the system that will best satisfy your company's file storage needs.

DECEMBER 2011

○ **Hot Storage Technologies for 2012**

Continuing an eight-year tradition, Storage magazine and SearchStorage.com editors put their heads together--and stick out their necks--and predict the top five or six new technologies that will have the most profound impact on data center storage environments over the next 12 months. We also look back and grade our choices from the previous year. See what set of storage techs should be on your must-have list for 2012.

○ **Mobile Backup? There's an App for That**

Users might not realize it, but they may be carrying around a significant amount of their company's intellectual property on their smartphones, tablets and other ultra-portable devices. Although a nascent market, some vendors are offering applications to help protect that data and ensure it stays within corporate confines. We look at what's available now, how well it will work and what's still needed to protect mobile data.

○ **Quality Awards VI: Tape Libraries**

Who said tape is dead? Certainly not the legions of loyal users who value tape's economy, portability and general usefulness for long-term storage of backup and archive data. Our Quality Awards program surveys users of midrange and enterprise tape libraries to get their feedback on quality, technical support, range of features, and other key service and reliability considerations. Last time, Spectra Logic was overwhelming in its sweep of both the midrange and enterprise categories; can they repeat that feat?