

# REPORT CARD: GRADING OUR 2009 PREDICTIONS

**A**

## REPLICATION FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

We'll pat ourselves on the back for this one. We said server virtualization, more product alternatives and lower prices would put remote replication at the center of most disaster recovery plans. Replication's been around for some time, but it got a big boost in 2009 when it became a key feature in products like deduplication appliances and other backup targets.

**B+**

## 10 GIGABIT ETHERNET

Too soon to say 1 GigE is dead, but 10 Gbps Ethernet made steady inroads. For any company expanding or rebuilding its networks in 2009, 10 Gig was a no-brainer. The slowish pace of 8 Gbps Fibre Channel (FC) developments helped sway some users, as did the growing reliability of iSCSI storage systems. Prices are still on the high side but are decreasing—just not as quickly as we had anticipated.

**B+**

## STORAGE-AS-A-SERVICE (SaaS)

If we had predicted that the acronym "SaaS" would endure, we'd have to take an "F" on this one as "cloud" quickly became everyone's favorite buzzword. Cloud storage vendors are proliferating, the services can be far cheaper than in-house counterparts, and now there's even talk about "internal clouds"—so why shouldn't we get an "A"? Despite the progress, most enterprises still need more convincing before they launch their data into the cloud.

**B+**

## GLOBAL DATA DEDUPLICATION

We called global dedupe "a big deal" for users coping with siloed dedupe repositories. With dedupe deployments growing steadily, many users are learning just how big a deal it is. We'd give ourselves an "A" for calling that one but we have to shave a little off the grade because the dedupe vendors, with a few exceptions, have been slow to respond.

**B**

## SAS-2

Not quite the threat to FC that we had anticipated, 6 Gbps SAS still made some major inroads in 2009. It became the disk du jour for direct-attached storage in servers, the preferred interface of solid-state drives in arrays and a credible alternative to FC—just not at the rate we had expected.

**C**

## SELF-HEALING SYSTEMS

We said this prediction was "going out on a limb." It turned out to be a fairly short limb, indeed. Although there were some new developments, self-healing systems haven't exactly caught on like wildfire. We were probably a year or two premature with this one.