

STORAGE PLUS 2006

storage networking and beyond

draft agenda

DAY 1 Setting the Stage: Storage Networking in Next-Generation Data Centers

9:00 am - 9:15 am **Registration & Coffee**

9:15 am - 9:30 am **Introduction**
Terry Sweeney, Editor in Chief of Byte and Switch, sets the stage with a look at the present state of storage networking and the challenges faced by IT professionals.

ILM Track

Disaster Recovery Track

9:30 am - 10:00 am **Keynote:** David H. Webster, Manager, IT Architecture & Strategy, Yahoo!

10:00 am - 11:15 am **Tutorial: Tiering Up - SATA, SAS, FC & FATA and Their Impact on Application Management**
Tiered storage, a key element of ILM, is the use of cheaper external disk systems for storing data that may not demand the same reliability or speed of retrieval as data on top-priced Fibre Channel SANs. New "nearline" disk systems (or disk interfaces) include SATA (serial advanced technology attachment) and SAS (serial attached SCSI). In addition, Fibre Attached Technology Adapted (FATA), an economy-class FC disk popularized by HP, uses the electronics from SATA with FC connectivity. In this tutorial, we'll explore these alternatives and describe the best practices that ensure data is matched with the right kind of storage for optimal results.
Moderator: Greg Schulz, Founder & Senior Analyst, StorageIO

Tutorial: Using Virtualization to Ensure Business Continuity
With virtual servers, virtual machines, and virtual networks, IT buyers may begin to feel as if their understanding of this technical principle is a little "virtual." Where storage is concerned, virtualization must be viewed as a means to an end, and that end is primarily to reduce storage-induced application downtime. In this tutorial, consultant Marc Staimer describes how file- and block-level virtualization products can be used to ensure speedy disaster recovery and ensure high-application availability.
Moderator: Marc Staimer, President, Dragon Slayer Consulting

11:15 am - 11:30 am **Break**

11:30 am - 12:15 pm **Keynote:** Mike Gustafson, President & CEO, BlueArc

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Virtualization Track

Remote Site Management Track

12:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Lunch & Exhibition

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Case Study:

Niall O'Driscoll, Vice President of Engineering, Alexa Internet

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

Making Virtualization Real: Block- & File-Level Virtualization in Storage Networks

Virtualization of storage promises to streamline the use of back-end disk storage arrays in NAS or SANs by creating manageable pools of storage, regardless of the physical location of the storage. Customer choices run the gamut of file-based products that virtualize storage on NAS systems, and block-level virtualization engines, which treat multiple heterogeneous storage devices as a single pool of capacity. In this session, IT professionals will discuss the underlying design differences between virtualized file- and block-level engines and debate the various tradeoffs of each approach.

Moderator: Marc Staimer,
President, Dragon Slayer Consulting

Panelists: BlueArc,
Cloverleaf Communications,
Nimbus Data, Q-Logic

Streamlining Remote & Distributed Data Protection & Management

The proliferation of distributed data in remote offices has many storage managers eyeing wide-area file services (WAFS), disk-to-disk data protection (3DP), and distributed backup as options to manage and protect data. This session explores experiences with planning, designing, and implementing distributed data protection and management solutions using different techniques and technologies.

Moderator: Greg Schulz,
Founder & Senior Analyst, StorageIO

Panelists: Asigra, Brocade

4:15 pm - 6:00 pm

Cocktails & Exhibition

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Byte and Switch Big Bytes Awards Program

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served

DAY 2 Storage Plus: Linking Storage & Other Technologies to Reinvent Data Access

	Virtualization Track	Data Center Consolidation & Management Track
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Registration & Coffee	
9:30 am - 10:45 am	<p>Virtualization: Theory to Practice – Studies in Implementation While earlier sessions in this track focused on the basic tenets of technology and product approaches, this session includes testimonials from users in the trenches who have implemented virtualization successfully as part of the data center and storage infrastructure. The implementers will share how they decided to use virtualization, how costs were justified, what the tradeoffs were, and lessons learned that might help others avoid pitfalls. Moderator: Robert Lerner, Senior Analyst, Heavy Reading Panelist: Double-Take Software, IMEX</p>	<p>How I Shrank My Data Center: CTO Panel on Data Center & Storage Consolidation Establishing a strong, centrally controlled data center environment can reduce costs and improve management. But the benefits of consolidation must be weighed against the need to support data spread remotely across a wide range of devices. It's also apparent that consolidation of servers isn't the same as consolidation of storage devices. Much depends on how well a primary storage vendor supports third-party equipment. Panelists will share their views and experience on all these aspects of consolidation. Moderator: Terry Sweeney, Editor in Chief, Byte and Switch Panelist: Alibris, BlueArc</p>
10:45 am - 11:30 am	Keynote	
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Lunch & Exhibition	
	Business Continuity Track	
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	<p>Beyond Disaster Recovery When it comes to ensuring that corporate resources can survive environmental threats and downtime, storage managers aren't focused just on replicating, mirroring, and archiving anymore. Technologies such as CDP, WAN optimization, and virtual tape bring an added dimension of efficiency. As a result, IT pros aren't just replacing data within a reasonable amount of time after an outage. They also are making sure data can be rapidly retrieved on a day-to-day basis. The new techniques are also helping eliminate tape as a means of long-term archiving, and replacing older step-by-step storage processes with ILM infrastructure. This session explores the various "plusses" that storage requires to achieve this new level of restorability. Moderator: Mary Jander, Site Editor, Byte and Switch Panelist: Sepaton</p>	

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Software Track

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

What Color Is Your Data? Managing & Classifying Stored Information

Structured? Unstructured? Single instances, email attachments, and oddball formats. Data must be classified properly in order to design an effective information lifecycle management (ILM) system. But sorting and managing aren't insignificant tasks on the road to this alleged storage nirvana. This session explores the tools and techniques users are deploying to get data into a "tier-able" order. We'll discuss data-classification software and appliances, along with other approaches to whip terabytes of data into something more manageable.

Moderator: Mary Jander,
Site Editor, Byte and Switch

Panelist: Intel

Networking Track

Implementing Storage Networks With Clusters, Blade Servers & More

Grid? Isn't that for academics and high-end research applications? Corporate IT is challenged to keep pace with user demands for access, bandwidth, and applications, and thinks grid may solve part of that problem. Grid-computing software, along with clustering of servers and NAS and the use of blade computing, can streamline the way data-center storage and computing power is allocated to various applications and groups. Grid computing does this by coordinating the resources from multiple devices to orchestrate the assignment of storage or CPU cycles as loads require, or as needed for specific situations. But there are costs to the approach, both capital and operational. Grids, for instance, require considerably more cooling and power than other kinds of data center designs. The approach also requires that staff is specially trained and ready to deal with a new computing paradigm. This session explores the cost/benefit analysis of grids, and panelists will discuss successful implementations with an eye to the problems and pitfalls they've encountered.

Moderator: Anil Vasudeva,
Founder & President, IMEX

Panelist: Isilon

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Plenary Roundtable Discussion: Lies My Vendor Told Me – The Myth of Consolidation

Moderator: Jon William Toigo, Managing Partner, Toigo Partners International