



Storage Area Networks SANs (Clustered Open SCSI SANs)

Industry Overview

IT directors and administrators are faced with meeting their organizations rapidly changing and growing storage needs. These needs include reducing storage management costs, reducing backup/restore times, meeting the 24x7x365 data availability needs of today's business environment. IT organizations are also faced with implementing affordable off-site disaster recovery solutions, creating easily scaling storage for new projects, providing a diverse range of users and applications access to their information, and reallocating or provisioning storage quickly with no downtime. Addressing these needs also comes in the face of IT organizations trying to control costs.

SANs offer a number of sophisticated features that greatly simplify the day-to-day management of data, including:

- Snapshots
- Thin provisioning/auto grow
- Automated load balancing
- Remote copy capabilities between remote sites
- Synchronous replication between locations (Campus SANs)

The SAN-distributed architecture enables non-disruptive migrations, upgrades, and capacity expansion. As data and applications increase, users can grow individual volumes, add entire storage nodes to an existing SAN cluster, or create a new cluster - all in an online manner.

SANs and VMWare

SANs are the ideal storage solution for virtualized environments because of their own rich storage virtualization layer. Both the computer infrastructure and the SAN storage infrastructure are fully abstracted from the physical hardware.

KEY BENEFITS

- **Make capacity planning easier and less time consuming**
- **Provide multiple ways to avoid planned and unplanned downtime**
- **Improve storage and server utilization rates**
- **Streamline both storage and server infrastructure management**

