How our predictions for 2011 fared

B

AUTOMATED STORAGE TIERING

You'd be hard-pressed to find a storage vendor that doesn't offer automated tiering, so we were pretty smart on that count. But users? That's another story as adoption is a bit slower than we anticipated.

C

DATA REDUCTION IN PRIMARY STORAGE

IBM buys Storwize, Dell buys Ocarina and Permabit OEMs its technology—a perfect storm for data reduction in primary storage, right? Not exactly. Maybe it's just the calm before the storm, but it's taking a long time for this technology to stir things up.

B+

VMWARE APIs FOR STORAGE

VMware's concession that storage vendors might be better at managing their products might be the biggest story of the year. Everything about storage for virtual machines (VMs) got easier this year, from configuring to backup.

B-

SCALE-OUT NAS

We were probably a year early with this call. There was plenty of talk about scale-out network-attached storage (NAS), but when it came to actual deployments, not so much.

A

MULTIPROTOCOL STORAGE ARRAYS

Hardly any arrays ship these days with support for just block or file; the days of those one-trick ponies are just about gone. Even though NetApp is probably wondering what took us so long to make this prediction, we'll still give ourselves a pat on the back.

B+

CLOUD STORAGE SERVICES

It just seems like we hear the word "cloud" about a thousand times a day, but the truth is that it became a real factor for enterprise data storage this year. Our surveys show nearly a quarter of you are using some kind of cloud storage service; like Yogi Berra said, "You could look it up."