

## Network Attached Storage Workbook

The following are questions to be asked regarding **Network Attached Storage**. Some of the questions need to be filled in for the specific environment where the NAS device will be deployed

Environment Questions		
Requirement	Vendor 1	Vendor 2
Usage environment - UNIX - NT - Both		
Storage capacity supported		
Ease of installation - Estimated time - Special software on client required? - Other special requirements		
Administrative interface - Web-based graphical user interface o Internet Explorer o Netscape - Command line interface		
Management aggregation software for multiple NAS devices available?		
Number of servers supported		
Number of file systems supported		
Maximum size of file system		
TCPIP accelerator in device		
SNMP reporting		
Compatibility with management frameworks – OpenView, Tivoli, Unicenter, etc.		

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<b>Operational Questions</b>		
<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Vendor 1</b>	<b>Vendor 2</b>
Required Network Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NFS</li> <li>- CIFS</li> <li>- FTP</li> <li>- HTTP</li> <li>- NCP (Netware)</li> <li>- AppleTalk</li> </ul>		
DAFS support		
Connectivity (number of ports) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gig-E (fiber)</li> <li>- 10/100/1000 (copper)</li> <li>- 10/100</li> <li>- ATM</li> </ul>		
File Sharing Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNIX and NT</li> <li>- NT and Netware</li> <li>- NT and MAC</li> <li>- UNIX and Netware</li> <li>- UNIX and MAC</li> </ul>		
Locking required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Hard locks (CIFS style)</li> <li>- All Advisory locks (NFS style)</li> <li>- File system dependent</li> </ul>		
Security for file access - authentication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACLs</li> <li>- User and Group IDs</li> <li>- LDAP</li> <li>- Active Directory</li> </ul>		
Failover capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internal to NAS controller</li> <li>- Clustered NAS device</li> <li>- Automatic or manual</li> <li>- Performance impact</li> </ul>		

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Feature / Function Questions		
Requirement	Vendor 1	Vendor 2
Point-in-time copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of copies</li> <li>- File system rollback</li> <li>- Individual file recovery</li> <li>- Special version for MS Exchange</li> </ul>		
Remote copy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NAS device based</li> <li>- Synchronous or asynchronous</li> <li>- Technology used</li> </ul>		
NAS Gateway option? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attachment technology</li> <li>- List storage supported</li> </ul>		
Metadata server option?		
Combined file and block access supported in NAS product?		
NDMP Backup support		
Tape attachment		
Antivirus software installed		
Quota Management		
Automatic file system extension		

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NAS Characteristics Questions		
Requirement	Vendor 1	Vendor 2
Cache in NAS controller (per node)		
Processors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Type</li> <li>- Number</li> <li>- Processor Speed</li> </ul>		
Storage attached – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RAID levels supported</li> <li>- Disk type, size, speed</li> <li>- Attachment interface</li> </ul>		
Separate Ethernet connection for maintenance		
Load balancing capability		
Separate link for clustered NAS devices		