

Storage Decisions

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# Real-World Tiered Storage

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# Real-World Tiered Storage

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## What I assume you know

- **Storage area networks (SAN)**
- **WORM media and regulatory type storage**
- **Disaster recovery (DR)**
- **Sarbanes Oxley, SAS70, etc.**
- **Your own challenges and issues**

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By the end of the session, you'll know the following:

- **One practical tiered architecture approach**
- **Storage risk assessment**
- **MAID (Massive Array of Idle Disks)**
- **ATA storage offerings pros and cons**

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Real-world tiered architecture

- The CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange)
- Current environment
- Challenges
- Develop a storage strategy
- Backup to disk
- New technology direction
- MAID architecture vs. standard ATA offerings

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Overview of CME

- Founded in 1898
- North America's largest futures exchange and the world's largest futures clearinghouse
- Notional value of contracts traded daily exceeding \$3.7 trillion last month.
- Annual growth of transactions tracking around 100% - 140%
- Global footprint

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## \*\*\* Press Release \*\*\*

### CME reports April volume

- Average daily volume for April was 4.9 million contracts, up 47% from previous year.
- CME's fourth consecutive record month.
- Average daily volume on CME® Globex® rose to a record 3.4 million contracts, a 113% increase from April 2004.

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## CME's current infrastructure

- In 2 1/2 years, CME's SAN has grown from 4 TB to over 180 TBs.
- In the same time frame, Unix/Linux server count went from 500 to over 2,000 servers
- Linux presence has grown from a few servers to over 500 in one year. (Now over 1,000)
- 3 data centers

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### Data growth challenges

- **New technology implementation while growing data volume exponentially**
- **I/O performance critical to application performance**
- **Ever-changing regulatory requirements**
- **Disaster recovery**
- **Capacity planning**
- **Backup environment**

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### Questions to be answered

- **Where does data belong?**
- **How long do we keep it?**
- **What does legal say about data retention?**
- **What is the service level for data at points throughout the life cycle?**
- **How do we back it up within our window?**
- **How do we plan for unpredictable growth?**

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**How much of your regulated data do you have clear, "legally" defined retention periods for?**

- 1. 100% - Our legal department has signed off on all of our retention policies.**
- 2. 75%**
- 3. 50%**
- 4. 25%**
- 5. 0% - I have no idea. . . .**

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## Objective -- Develop a storage strategy

- **Identify success factors**
  - "Data classification"
  - Service-level performance
  - Cost reduction (containment) (Value in the market)
  - Management capabilities (Ease of management)
  - Compatibility
  - Etc.
- **Your success factors may be different**

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## Data classification

- **Use broad strokes (tiers)**
- **Develop data classes, (tiers), based on:**
  - Performance criteria
  - Service level
  - Disaster recovery
  - Regulation
  - Retention

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## Tiers of data

- **Tier I**
  - Critical applications and databases that need high performance and/or replication
- **Tier II**
  - Other production databases, QA, no replication
- **Tier III**
  - Data with long-term, regulated retention. Regulatory reports, SOX records, e-mail, etc.
- **Tier IV**
  - Backup and restores/synthetic full backups
  - NearLine file system storage
- **Tier V**
  - Tape for offsite storage

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## Tier platforms

- Many tiers already existed in the current environment

| TIER I<br>DMX                | TIER II<br>Hitachi                  | TIER III<br>WORM         | TIER IV<br>ATA    | TIER V<br>Tape                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Critical and Replicated Data | Lower Priority, Non-Replicated Data | Archived Regulatory Data | ATA, Virtual Tape | Disaster Recovery, Off-Site Data |
|                              |                                     |                          |                   |                                  |
| EMC DMX                      | Hitachi 9960                        | HP 2200MX                |                   | STK PowderHorn Silo              |

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## Tier platform issues

- Tier III was inadequate, not scalable, not flexible, and difficult to replicate.
- Tier IV was defined but didn't exist in our environment.
- Many Tier V issues

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## How satisfied are you with your current backup environment?

- Very satisfied.
- It gets the job done.
- It usually gets the job done, but there are plenty of issues.
- I'm in big trouble, lots of backup and restore failures, backup windows are too small, etc.

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## NetBackup environment challenges

- STK Silo arm(s) are controlled by our mainframe. NetBackup communicates through ACSLS.
- Mainframe "tech time", in the middle of weekend backup window.
- 3 distinct "physical", environments and only 2 silos.
- Instances of very long running backups.
- High level of restore failures.
- High occurrence of backup failures
- Back up Windows and Novell in addition to all Unix.

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### Are you using any type of disk-based backup in your environment?

1. **Yes, I back up mostly to disk and use little tape.**
2. **Yes, I'm staging to disk and still most data to tape.**
3. **No, but thinking about it.**
4. **No, tape only. Tape still does the job for me.**

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## Backup-to-disk solutions

### Do the research, know your options!

- **Initial take on backup-to-disk solutions was to use straight disk, no need for virtual tape**
  - **Talented staff**
  - **No additional software costs**
  - **Easy to manage**

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## Backup-to-disk solutions (Continued)

- **Evaluated 40 TB "usable" ATA solutions (x3)**
  - RFQs and RFPs to several vendors.
  - Standard low-cost ATA platforms "very similar".
  - Discovered new architecture, MAID
  - (Massive Array of Idle Disks)
  - Reworked our requirements to better compare MAID architecture and standard low-cost ATA.

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## Backup-to-disk solutions (Continued)

- **Direction change from backup to disk, to virtual tape**
  - No compression with straight backup to disk. (NetBackup compression is client-based)
  - Disk space management issues with straight backup to disk.
  - Replication challenges and limited options with straight disk.
  - What is the purpose of ATA storage in our environment?

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## CME's new technology direction

- **New technology evaluation and integration**
  - No "bleeding-edge" technology, vendor financial stability.
  - Evaluate from a "risk", point of view.
- **What changed and why?**
  - Growth was traditionally underestimated.
  - Development cycles too slow to meet sudden volume increases.
  - Risk variables changed.
- **Risks with standard low-cost ATA vs. MAID**
  - Almost all risk factors go against MAID startup vendor.
  - Gartner recommends evaluating new players.
  - Clear back out plan with current infrastructure.

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## Comparing MAID vs. standard ATA

### Cost

- Standard ATA – typically higher than tape.

### Scalability

- Standard ATA about 14 to 56 TB (depending on vendor)
- MAID Storage – 224 TB capacity
- Most inexpensive ATA storage systems have a low maximum capacity requiring multiple systems to match the capacity of 1 system with MAID architecture.

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## Comparing MAID vs. standard ATA

| Factor             | MAID                           |                                  | Standard ATA     |                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                    | 56 TB                          | 224 TB                           | 56 TB            | 224 TB           |
| Floor space        | 10 Sq. Ft.                     | 10 Sq. Ft.                       | 15.4 Sq. Ft.     | 46.2 Sq. Ft.     |
| Power consumption  | 1 to 1.6                       | 3.4 to 5.8                       | 6.24             | 25.76            |
| BTU output         | 3,650<br>to<br>5,667<br>BTU/hr | 11,840<br>to<br>20,000<br>BTU/hr | 21,959<br>BTU/hr | 87,837<br>BTU/hr |
| FalconStor         | 1 controller                   | 2 controllers                    | 2 per config     | 8 per config     |
| Fabric connections | 4                              | 4                                | 8                | 32               |

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## Other MAID benefits

- SATA drives are designed for power cycling, typically less than 50% duty cycle. The MAID architecture uses SATA as intended and spins down drives when not in use.**
- SATA drive MTBF is 400K hrs vs. 1M hrs for SCSI. The MAID architecture has a maximum-drive duty cycle of 25%. Theoretically, 4X expected service life of always-on SATA drives.**
- Super dense, scalable frame and simple management.**

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## Comparing MAID and standard ATA footprint

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## MAID testing and implementation results

- Backups and restores were up to 228% faster on a MAID architecture system compared to tape.
- No backups have failed on the new storage compared to a continuous array of failures on the tape side.
- Since installation, there have had no virtual tape issues. We spend an entire FTE chasing down tape backup issues.

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## CME open systems SAN storage strategy

| TIER I<br>DMX                | TIER II<br>Hitachi                  | TIER III<br>Centra        | TIER IV<br>COPAN - ATA | TIER V<br>Tape                  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Critical and replicated data | Lower priority, non-replicated data | Archived, regulatory data | ATA, virtual tape      | Disaster recovery, offsite data |
|                              |                                     |                           |                        |                                 |
| EMC DMX                      | Hitachi 9960                        | EMC Centra                | COPAN Revolution 200T  | STK PowderHorn Silo             |

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## Vendor scoop

- **COPAN is the leading MAID Vendor**
  - Startup
  - Listens to customers
- **EMC**
  - Aggressive pricing (Really. . . .)
  - Good support
- **Enterprise tape**
  - Only 2 real competitive vendors IBM and STK
  - Currently in negotiations for upgrade

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## Recommendations / summary

- **Think long term when planning your storage strategy**
- **Identify your success factors**
- **Push for clear regulatory retention definition**
- **Evaluate new technology**
  - Great learning experience
  - Evaluate vendors as well as their technology

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## QUESTIONS?



I can be reached at [ctaylor@cme.com](mailto:ctaylor@cme.com)  
for any further questions.

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