

Storage and Availability Standardization Assessment

Realizing the value of infrastructure standardization

The typical enterprise data center is a complex environment, consisting of servers that support a wide range of operating systems, storage hardware devices from multiple vendors, and many unique applications and databases. Adding to this complexity are the numerous vendor-supplied tools required to manage data volumes and file systems, multiple I/O paths, point-in-time copies, remote data replication processes, application clustering, and more. This complexity is further increased when considering that the majority of these management tools only work with specific storage or server hardware platforms. It is not uncommon for a typical data center to deploy more than 50 different tools to manage its IT infrastructure.

Maintaining such complex data center environments is increasingly cumbersome and expensive—due to the purchase and maintenance of a wide set of management tools, as well as the ongoing cost of training or replacing administrative staff to operate these tools.

Symantec Consulting Services provides a *Storage and Availability Standardization Assessment* service that delivers the technical expertise to help enterprises significantly reduce the number of disparate infrastructure tools and technologies deployed in their data center by standardizing on the integrated suite of heterogeneous management solutions from Symantec. Veritas Storage Foundation™ and Veritas Storage Foundation HA* are industry-leading solutions that reduce the complexity and associated costs of managing multi-vendor heterogeneous data center environments, while also delivering performance and availability benefits.

As core components of Symantec Data Center Foundation, the Storage Foundation and Storage Foundation HA technologies work across all major operating systems, storage hardware, databases, and ERP/CRM/email applications. The Storage and Availability Standardization Assessment provides the required infrastructure analysis along with recommended configurations to best utilize these technologies—enabling IT organizations to significantly reduce their data center management costs and realize a positive return on investment (ROI) that can result from standardization.

Business objective: Standardization

ROI has become a critical metric for many IT organizations as they consider purchasing new technology and consulting services. For these businesses, “speeds and feeds” and “features and benefits” are no longer sufficient when justifying the purchase of infrastructure software licenses and associated services. Every IT purchase must translate into a demonstrable business benefit, and positive ROI for the business must be realized within a relatively short period of time.

The Storage and Availability Standardization Assessment service is designed to provide an assessment of our customer’s storage, server, and application environments from a technology perspective, to determine where financial benefits of standardizing data center software can be most effectively realized. Symantec consulting has extensive industry experience in designing and implementing storage and availability solutions, to guide our customers through the financial benefits of standardization.



Standardization Assessment delivery model

The Symantec consulting delivery model applies a proven approach to Storage and Availability Standardization Assessments that includes the following phases.

Assessment Workshop—Symantec consultants will develop and lead an Assessment Workshop with our customer’s representatives who are responsible for managing and maintaining their IT environment. The purpose of this workshop is to obtain an overview of our customer’s storage and server architectures, high availability clustering architecture, and overall IT operational model.

We will review the operating systems and applications that are deployed and any storage, server, or high availability issues or customizations that need to be addressed during the assessment. The workshop also explores the infrastructure and management costs related to the storage and server environments in order to accurately determine the potential ROI that can result from standardization.

Environmental Audit and Analysis—During this phase, Symantec consultants will audit our customer’s technical environment and analyze additional information and statistics from the business-critical systems, enabling Symantec to provide a Storage and Availability Assessment Report and Deployment Plan.

Delivery of the Standardization Assessment—During this critical phase, our consultants will produce the following documents that cover our consultants’ findings and recommendations:

- **Storage and Availability Standardization Assessment Report:** This report provides a detailed assessment of our customer’s storage and availability infrastructure, and identifies specific areas where savings can be realized from standardization.

- **Deployment Plan:** This plan addresses issues revealed in the Standardization Assessment Report and specifies how our customer can best deploy, optimize, and standardize on the technologies within Storage Foundation and Storage Foundation HA to improve the efficiency of their IT environment and achieve a positive ROI within a timely period beyond deployment.

Key standardization technology areas

The Storage and Availability Standardization Assessment service offering will focus on delivering tangible benefits and hardware, software, and administrative cost savings associated with deploying some or all of the following products and technologies within Storage Foundation and Storage Foundation HA product suites:

Storage Management

- Veritas Storage Foundation™ Management Server
- Veritas™ Volume Manager
- Veritas™ File System
- Dynamic Storage Tiering (DST)
- Intelligent Storage Provisioning (IST)
- Dynamic Multi-pathing (DMP)
- Portable Data Container (PDC)
- Storage Foundation FlashSnap™
- Storage Checkpoints

Availability Management

- Veritas™ Cluster Server (VCS)
- HA and DR Simulation tools
- Fire Drill Testing Facilities
- Global Cluster Option (GCO)
- Cluster Management Console

Addressing key customer objectives

The key customer objectives addressed with Symantec Consulting Services for Symantec Data Center Foundation are:

- Standardization
- Optimization
- Protection
- Enabling IT Service Management

While Symantec's Storage and Availability Standardization Assessment service focuses specifically on the *standardization*, additional consulting services are aligned with the *optimization, protection, and enabling IT service management* objectives. Please refer to the following data sheets for information on these services:

- Consulting Services for Veritas Storage Foundation
- Consulting Services for Veritas Server Foundation
- Services for Symantec Data Center Foundation
- Symantec Residency Services

About Symantec Consulting Services

Symantec Consulting Services has helped IT teams from over 95 percent of Fortune 500 companies enhance and maintain the security and availability of their information and infrastructures. With over 700 consultants worldwide, we provide consulting services to clients in more than 60 countries and participate in more than 4,000 engagements per year. Our consultants possess an average of more than 15 years of experience in security, storage, and availability technologies across all major operating systems, storage hardware, and application environments.

For more information about Symantec's Storage and Availability Assessment Service, please contact the Symantec Consulting Services Center: 1 (877) 870 5700.

More information

Visit our Web site

<http://enterprise.symantec.com>

To speak with a Product Specialist in the U.S.

Call toll-free 1 (800) 745 6054

To speak with a Product Specialist outside the U.S.

For specific country offices and contact numbers, please visit our Web site.

About Symantec

Symantec is the world leader in providing solutions to help individuals and enterprises assure the security, availability, and integrity of their information. Headquartered in Cupertino, Calif., Symantec has operations in more than 40 countries. More information is available at www.symantec.com.

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* *Veritas Storage Foundation includes Veritas Volume Manager, Veritas Volume Server, Veritas File System, Veritas Volume Replicator, and Veritas CommandCentral™ Storage products and technologies. Veritas Storage Foundation HA adds Veritas Cluster Server to the Storage Foundation suite.*

