IT administrators require reliable, easy-to-use data protection solutions that are cost effective, simple to install and configure, yet flexible enough to protect large and complex data centers, departmental workgroups, and remote office environments.

Backup and recovery solutions must be easily scalable, providing maximum protection as your environment grows — from backing up a single host to protecting a multi-server, storage area network (SAN) based environment. The ideal solution should back up more data and more servers with less hardware, in less time. In addition, backup operations must be centrally managed, allowing for both reporting and operational control from a single interface.

Symantec Backup Exec™ 12 provides a comprehensive, cost effective, certified protection solution for Microsoft® Windows® server environments for disk or tape-based backup and recovery operations. Backup Exec has an easy to use, intuitive backup management console that helps consolidate backup and recovery operations with a browser-like view. It features easy-to-use wizards that are designed to simplify data protection and recovery procedures for any level user and any size network.

Furthermore, with centralized administration you can simplify the management of multiple local or distributed remote Backup Exec media servers. With the use of additional high-performance application agents, you can integrate robust archival functionality and protection that is required for today’s business critical messaging and database applications. These enhancements are designed to allow you to quickly protect and restore critical server data and the associated applications. This ability extends from new to legacy application environments, and provides a scalable path to support your environment as you grow or bring new technologies online.

With Backup Exec and Dell EqualLogic PS Series arrays working together, you can take advantage of a highly reliable and robust SAN-based data protection. PS Series arrays provide highly available, highly performing, scalable storage that can be leveraged for both production data and Backup Exec servers performing backups to
PS Series arrays deliver the benefits of consolidated storage in an intelligent SAN that is affordable and easy to use, regardless of its size. With no single point of failure, automated management, and fast, flexible scalability, PS Series arrays can help to greatly reduce storage acquisition and management costs.

When Backup Exec and PS Series arrays are configured to execute snapshot-based backup, you can decrease backup windows and improve your restore times. In addition, PS Series snapshots can help maximize storage efficiency and enable rapid restore. This means that data corruptions, or other unexpected changes can be recovered, by using backups from a time prior to the data loss.

Specifically, within a Microsoft 2003 Server environment you can execute “application-aware” backup and restore using snapshots, since Backup Exec can be configured to take full advantage of Microsoft’s Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS). Backup Exec utilizes PS Series VSS “provider” status to coordinate and request the execution of data-consistent backup operations. Backup Exec manages the process that the Microsoft/EqualLogic integration makes possible.

These application-aware snapshots are stored in the PS Series array and cataloged historically, capturing the state of the application data at the point in time at which the snapshot was taken. This allows administrators to create and access a catalog of multiple recovery points, which can greatly reduce backup time and management effort over traditional backup approaches. Furthermore, by mounting snapshots to the Backup Exec Media Server, this helps improve performance for the systems being backed up since they are not being impacted by the backup job. This is also referred to as an “off-host” backup.

EqualLogic PS Series arrays are designed to improve your backup and restore operations, from continuous backup operations to application-aware snapshots. The net result is highly reliable and scalable protection for your data. Not only can your data be protected, but as data stores grow, you can easily increase the size of available capacity per volume and per deployment. As a result, you not only gain capacity quickly and easily, but can also improve performance as the PS Series arrays automatically load balance and virtualize access to each volume. Your result: high levels of performance, reliability, and scalability for all your applications and data.

When used together, PS Series arrays and Symantec Backup Exec can provide you with the following data protection benefits:

- Simple scalability and simple management
- Instantaneous disk-based recovery
- Performance improvement with growth
- Continuous backup protection for a variety of applications, eliminating backup windows
- Low operational costs in a Microsoft Windows server environment
- High availability of Microsoft Windows applications
- Compatibility and support across Microsoft Windows server family

Symantec Backup Exec and PS Series arrays are an ideal combination for data protection, regardless of the type of Windows server environment being backed up. Together they provide a proven, innovative solution that fully incorporates Microsoft design standards, helping to ensure 100% compatibility with Microsoft Windows Server operating systems. The PS Series array supports Symantec Backup Exec including versions 9.1 and 10.0.