

PRODUCT FLASH

Symantec Announces Veritas CommandCentral Storage 5.0, Broadening Its Capabilities and Refreshing the Product

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IN THIS PRODUCT FLASH

This IDC Flash discusses the new announcement by Symantec of its storage resource management offering Veritas CommandCentral Storage 5.0. The relevance of this announcement is significant in that this version is a major redesign of the product. Its business objectives are to:

- ☒ Deliver features and functionality required by enterprises looking for a centralized way to manage their storage infrastructure
- ☒ Align business requirements with reporting capabilities
- ☒ Position the tool with other Symantec products where capabilities can assist in enabling end-to-end management of storage resources

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The storage management market has been experiencing a steady growth from year to year, though many end users continue to experience some hesitation in investing in the tools. It has been difficult for many to justify the investment. To address the needs of enterprises and more directly link investment in the tools to the benefits, on August 1, 2007, Symantec announced Veritas CommandCentral Storage 5.0. There have been some significant modifications and additions made to the product in this release. Symantec's focus on enterprise customers drove the design of the product to support:

- ☒ Greater scalability through new architecture that enables a data collector to be deployed at each datacenter supporting up to 3,000 hosts, 6PBs, and 12,000 switch ports and then aggregate the information to the enterprise reporter that creates views and reports of the overall environment
- ☒ Ability to organize data centrally and view the storage infrastructure on a global basis on predefined groupings by geography, systems, platforms, business units, or other parameters
- ☒ Integration with server and storage virtualization supporting all the leading vendor products, such as VMware, Hitachi Data Systems' TagmaStore, and IBM's SAN Volume Controller, mapping virtual machines and vLUNs to actual LUN and arrays on the back end
- ☒ Ability to discover source and target of local and remote replication and report on status, state, size, and time of synchronization

This new release has made monitoring and managing a complex heterogeneous environment simpler. Enterprises need to better understand and manage their storage resources, and by utilizing Veritas CommandCentral Storage, they have the potential to realize significant returns on their investment. For example, in a short period of time, orphaned volumes are identified and reclaimed, and allocated volumes that had not actually been mounted are also reclaimed. In addition, environments utilizing Veritas Storage Foundation along with Veritas CommandCentral Storage could further leverage the knowledge they gained about their storage resources to reclaim capacity from volumes that were poorly utilized and redeploy this capacity to other hosts. In these cases, some enterprises were able to delay new purchases of storage capacity for a significant period of time.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

This is a significant release for the Veritas CommandCentral Storage product. With the increasing interest in virtualization to attain greater utilization, consolidate, and simplify provisioning, the support for storage virtualization is a critical component to any future success as a management tool.

Further integration of Veritas CommandCentral Storage with Veritas Storage Foundation (e.g., Veritas Volume Manager and Veritas File System) can extend the administrator's ability to monitor, report, and make changes to the environment from a common interface.

Additional features that some enterprise customers are looking for include capacity planning such as forecasting and trending. Together with cost allocation reporting and chargebacks, this can really help storage managers plan ahead, negotiate better terms with vendors, and evaluate appropriate technologies for acquisition.

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