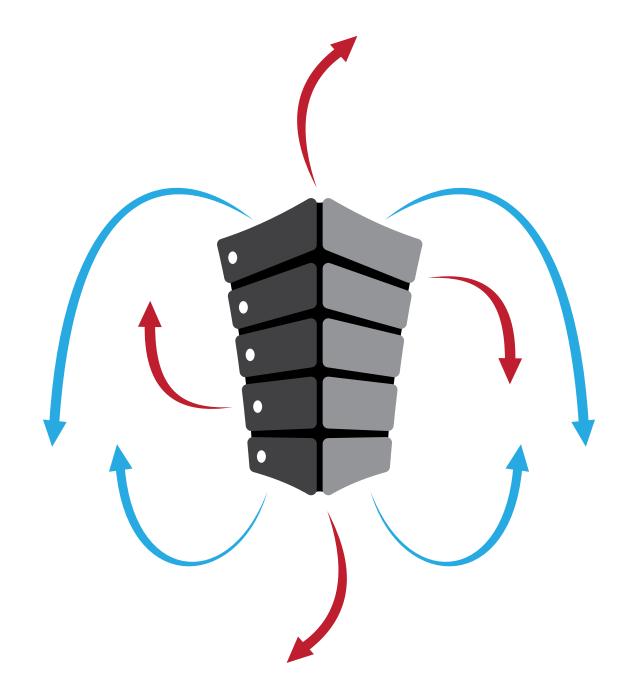


IN ASSOCIATION WITH





# STORAGE MODERNISATION

AN EVALUATION AND DECISION GUIDE FOR IT TEAMS

FREEFORM DYNAMICS, MAY 2017

#### **NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S ARRAY**

#### WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A MODERN STORAGE SYSTEM

Storage technology has advanced considerably over the past few years. Capabilities that were previously prohibitively expensive to buy or too complex to implement can now be purchased as standard features and options, delivered as part of a future-proof total solution that's fast, efficient and very easy to operate. Smaller businesses can now enjoy features that not long ago were only within the reach of large enterprises with lots of budget, skills and resources.



Fast multi-core processors, low-latency flash options, the latest high-speed networking, and sophisticated caching translate to inherently high performance and scalability. Self-tuning features then ensure continuous optimisation.

Flexible architecture means you can mix flash and disk to your needs, then add/replace media to enable growth or exploit new media options. Automated tiering and QoS management enables support for any mix of workloads.

**FLEXIBILITY** 





**AVAILABILITY** 

In-built snapshotting, replication, mirroring and rapid recovery options, including between different combinations of flash, disk and hybrid systems, protects data from loss, while minimising downtime.

Intelligent automation greatly reduces admin time and effort, while continuous compression and de-duplication boosts physical space utilisation. Operational overheads are then further reduced through better energy-efficiency.

**EFFICIENCY** 





SECURITY / LEGAL

Powerful processors allow data encryption/decryption with little/no impact on performance. Where regulations dictate, encryption, compression and de-dupe can be selectively disabled so data remains in its original form.

Make the right investments, and today it's possible to procure a storage solution that will meet your needs for many years to come, meaning you can focus both your time and budget on adding business value. But how do you form the business case to modernise your storage environment? First let's look at the needs and priorities that drive decisions.

#### ASSESSING YOUR NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

#### FOCUS ON THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If it was just a case of managing 'business as usual' then traditional storage solutions would be adequate for some time to come. The truth, however, is that the dynamics of today's digital world are creating a new set of demands and challenges. When considering needs and priorities, it is important to consider both the business and IT perspectives.

#### **SUPPORTING GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

**FREE UP TIME TO** 

THAT MATTER

**FOCUS ON THE THINGS** 

Many IT teams live with a significant

administration burden. This can be

to be working on more interesting

activities. It can also be stressful

when management is pressing

you on business-related

projects. The need here

is for intelligent and

reliable automation

you can trust.

As your organisation develops new offerings and business models, which in turn opens up new markets, your IT infrastructure will need to handle more transactions and a greater volume and variety of data. It is important that your storage systems can deal with increased capacity and throughput needs, smoothly and with minimal cost and disruption.

#### **KEEPING THE BUSINESS RUNNING** CONTINUOUSLY, SAFELY & SECURELY

Your business is already dependent on electronic data, but as internal processes and customer engagement systems undergo digital transformation, minimising downtime and preventing information loss is even more critical.

BUSINESS

## TODAY'S **NEEDS**

DEPARTMEN

**AVOID** frustrating when you would really like **UNWELCOME SURPRISES** 

> Unplanned upgrades and replacements when systems run out of space or can't handle new workload requirements are costly and disruptive. The same is true of failures and emergency remediation work. More robustness and expandability is needed.

#### MANAGING **RESOURCES** & COSTS

As the business grows and digitally transforms, it needs to make maximum use of all available resources, including capital, cash, time and expertise. It's therefore important to focus both investments and people on facilities and activities that create value and help the organisation to meet its objectives, while avoiding unnecessary costs, overheads and distractions.

#### **QUICKLY RESPOND TO CHANGING BUSINESS** REQUIREMENTS

Older systems mean even the simplest provisioning, migration or configuration job can be cumbersome and/or time-consuming to carry out, and can often require specialist skills. The need here is to get storage management off the critical path, e.g. through smart, policy-driven tools and integration with application stacks.

The priorities and needs listed here are by no means exhaustive, but they are the kind of things we hear time and again from IT and Business Professionals involved in driving change in their organisations. If we pull the above together with a more detailed list of modern storage capabilities, we can form an actionable view of what's important and why.

### **BUSINESS DRIVEN DECISION MAKING**

## 10 KEY CAPABILITIES THAT MATTER, AND WHY

Making effective storage investment decisions	SUPPORT FOR MANAGING					
today means keeping in mind the essential	GROWTH		RISK	СО	ST	
business imperatives of growth, risk mitigation						
and cost reduction. The question then	9	KUM	24	8	ये	
becomes which capabilities map onto the	A TEL	ON THE	CORIT TAN	SOF SON	à l	
key requirements and how. The impact	VERSATUTY AND EXPANDABUTY USINESC	AND RAPID DR.	Sund	NO ON		
becomes which capabilities map onto the key requirements and how. The impact matrix here provides this view.	BUSIN	AND RAPIO DRUITY	NINIMISA VITANICE VITANISA	REDUCTION OF CASE		YOUR
					WE	IGHTING
Extensible, hybrid architecture enabling growth & modernisation					L	
Unified storage to support file & block access on the same system			<b>O</b>			
						=
Fast networking and advanced caching for speed & scalability						
Storage clustering, transparent fail-over & fast rebuild capability			•			
Automated tiering based on						
actual data access patterns						
Automated quality of service						
to support mixed workloads						
						_
Snapshots, system-to-system replication and fast recovery						
Selective, continuous de-duplication & compression						
Selective, continuous data encryption & decryption						
eneryption a acception						
Integration with VMware & Microsoft virtualisation stacks						
Capability makes a significant and direc	ct 🚺	•	•	a worthwhile		•
contribution to the business objective		indirect	contributi	on to the ob	jective	

The 'weighting' boxes are there to acknowledge that some capabilities may be more important to you than others; use these as you see fit. The message from the above, and this document in general, is that a modern, future-proof storage solution is essential for digital transformation. We hope our discussion has been useful to illustrate how and why.

#### ABOUT FREEFORM DYNAMICS

Freeform Dynamics is an IT industry analyst firm. Through our research and insights, we aim to help busy IT and business professionals get up to speed on the latest technology developments, and make better-informed investment decisions.

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