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New article on thin-provisioning options for file systems

Broomfield, Colo. – Tuesday, February 26, 2008– Ray Lucchesi of Silverton Consulting (www.silvertonconsulting.com) has written an article for the February issue of InfoStor on file system thin provisioning. Thin provisioning is like a number of inflatable structures in a room, any of the structures can expand as they are inflated up to the capacity of the room. In this metaphor, file systems are the structures, and the room is the storage capacity of the NAS product.

File thin-provisioning has been available from a few vendors in the past but recently more NAS vendors have introduced this capability. Nowadays, file system thin provisioning is available from EMC, NetApp, BlueArc, and Symantec as well as their OEM vendors.

Just like block storage thin provisioning, not all customers can benefit from this capability. It takes one who can be vigilant and willing to continuously monitor storage consumption. However, for these customers the savings from deferring storage purchase can be significant.

Even for the right customers not all file storage should be thinly provisioned. The article discusses a number of workloads that suffer when using thinly provisioned file systems.

ABOUT Silverton Consulting, Inc. - Silverton Consulting is a Strategy, Storage & Systems consulting services company, based in Broomfield Colorado, offering products and services to the data storage community.

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