

SCI StorInt™ Dispatch - EMC071015 Announcing: New NetWorker, Disk Library, Backup Advisor and Homebase

This Silverton Consulting (SCI) Storage Intelligence (StorInt™) Dispatch provides a summary of EMC's recent NetWorker announcements providing new capabilities integrating Avamar and RecoverPoint technology with NetWorker. New Disk Library capabilities and new Backup Advisor and HomeBase versions were also announced.

EMC New NetWorker capabilities

EMC mentioned over 25,000 customer installations and the 15 years of NetWorker software in the field. In addition to support for the new DL4000 capabilities (see below), NetWorker has also been enhanced to integrate Avamar and RecoverPoint technology.

A new NetWorker client has been released which supports Avamar technology as a backup target and fully supports Avamar source data de-duplication. An Avamar server can be designated as a target for a NetWorker backup stream. NetWorker supports backup streams to go to the Avamar server, to the normal NetWorker server or to both. This is completely selectable on a backup set basis. The Avamar server is sold separately and can use any of the current Avamar server deployments including the new Avamar DataStore as well as the Avamar Virtual Edition running as a virtual machine under VMware.

RecoverPoint is now integrated with NetWorker and can be managed under the NetWorker management console. NetWorker with a RecoverPoint server can now take advantage of storage snapshots and other advanced functions to provide continuous data protection and less painful backups.

EMC New Disk Library 4000 capabilities

EMC mentioned that they have deployed over 150 PB of Disk Library storage.

DL 4000 now supports the 1-TB SATA drive technology for a significant increase in capacity while simultaneously reducing energy consumption. In addition DL4000 now supports RAID 6 or dual parity RAID as well as the optional hardware compression already available on DL 4000.

EMC New Backup Advisor and HomeBase capabilities

EMC Backup Advisor Version 3 has support for more languages and additional backup software packages including CommVault Galaxy and CA ArcServe. Also Backup Advisor now supports Windows Vista as well as 64-bit Linux operating systems.

EMC HomeBase Version 6.0 also includes support for more languages and an entry-level version, which provides bare metal restore for data centers fewer than 30 servers. The

entry-level support is targeted for EMC indirect channels that handle small accounts and prior to this release really had no HomeBase solution.

Announcement significance

EMC has been on an acquisition spree of late and we now see how the pieces are coming together. On this note, the RecoverPoint integration into the management console is a necessary first step but doesn't go very far enough down that integration road.

On the other hand, the new NetWorker client support for the Avamar server was a significant change. For one thing, we were a little confused over the positioning of the old Avamar versus NetWorker and this move seems to make that issue moot – if you want data de-dupe buy an Avamar server and install the new client. More significantly, this release now brings the latest source data de-duplication technology to the vast NetWorker install base without requiring a major software swap out (NetWorker for Avamar). Source data de-duplication addresses both the time to do backups as well as the space required to keep backups online. Avamar technology via NetWorker represents a relatively painless and quick way to address critical customer concerns while also opening up the potential install base for Avamar technology – smart.

In contrast, the Disk Library announcements were not too surprising. EMC did announce that they were the first storage company to support the 1-TB drive in a disk library configuration. Also as drives get bigger, rebuild time goes up and therefore risk of additional drive failures during reconstruction goes up – enter RAID 6 which can handle the simultaneous failure of two disk drives in a RAID group while still maintaining data integrity.

Finally, the two software announcements were somewhat less significant. They were both logical extensions of current products. Although the HomeBase entry-level version may warrant some discussion - it's unusual to see small data centers concerned with disaster recovery let alone need bare metal restores. This offering provides a new unique capability but whether the market can use it is another question.

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