

► Challenge

To eliminate wasted unused storage capacity by upgrading from direct attached storage to a storage area network in order to improve storage utilization

► Solution

A SANRAD V-Switch 3000 as the centerpiece of an iSCSI SAN, delivering storage resources to 14 servers running Windows 2000 and 1 server running Linux sharing a Fibrenetix 4TB S-ATA disk solution

► Benefits

- Large, shared storage pools provide improved storage utilization
- Ability to re-use existing Ethernet knowledge
- Seamless migration from existing direct-attached storage to iSCSI SAN
- Significantly reduced overhead expenses
- Centralized storage management & virtualization
- Compatible with wide range of storage arrays and server operating systems

“SANRAD is the first to market with a standardized solution that was easy to manage and with the iSCSI initiator from Microsoft, it certainly made the implementation much easier. And add to that a very attractive price.”

Thomas Christensen, IT Administrator
SOCO SYSTEM A/S



SANRAD Provides SAN Infrastructure for SOCO SYSTEM A/S

IP SAN - A Smarter, More Affordable SAN Solution

Overview

SOCO SYSTEM A/S is an international group of companies, based in Denmark, servicing the European market as well as exporting products and services worldwide.

SOCO SYSTEM A/S, working together with SANRAD solutions and integrator Skandinavisk Computer Teknologi A/S (SCT), has deployed the SANRAD V-Switch 3000 as the centerpiece of an iSCSI SAN. The SANRAD iSCSI SAN delivers storage resources to 14 servers running Windows 2000 and 1 server running Linux. The shared storage disk system used by the V-Switch is a Fibrenetix 4TB S-ATA disk solution. SOCO SYSTEM A/S is one of the first customers in Denmark to take advantage of the Microsoft iSCSI initiator and the Adaptec iSCSI HBA, enabling them to seamlessly migrate from existing direct-attached storage to the flexibility and storage TCO advantages of iSCSI SANs.

The SANRAD Choice

After a long time of searching the market for a SAN solution, SOCO SYSTEM A/S selected the SANRAD's V-Switch 3000. "SANRAD is the first to market with a standardized solution that was easy to manage and with the iSCSI initiator from Microsoft, it certainly made the implementation much easier," said Thomas Christensen, IT Administrator at SOCO SYSTEM A/S, "...and add to that a very attractive price..." he added.



Large storage pools for better storage utilization

According to Christensen, the primary factor for SOCO SYSTEM A/S to move from DAS to a SANRAD iSCSI SAN was the flexibility of the iSCSI SAN architecture. The benefits included the ability to re-use existing Ethernet knowledge and share a single large storage system to improve storage utilization. SOCO now uses the IP-SAN instead of direct attached storage or "DAS". DAS wasted unused storage capacity because other servers could not share it. "With an IP-SAN, we can now use the storage as a big pool and share it among 15 servers as a virtual storage pool," said Christensen. "All the servers can have access to the great big pool and are assigned capacity as appropriate". For example, part of the storage pool has been dedicated to the backup server as a disk staging area before the data is migrated to tape. This has reduced the backup window by almost 50%.

Future Plans – Extranet for resellers

In the near future SOCO SYSTEM A/S plans to install additional Adaptec iSCSI HBAs, since they feel this increases stability and performance. Furthermore, SOCO SYSTEM A/S is building an Extranet for resellers, customers and service employees. "This Extranet is to be used for manuals, technical specifications and CAD-drawings. This information tends to take up lots of disk capacity, but with the V-Switch we can just add more storage to the servers if needed", said Christensen.

SANRAD's V-Switches introduce all-in-one iSCSI storage networking, guaranteeing the full availability and seamless management of stored information across standard Ethernet networks, affording a complete storage continuity solution that is easy to deploy, with excellent price/performance. SANRAD V-Switches combine a truly interoperable, multiple-port iSCSI gateway with comprehensive storage services for full block-based data access, network volume management, storage continuity and traffic optimization, delivering a new dimension in the availability of vital business information using open iSCSI Storage Area Networks (IP-SANs).

About SOCO

In 1961, SOCO SYSTEM A/S was founded on a philosophy and a concept that has made them one of the world leaders in the development and production of packaging machinery, equipment and total solutions for materials handling and packing.

SOCO SYSTEM A/S has subsidiaries in England, Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, USA and Hungary as well as agents and distributors in most parts of the world.