

Storage SLA – Removing the Last Barrier to Virtualization Cost Savings

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Server and Storage virtualization environments are key components of any data center cost-savings plan. Until recently, a barrier existed to placing many of the most demanding applications within a virtualized infrastructure. This barrier has now been lifted with the advent of storage Service Level Assurance (SLA) functionality in cost-effective packaged SAN solutions such as provided by SANRAD's V-STOR.

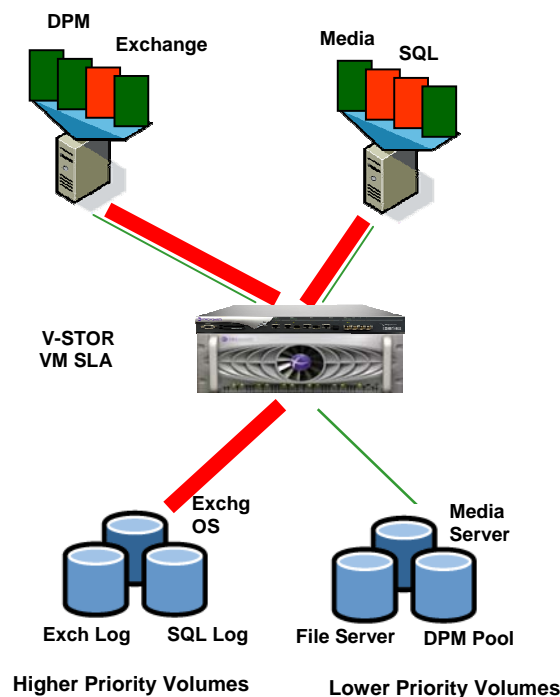


Figure 1 – SANRAD SLA Separates and Protects the Bandwidth to High Priority Storage Such as Exchange and SQL Logs Enabling Virtualization of these Applications with Confidence

Historically, when multiple applications in a virtualized environment run on a single physical infrastructure, storage access interference can occur between higher and lower priority applications. This interference barrier created a glass ceiling to the number and type of applications that can be

virtualized on the same SAN. The need to keep high demand applications on their own separate infrastructures limited the cost savings benefit that could have been gained from virtualizing the servers of these applications and adding them to the SAN. In addition, QoS for SANs was available only in high-end systems, making it cost prohibitive for most organizations. Now, by deploying storage SLA, transactional applications, such as databases, that require minimal access latency to storage can be guaranteed access priority, ensuring no performance interference by lower-priority applications.

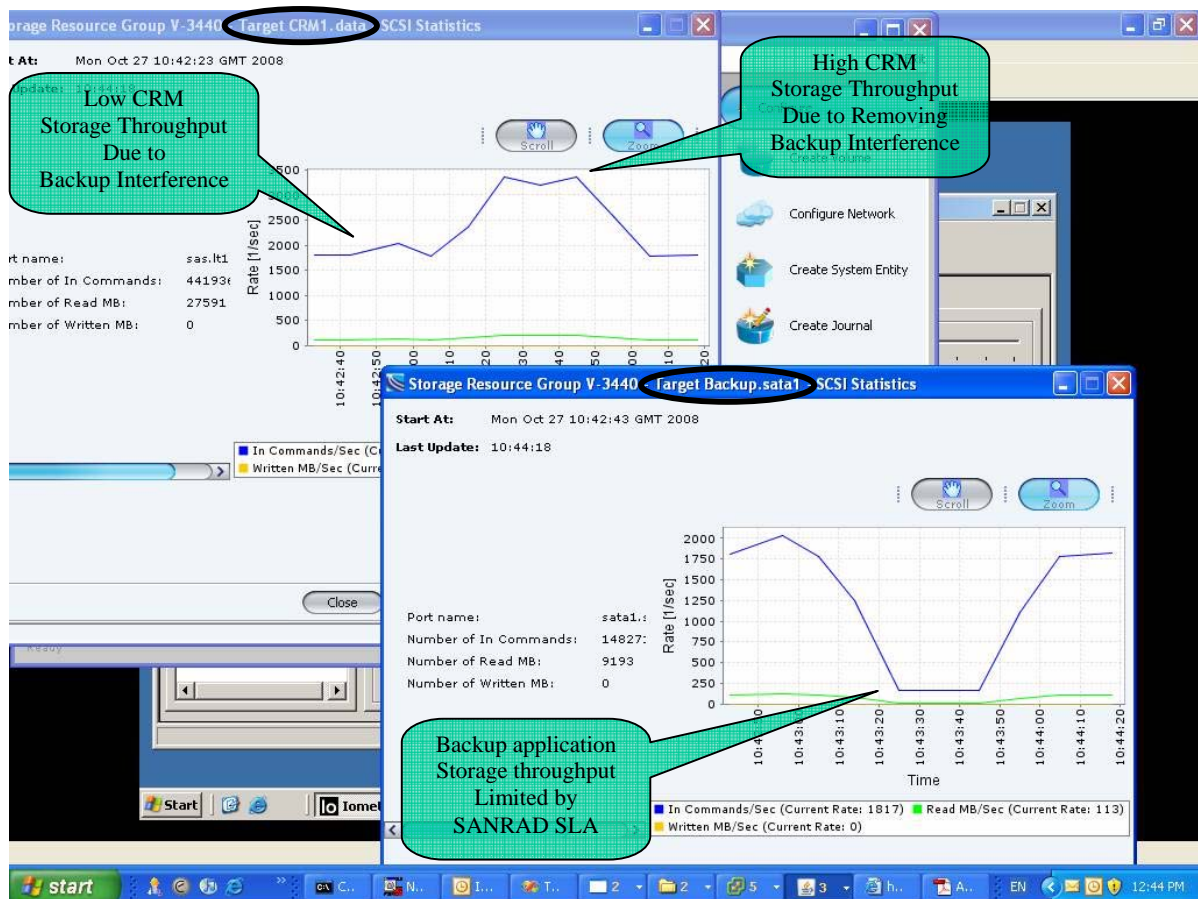


Figure 2 – This Usage Example of SANRAD SLA Shows a Backup Application Interfering with a CRM application. When SANRAD SLA is Activated the Interference is Blocked and the CRM Returns to Normal Service.

Consider the following: An IT department has decided to virtualize its Exchange servers, gaining cost savings and increasing availability by placing its data on a SAN. However, the company's file server is already residing on the same SAN. A critical time for the Exchange server is the beginning of each workday, when all employees review email. The IT manager fears that a spike in demand from the file server will interfere with the Exchange server, causing bottlenecks and slow service for the email users, or, even worse, a system failure.

Within a storage management system like the one controlling V-STOR, the IT manager can simply protect the Exchange server storage bandwidth during critical hours, preventing any other application from interfering with its access to the storage.

With SLA as a new standard for SMBs, the cost-savings and reduction of the ecological footprint with SAN virtualization are now available to all organizations.