



# PANASAS ACTIVESCALE<sup>®</sup> FAILOVER

## Protection from network and metadata service failures

The foundation of Panasas ActiveStor parallel storage solutions is the Panasas ActiveScale operating environment which includes the PanFST<sup>™</sup> parallel file system, the DirectFLOW Protocol, ActiveScale Failover, and ActiveImage snapshot software. Together, these components offer orders of magnitude performance improvements over traditional file storage architectures, and dramatically lower the cost of managing data storage by supporting enterprise-ready manageability and availability features.

The object-based architecture of the Panasas ActiveScale operating environment means that additional intelligence can be injected into all storage functions. One of these key functions is failover, the ability to recover from a DirectorBlade or storage network failure.

In the event a DirectorBlade fails, all metadata services are automatically transferred to a backup Director Blade. All DirectorBlades work in an Active/Active configuration, meaning that there are no “spares” required and all DirectorBlades are always fully engaged in managing the storage cluster activities. There is no loss of service and the system continues to operate without interruption. All applications using the DirectFLOW data path will be able to seamlessly continue data processing and access to all volumes from NFS and CIFS will also be maintained.

The Panasas ActiveStor systems are based on 1 Gigabit and 10 Gigabit Ethernet and iSCSI. There are two independent data paths for all of the blades built into every storage shelf. When the ActiveScale Failover option is employed, in the event of a storage network failure, the network can seamlessly failover to an alternate path, ensuring seamless continuous access from all applications. The ActiveStor 5000 and 6000 come with two Ethernet switches on each shelf to support this full datapath redundancy.

These two key capabilities, combined with the standard object-based RAID capabilities in the base ActiveScale operating environment, enhance the already highly redundant Panasas storage solution to provide the highest operating availability to customers running their critical applications.

Panasas ActiveScale Failover is standard on the ActiveStor 5000 and 6000 Storage Clusters and optional on the ActiveStor 3000 and 4000.

### FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- **Maximizes Availability**  
Metadata and network failover reduces risk of data unavailability
  
- **Increases Productivity**  
Applications stay online while maintenance is performed that requires disabling of a path  
  
Users achieve a higher productivity level through automatic failover
  
- **Avoids Impact to Applications**  
Helps enable control of application specific service levels
  
- **Improves Efficiency**  
Active/active configuration maximizes usage and performance

PANASAS. THE LEADER IN PARALLEL STORAGE.

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