

An essential but often overlooked element in new storage deployments is a data backup strategy. The ability to maintain data integrity and accessibility 24x7 is paramount for successful operations. As part of any data management program, a robust backup solution can be the difference between uninterrupted productivity vs. unplanned downtime. Panasas understands the need for a sound, resilient backup strategy to improve efficiency, lower operating costs, and increase user satisfaction.

Implementing a new backup solution or making modifications to an existing backup strategy can be tricky. Careful consideration must be given to any plan to evolve your data backup practices to a next-generation data protection strategy. Panasas® Professional Services is ready to assist you in backup planning and implementation to protect production data and enable effective restoration.

OUR APPROACH

The Panasas ActiveStor™ Storage Cluster is well suited for high-speed backup because it is inherently parallel and scalable. There are no filer heads or individual storage communication channels that can bottleneck the flow of data. Nor is there any need for expensive Fibre Channel switches. Instead, the preferred solution for high-speed backup is to leverage our Panasas DirectFLOW® client access software that enables direct communication between backup clients and the data on disk.

A Panasas Professional Services Engineer (PSE) takes the time to learn your backup requirements, review the existing backup systems, understand the layout of the data to be backed-up and analyze the network infrastructure. Upon gathering this information, Panasas will deliver a summary detailing the essential elements required to integrate the ActiveStor Storage Cluster into your existing backup infrastructure. This ensures an effective and comprehensive integration plan resulting in efficient, high performance backup with the Panasas file system at its core.

Our Backup Integration Service consists of two major phases:

I. ANALYSIS AND DESIGN

Panasas Professional Services works in a collaborative way to fully understand your current backup strategy and future requirements for your Panasas ActiveStor Storage Cluster. Next, we analyze the current backup systems infrastructure and assess how the Panasas storage solution fits into your backup configuration.

Regardless of the final backup strategy, the critical factor in all solutions is the network topology. Unless you have a dedicated network for backup, backup is always competing for network bandwidth. The more bandwidth that is available, the more backup operations can utilize, which reduces the time to complete your backup. Therefore, in addition to the backup systems infrastructure assessment, Panasas Professional

Services will inspect the network infrastructure to determine adequate port and speed counts. Before upgrading your network, we investigate areas for potential bottlenecks and assess resource utilization. Panasas may suggest network or backup tuning, such as using larger transfer packets, jumbo frames and various TCP window sizes to assist you in optimizing your backup solution.

Upon gathering this information, Panasas will apply analytical tools, templates, and sizing tables to summarize and report any additional hardware and/or software required to fully integrate your backup infrastructure with the Panasas storage solution. Whenever possible, we will also provide calculated capital expenditure costs for any additional systems procurement.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

When we receive confirmation that the necessary hardware and/or software elements have arrived at your site, the second phase of your service begins. The Panasas PSE will schedule time to revisit your site and complete the implementation. The PSE will install and configure DirectFLOW client access software, install and/or configure backup software, and thoroughly test the configuration to ensure everything is working properly. At the end of this process, your PSE will conduct a knowledge-transfer session to provide adequate knowledge on the systems setup and verify a safe hand-off.

VALUE ADD

By utilizing a skilled Panasas Backup Integration Service in conjunction with your Panasas PanSelect Support, you can off-load the entire labor-intensive task of backup design, implementation and management. In addition to ensuring a complete and optimized solution, you gain additional cost savings by allowing your storage administration team to maintain focus on day-to-day activities.