MSI leverages local disk drives for shared storage in VMware ESX

StorMagic's SvSAN™ is a highly available shared storage solution providing Business Continuity at a fraction of traditional cost.

Maintenance Strategies Inc. focuses on equipment asset management and maintenance optimization. As an organization that helped many other customers realize efficiency, it didn't take long for MSI to realize just how much local storage they were wasting as a result of utilization of their in-house SAN.

"Our development team utilizes our SAN constantly so we were literally throwing away our local storage options," said Scott Hibbs, Chief Information Officer at MSI. "We needed a better way to utilize the local storage and potentially avoid the high costs associated with a hardware SAN."

The Solution

MSI had only recently upgraded to VMware vSphere so it was important for them to find a solution that would provide them with a simple yet resilient virtual SAN. The search for such a solution led MSI to various options including open-source solutions but none could provide them with the feature sets and price point they were seeking. All that changed once they had an opportunity to test StorMagic's SvSAN. "I was immediately impressed by how much better the SvSAN compared to the other solutions we had tested. Not to

Specialization

Maintenance Strategies Inc. focuses on equipment asset management and maintenance optimization. The organization targets maintenance systems for utility and facility management market sectors.

Situation

With development utilizing most of MSI's SAN, the organization quickly realized how much excess local storage they were wasting and failing to utilize.

Solution

SvSAN – StorMagic's virtual SAN. A robust shared storage system for VMware Servers, which:

- Operates as a Storage Virtual Appliance
- Leverages VMware server drives and RAID resources
- Supports the high availability of VMotion
- Simplifies storage operations with single operation provisioning via integrated vCenter management

All at a fraction of the cost of traditional SAN systems.

mention it was the only product that seamlessly plugged into vCenter within VMware".

The SvSAN provides a vCenter plug-in making highly available datastores a reality without any expertise or reliance on an external SAN. As a result, organizations like MSI are able to add to their Business Continuity initiatives with Highly Available datastores enabling them to deliver continuous access to datastores and maintain online applications and constant accessibility.

The Result

What started out as a goal of utilizing local storage, quickly turned into an array of benefits for MSI. In addition to more efficiently utilizing local storage, the organization was now in a position to put their shared storage to use and deploy High Availability.

"It's a neat little bonus to have High Availability along with knowing that you are putting your shared storage to full use" As a result of their investment in SvSAN, MSI can also consider minimizing the investment associated with purchasing additional external SANs, saving them thousands of dollars. As if the benefits, affordability and ease of use weren't enough, Scott adds "It's also worth highlighting that the performance of the SvSAN far exceeded our expectations. We have no doubt that the performance will enable our organization to do with shared storage things we'd never thought possible!"

StorMagic®

SMART STORAGE MADE SIMPLE

For more information regarding StorMagic SvSAN, contact us at:

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Or visit www.StorMagic.com

StorMagic SvSAN Benefits

- Create a virtual SAN from your internal disk storage
- Create, manage and provision datastores in a single operation
- Manage SAN, datastores and internal RAID controller directly from vCenter
- Share datastores across clustered VMware servers
- Create highly available datastores using synchronous mirroring
- Eliminate specialized training by leveraging an intuitive interface
- Scale performance and capacity non-disruptively
- Implement VMotion without having to add expensive and complicated shared storage systems