

Aberdeen Garners Best-in-Class Small Enterprise Storage Array

For Immediate Release:

Santa Fe Springs, California, April 4, 2011: The advent of server virtualization and virtual server operating systems has forced end users in small enterprises to fully evaluate what solutions available offer the most features at the best price for their environments. Typically, for end users looking for high-end enterprise class disk arrays, there is an abundance of resource options and evaluation guides. Up until now, there were few, if any, resources available to eliminate painstaking and involved research to help end users come up with a short list of small enterprise storage array options to best meet their needs.

In the latest in an on-going series of Insider Buyer's Guides, DCIG, LLC and Foskett Services, collaborated to assess available options and compile a comprehensive guide of small enterprise storage arrays that are affordable, easy to deploy and reliable and perform well. The [Expanded Edition of the DCIG 2011 Small Enterprise Storage Array Buyer's Guide](#) is designed to take the heavy lifting out of determining what solutions are available and provide a resource to assess the value of each array and feature just as an end user might. While the Buyer's Guide ranks products in terms of completeness of their feature set, appropriateness of each solution is based on end user need, environments and application usage. In some circumstances it is very likely that a lower-rated product may be a better solution for many applications and use cases that do not require a broad set of features and options.

"The small enterprise storage array market has been largely ignored in favor of large enterprise storage arrays," said Jerome Wendt, co-author and founder, DCIG, LLC. "Small enterprise solutions are not widely known and even if an end user did research on their own, there have been few ways available to make an objective buying decision. This Buyer's Guide can assist end users in making the all-important buying decision while removing the mystery that shrouds how some small enterprise storage arrays are configured."

DCIG, LLC, and Foskett Services looked at over 50 features on 37 different offerings and solutions from nineteen different companies across five categories: Storage controller, storage capacity, storage network connectivity, availability and support. Solutions were ranked "Recommended," and/or "Best-in-Class," "Excellent," "Good," and "Basic" across functionality and capability with the intent to provide an "at-a-glance" comparison from which users can select the most appropriate solution for their existing needs with the Aberdeen [AberNAS](#) and Aberdeen [AberSAN](#) storage arrays achieving the #1 overall ranking respectively in the two categories covered in this Buyer's Guide.

"Those who know us, look upon Aberdeen as the best kept secret in the storage marketplace. With our first place finish in the Expanded Edition of the DCIG 2011 Small Enterprise Storage Array Buyer's Guide, Aberdeen's secret just might get out. We've historically enjoyed steady, sustained growth, not to mention over 40% growth in 2010 over 2009, but now things should get even more interesting." Aberdeen's President and CEO Moshe Ovadya

Aberdeen will have the Best-in-Class AberSAN unified storage enterprise storage array on display in booth #6039 at the ISC West International Security Conference and Exhibition, taking place at the Sands Expo and Convention Center, April 5-8. The AberSAN will also be on display during the NAB trade show at the Las Vegas Convention Center in booth #N2834 from April 11-14, 2011.

"This Buyer's Guide from DCIG will be a very valuable resource as I look for products in this space," said Tony McGivern, at Adepra, Inc. "The one page data sheet on each storage array is very useful. They give me a quick overview with sufficient detail to be able to pick one or two candidates based on what I need but without reams of information about the ones I wasn't interested in."

The criteria for a storage array's inclusion in this Buyer's Guide were as follows:

- It had to allow networked storage connectivity (FC, iSCSI, and/or NAS) to multiple servers
- It had to support at least eight (8) internal hard disk drives (HDDs)
- There had to be sufficient public available information to make a meaningful decision
- The model had to be shipping by March 1, 2011

- It had to be approximately priced between \$5,000 and \$30,000

Some of the key findings that came out of the research that went into preparing this Expanded Edition of the DCIG 2011 Small Enterprise Storage Array Buyer's Guide include:

- 86% of the arrays support both 1 Gb Ethernet and the iSCSI protocol
- 52% of the arrays support FC (4 Gb or higher)
- Only 38% of the arrays support 10 Gb Ethernet
- Only 24% of the arrays support NAS
- All arrays that support NAS also support iSCSI
- 67% offer support for a single storage controller
- 47% offer support for dual storage controllers
- 19% offer support for either single or dual storage controller configurations

The Expanded Edition of the DCIG 2011 Small Enterprise Storage Array Buyer's Guide Top Five solutions in the \$5,000 to \$15,000 model category include (in alphabetical order): Aberdeen LLC AberNAS [260/360](#) Series, D-Link Corp DSN-5110-10, Dell PowerVault MD3200i/MD3220i, EMC VNXe3100, and PROMISE Technology, Inc. VessRAID 1000i Series.

Aberdeen has since released an upgrade to the Best-in-Class [AberNAS LX Series storage appliance](#) to feature a 64bit Linux-based OS and a grand capacity scalability of 8 Exabytes, featuring the recently validated Hitachi's 3TB Ultrastar 7K3000 disk drives. The Linux-based OS offers ongoing and broad-based support from the worldwide Linux open source community, combined with unique VMware Ready features.

The Expanded Edition of the DCIG 2011 Small Enterprise Storage Array Buyer's Guide Top Ten solutions in the \$15,000 to \$30,000 model category include (in alphabetical order): Aberdeen LLC AberSAN [Z20/Z30/Z50](#), Dot Hill Systems Corp. AssuredSAN 2700 series, EMC VNXe3300, HP StorageWorks P2000 G3 10GbE iSCSI/FC, StoneFly, Inc. Voyager TSC16 and Winchester Systems Inc. VX-2300/3400 and SX-2300/3400 series.

"Customers have responded favorably to the AberSAN ZFS Shared Storage solution, powered by NexentaStor software, and DCIG's 'Best in Class' ranking further affirms that OpenStorage solutions are gaining significant traction in the market," said Evan Powell, CEO of Nexenta Systems.

"What our research indicated is there is an embarrassment of riches in the small enterprise storage array solution space," said Stephen Foskett, founder and principal at Foskett Services. "Small enterprise solutions are far more than stripped down versions of larger enterprise arrays. This Buyer's Guide helps end users spend less time on research and more time on narrowing the best options to handle their evolving requirements."

Disclosure and Methodology:

The raw data featured in this Buyer's Guide primarily came from two sources: an online survey completed by manufacturers, and publicly available information on the Web. DCIG and Foskett Services attempted to validate all of the information contained in this Buyer's Guide with all manufacturers contacted after the research was done, in order to verify our findings. Once the raw data was compiled, DCIG and Foskett Services assessed the value of each array as an end user might. Relative merits of various approaches each array offered for data protection, high availability, performance and other key attributes were considered and judged accordingly. This Guide is not intended to be a substitute for bringing individual storage arrays in-house and testing them with specific applications.

Availability:

The Expanded Edition of the DCIG 2011 Small Enterprise Storage Array Buyer's Guide is available immediately for a free download with registration from our licensed partner Aberdeen via DCIG's website or from Aberdeen's website www.aberdeenninc.com.



Resources:

DCIG Blog: <http://www.d cig.com>

Foskett Services Blog: <http://www.foskettservices.com/category/commentary>

Aberdeen: <http://www.aberdeenninc.com>

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About Aberdeen:

Aberdeen LLC is a leading manufacturer of servers and storage. Delivering exceptional performance, unparalleled reliability and outstanding value, Aberdeen's award winning products are deployed every day by IT departments in many of the world's largest organizations. More information about Aberdeen is available at www.aberdeenninc.com. Day to day announcements from Aberdeen can be found on Twitter: [@aberdeenllc](https://twitter.com/aberdeenllc).

About DCIG:

DCIG, LLC, is an analyst firm with headquarters in Texas, focusing on archive, backup, retrieval and storage systems. DCIG's analysts provide both sponsored and unsponsored analysis. DCIG's sponsored analysis is available in the form of blogs, case studies, executive white papers, special reports and full-length white papers. Its unsponsored analysis is available in the form of contributed articles, blog entries and Buyer's Guides. DCIG's goal is to provide evaluations on sponsoring and non-sponsoring companies and their technology and products to consumers, public relations firms, business analysts and other companies. DCIG distributes industry, company and product analysis by way of viral marketing and community building using the burgeoning BLOG infrastructures created worldwide.

About Foskett Services:

Foskett Services is a provider of information technology and business strategy solutions. After spending over a decade providing consulting and analysis services to enterprise IT organizations and infrastructure vendors, Stephen Foskett launched his own services organization to face this wave of change head-on. This group applies core best practices for managing IT systems to the emerging post-PC world.