



HPE 3PAR Flash Storage Review From A Customer

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Review by a Real User

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Server and Storage Practice Lead at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

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VALUABLE FEATURES

The 7200 and 7400 are both easy to manage. The reporting suite is a must and gives you all the information you need to manage storage. This suite helps you manage how the storage is used and reclaimed, and one of the best features is the new AFC (Adaptive Flash Cache) which combined with AO (Adaptive Optimisation) really helps performance.

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

We have implemented two 7400 arrays replacing older EVAs with replication, we used to use CLX (Cluster Extensions for EVA) for the Windows machines, but we never had anything but manual failover for the VMware environment. With the 7400, we implemented Peer Persistence and this removed the requirement of CLX and also gave us a similar site protection in the VMware environment meaning that we no longer have to do a manual failover.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Majority of the day to day management can be done via the GUI, but certain functions have to be setup via the command line interface such as AFC.

USE OF SOLUTION

I have used the 7200 for over two years and the 7400 for around six months.

DEPLOYMENT ISSUES

Deployment and migration was quite straight forward.

STABILITY ISSUES

Both versions are very stable. The 7200 has not had any downtime since it was put into production back in November 2012.

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SCALABILITY ISSUES

The products that we bought both scale very easily, and were bought knowing what the maximum was (which increased on the 7200 from the time of purchase).

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Customer Service: It's very good for the amount of times we have been in contact (not much as there's no need to make contact).

Technical Support: Tech support is fantastic. It seems that you have your own personal support, as we are notified whenever a new firmware/patch/update is released, and we have had the remote support team upgrade the firmware numerous times. We have had only two failed drives on the 7200, and each time the process was simple.

PREVIOUS SOLUTIONS

Prior to the 7200, we had a HP P2000 storage array, and this proved not able to cope with the workload (it was designed/implemented and used to be managed by another company) since the 7200 has been installed, there haven't been any issues. The 7400, replaced four EVAs (two 6500s and two 8400s) and we switched these because they becoming instable causing various issues. They also lacked the failover ability for our virtual environment (without having to buy SRM).

INITIAL SETUP

The initial setup was straightforward as it was planned for. Also, the installation document that was filled out had all the info required to make it that way.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Both installations were carried out by myself.

ROI

For the 7200 there has been no downtime in over two years and this is priceless, whereas with the old P2000, which wasn't designed or setup properly, we had multiple downtime periods. For the 7400. each of the 7400s replaced an EVA 6500 and an EVA 8400 taking up three racks of space, which was condensed down to a single rack. For the first two months, we ran purely on the FC tier (tier one) and the performance was better than both the EVAs. We have three tiers of storage SSD, FC and NL and now the AFC and AO in place, performance is fantastic and we have plenty of capacity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED

EMC IBM

OTHER ADVICE

After spending months of looking at products and choosing the HP 3PAR's the best advice is to: Plan the installation and migration – this saved us time in getting the new storage in production Think about all the features you require as they aren't expensive and probably will save you money (Peer-Persistence was a good one for the 7400) Don't buy for years – as they are easily upgraded the capacity should be sized correctly.

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