



HPE 3PAR Flash Storage Review From A Customer

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From IT Central Station, the leading review site for enterprise technology solutions.

Review by a Real User

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System Administrator at ProCredit Bank

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VALUABLE FEATURES

Although the technology is packed with features, it's still very simple and intuitive to use at both hardware and software levels.

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

We are now using thin provisioned disks from 3PAR attached to hosts. Using this feature, along with chunklet RAID technology, we are able to reduce the overall physical storage by about 40%. This was a significant change, as we are now able to run more resources and VMs. Also, we are using adaptive optimization, which automatically analyses CPG (disk groups) and makes automatic decisions to move high I/O regions of CPG to faster disks. This makes the provisioned disks attached to hosts work smoothly under any load.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

From my point of view, the part of this product that needs improvement is the reporting. I would like it to have richer graphic charts, more info, and more reports.

USE OF SOLUTION

We have been using 3PAR for more than a year now. We are using two 7200 devices. The first has 48 disks, and the second is equipped with eight flash SSD Disks and 56 SAS Disks. We are using the flash disks in combination with adaptive optimization technology to cache high I/O regions from disks to SSD. We have no dedicated flash storage, but the solution we are using is working great. Additionally, we own an old HP EVA storage.

DEPLOYMENT ISSUES

We had no deployment issues at all. and everything was done smoothly and without any issues.

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STABILITY ISSUES

Since we deployed 3PAR, there hasn't been any downtime, or other issue with stability. The main production 3PAR uptime is over 360 days to date and without any degradation in performance or any other issues.

SCALABILITY ISSUES

The scalability is superb. New disks can added without any downtime at any point, and any provisioned disk can be expanded on-line.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Customer Service: Customer service is good enough in our region. Technical Support: Technical support is great! HP 3PAR has a service processor that is connected to HP support directly, so HP is monitoring the status of our 3PAR storage. When any kind of issue or a warning is picked up by HP, we are get e-mails from them with recommendations on how to solve it. HP support also predicts failure of disks, and sends e-mail about disk changes before a disk failure occurs. This is a great level of support, and having this means we have no downtime or performance degradation at all!

PREVIOUS SOLUTIONS

As I mentioned earlier, we were using an HP EVA storage device, and it was not giving the right speed or IOPS we needed. We started to look at different solutions, starting with NetAPP and EMC, to HP and IBM. As the price and technologies of HP offered was better than the others, we decided to buy HP. And now, we are very happy with this solution and it is a great product!

INITIAL SETUP

The initial setup went easily as HP gave us training before we started the setup and use of 3PAR. This was a great experience, as we were working hand in hand with HP technicians on the initial setup, first run, etc. We gained a lot of experience and knowledge from them which enables us to go further with this product.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

We set up everything hand in hand. The HP team worked really perfectly, giving attention to every single detail. Also they were answering the questions we had at when we set it up.

ROI

ROI is high, as the money spent on each GB of storage is slightly lower than any concurrent solution. We also got virtualization done on this product, so we have saved a lot of energy and costs on physical servers.

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

The original cost for two storage devices, was around US\$200,000. Both devices have been in production for a year now, and we have not changed a part of it starting from the physical disks. It just works! As for other costs, it consumes about 1KW of energy.

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OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED

As I mentioned above, we had five or six vendor companies for storage. This was NetApp, EMC, IBM, HP, etc. We chose HP as the technology it has, had no real competitors at that time. Also the price was great!

OTHER ADVICE

For sure you should ask HP to present you the product and I think you'll love how simple and robust it is. It's a great product for mid-range, big companies, and banks. It's redundancy and expandability are great, and it is packed with a lot of features and technologies.

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