



Hitachi Simple Modular Storage is truly simple

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Targeting the small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) and distributed enterprises, Hitachi introduced the Simple Modular Storage 100 (SMS 100). This low-cost, entry-level storage system is a solution that is easy to use, manage and simple to install, and provides non-disruptive operations for up to five years or more, with virtually no maintenance or service required. In addition, a unique user-friendly auto-migration capability is available for upgrades, eliminating future data migration service requirements. Optional function bundles are available to address full copy (ShadowImage) capability, and asynchronous remote copying capability (TrueCopy Extended Distance) is available for simple disaster recovery.

Ovum view

The Hitachi SMS 100 eliminates the complexity and time normally required when introducing external storage into an SMB or distributed enterprise environment. The intuitive and simple point-and-click install and management capability, plus the unique and no hassle maintenance, upgrade and auto-migration capability, now allows scalable external storage to become a reality in most environments.

Product highlights

With entry prices at just below \$5,000, the Hitachi SMS 100 introduces into the SMB and distributed enterprise markets a storage product that is not a watered down enterprise solution, but one that was designed to address the requirements of this unique sector. These requirements include:

- minimal power, space and management/service time
- standard 110-volt power with no raised floor requirements (no data center)
- installable and operational within minutes through a highly intuitive wizard-based GUI and configuration software
- reliability
- simple non-disruptive maintenance/repair



- scalability
- simple management
- cost-effectiveness.

SMS addresses all of these requirements, as well as providing additional functionality that has not previously been available or affordable to these markets. The product includes an active/active symmetric controller with 2GB of cache for performance, availability and reliability, and connects to all major servers and operating systems. It supports native path failover, supports 6, 8, or 12 SAS (147/300GB) or SATA II (500/750GB) disks (since the product is one array group, the drives cannot be intermixed), has 4 iSCSI ports, supports 128 LUNS and hosts, and has dual-parity RAID 6 for non-disruptive operations if up to two drives fail. It can also host up to 512 unique volumes, includes local copy on write capability (SnapShot) for simplified back-up capability. It is Reduction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) compliant, and comes with a three-year warranty, which can be expanded for up to five years. The product is fully optimized for Microsoft Windows environments – with out-of-the-box support for Microsoft Simple SAN, Volume Shadow Copy Services, Virtual Disk Services, MPIO and Windows Native Backup. SMS is also integrated with Symantec Backup Exec for faster and more reliable back-ups.

To address the requirement for no hassle maintenance, if a drive was to fail, a replacement can be ordered online, and when received can be inserted into one of two repair slots; the RAID group is then automatically rebuilt. This eliminates any need to remove any existing drives and incur disruptions. If over the life of the unit a third disk was to fail (thus both repair slots are full) or a capacity upgrade is desired, a new unit would be shipped, and data and licenses are easily copied (Hitachi's new auto-migration feature) to the new unit and the original is returned. In the case of an upgrade, credits may be applied to existing capacity and software. In addition, a powerful and simple-to-deploy security feature is included with the system to obfuscate all user data before the unit is returned.

To simplify data back-up and disaster recovery beyond the standard and easy-to-use copy on write capability of SMS, there are optional functions available. These include ShadowImage or full copy capability, either locally or remotely over an IP (Ethernet) network, in conjunction with the Simple DR package (based on TrueCopy Extended Distance).

Hitachi SMS simplifies the deployment of affordable and scalable external storage in the SMB and distributed enterprise markets. No longer will external storage be a province of the technically competent and larger enterprises.



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