Veritas™ Dynamic Multi-Pathing from Symantec

Heterogeneous Storage Path Management

Data Sheet: Storage Management

Overview

Veritas™ Dynamic Multi-Pathing provides improved storage I/O performance and availability across heterogeneous server and storage platforms using intelligent algorithms and load balancing for faster throughput. It also increases application availability by rerouting I/Os to other available data paths in the event of a storage path failure, and automatically restores failed paths that become healthy. Additionally, multi-host Dynamic Multi-Pathing management for firmware upgrades and path management can be centrally managed through Veritas Operations Manager, which is included with the package. The load-balancing and management capabilities enhance administrators' productivity, improve overall storage performance, increase application uptime, and bridge storage and server administrator communications. Dynamic Multi-Pathing is a stand-alone product that works with all major operating systems' file systems and volume managers. It is also a feature of Veritas Storage Foundation™ from Symantec, which includes Veritas Volume Manager and Veritas File System.

Highlights

- **Increased data availability—**Provides storage path failure protection and fast failover
- **Optimized I/O performance—**Spreads I/O across multiple storage paths for maximum performance
- **Reduced complexity and increased efficiency**—Centralizes storage path management regardless of operating system or storage hardware
- **Storage connectivity virtualization—**Increases storage hardware choices
- **Opens communications between server and storage administrators**- Allows more informed storage decisions based on global visibility

Increased data availability

As more workloads become business critical, data availability is a must. If a path to a multi-path storage subsystem fails, Dynamic Multi-Pathing automatically reroutes I/O requests to an alternate path transparently without requiring administrator intervention. When a failed path returns to service, the software restores the original path configuration automatically. With intelligent probes, Dynamic Multi-Pathing proactively determines whether a storage path is failing before I/O is sent down the path, thereby providing maximum availability and performance.

Optimized I/O performance

Improving workload performance is an ongoing challenge. Dynamic Multi-Pathing enhances I/O performance by distributing requests across all available paths according to predefined load-balancing policies. An administrator can select one of several policies, depending on the characteristics of the I/O workload, storage area network (SAN) layout, and performance needs while keeping systems online.

Reduced complexity and increased efficiency

Managing the complex web of multiple data paths can be difficult due to decreased visibility and disparate pathing tools. Veritas Operations Manager centrally manages and monitors all Dynamic Multi-Pathing paths in a data center. It centralizes path management across multiple server platforms to provide complete visibility into application, server, and storage resources. It assists operators when they perform multipathing tasks. For example, by using a guided workflow, Dynamic Multi-Pathing reduces the complexity of managing thousands of I/O paths in case they need to be temporarily disabled for array maintenance.

Storage connectivity virtualization

If an IT organization is locked into a single storage vendor, it is likely that they are paying a premium for storage. By fully virtualizing connectivity from the host to storage, Dynamic

Multi-Pathing increases data center agility and flexibility in choosing a storage vendor. A storage administrator benefits by being able to choose the type of storage hardware that best suits the organization's needs, knowing that the multipathing driver on the host either already supports that storage hardware or can easily be enhanced to support it. Dynamic Multi-Pathing supports more than 1,000 different storage arrays from all of the leading vendors.

Opens communications between server and storage administrators

Often, the lack of a common language or reporting between systems and storage administrators can lead to confusion and misalignment. Together with Veritas Operations Manager, Dynamic Multi-Pathing allows deeper visibility and reporting. It has the ability to discover and report more meaningful attributes of a device to the system administrator that were only visible before to the storage administrator. This allows administrators to make more informed decisions. It solves key challenges in device naming by using device specific identifiers in the device names, making them more meaningful and consistent. This reduces errors and enables more accurate troubleshooting.

Supported operating systems

- Oracle® Solaris™
- IBM® AIX®
- Red Hat® Linux
- SUSE® Linux
- HP-UX®
- Microsoft® Windows®

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