



MICROSOFT[®] SQL SERVER AND EQUALLOGIC[®] PS SERIES

“When we consolidated storage onto a SAN, the primary goal was to improve performance for our top-priority Microsoft applications—SQL Server for our insurance database services and Exchange Server for our 450 employees’ e-mail. As soon as EqualLogic introduced the higher performance storage arrays with SAS disk drives, we evaluated them and immediately deployed them to boost performance in our highly transactional environment. Standardizing on EqualLogic’s virtualized storage architecture is a no-brainer once you’ve seen the performance it delivers.”

*– Safeway Insurance Group,
Network Services Manager,
Mike Leather*

Managing business information is crucial to the success of any company or organization – and databases allow you to manage and use an incredible variety of information easily. These powerful applications allow users to manipulate information for improving their business processes and productivity. Because of the importance of databases within a business environment and their impact on both commerce and productivity, databases require a robust server and storage infrastructure – highly reliable, high performing, easily scalable, and secure.

Online transaction processing (OLTP) is a database application that demands the most out of your system resources. OLTP systems conduct millions of lightning fast transactions (for tasks such as electronic banking, online order processing, and e-commerce) and require extensive compute resources and high performance storage. In larger deployments, the efficiency of your OLTP environment depends on optimizing the infrastructure responsible for processing large numbers of concurrent database updates.

Microsoft offers industry-leading scalability and reliability in clustered as well as single-system database configurations, with extended functionality such as reporting, analysis, and data mining. Microsoft SQL Server provides a comprehensive set of features geared towards transaction processing and business intelligence – while also delivering a lower total cost of ownership for your database application environment.

Productivity is dependent on database availability, and many organizations require databases to be up and running around the clock. Data must be continuously available regardless of system/site failures, human errors, and planned maintenance. As a result, the storage component of any database application is critical – not just from the availability perspective, but also for performance and scalability.

IDEAL PLATFORM FOR MICROSOFT SQL SERVER

Together, EqualLogic PS Series arrays and Microsoft SQL Server provide the strategic database environment you need. PS Series arrays have intelligence designed in and enterprise data services already included. With PS Series arrays, you can consolidate your databases for better organization with improved provisioning and control. Automated intelligence and centralized management offer simpler, lower cost operation.

- Enterprise Data Servicing

PS Series arrays offer the highest class of information protection, which is of paramount importance for databases. Fully redundant, hot serviceable components provide total data protection, while snapshots and auto-replication deliver online backups, instant restore, and straight forward disaster recovery.

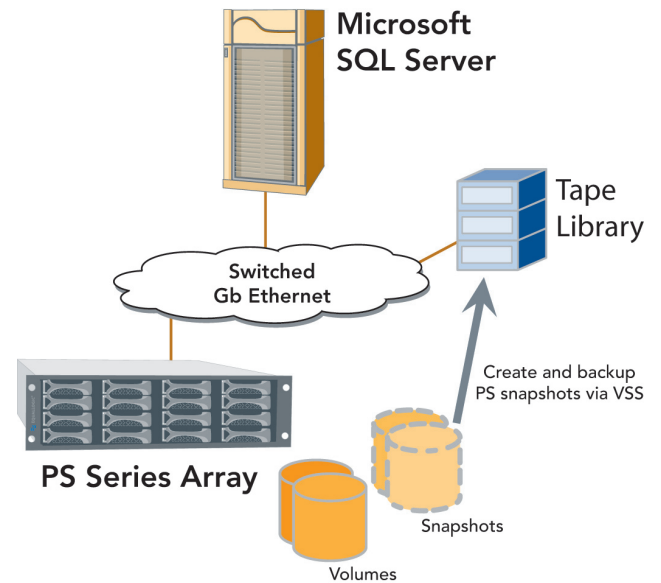
- Optimized Performance

Virtualization and automatic load balancing are done across all available storage resources. As your SQL Server database deployment grows, PS Series arrays harness their aggregate resources to evenly load balance data requests, additional capacity, network activity, and cache. Performance actually improves exponentially as you scale, in sharp contrast to traditional storage architectures in which additional capacity results in diminishing returns in performance.

EFFICIENT BACKUP AND RECOVERY

Backup and recovery are a challenge in a database environment. Because databases are continually growing and changing, it is important to keep up with backup to ensure adequate restore – without stalling performance and optimization of the storage environment. PS Series arrays integrate with best-of breed backup applications to deliver fast, simple restore of your SQL Server data.

PS Series snapshots provide online restore as well as improving backups without downtime. For Microsoft SQL Server 2005/Windows® Server 2003 deployments, PS Series arrays are seamlessly integrated with Microsoft's Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS), which takes advantage of the PS Series snapshot technology to improve backup and recovery, reduce staff intervention in the backup process, and offload data movement from application servers. VSS works with the PS Series array (VSS "hardware provider"), backup



application (VSS "requestor") and SQL Server (VSS "writer") to coordinate a real-time, application-aware, consistent backup of your SQL Server databases. IT staff are released from trying to manually integrate the components, database servers are relieved of the backup processing burden, and data are stored in application-consistent format for faster, easier, and more reliable restores.

As well as being a Microsoft VSS Hardware Provider, the PS Series has obtained the Windows Hardware Quality Lab (WHQL) qualification. This industry distinction bestows the "Designed for Windows" logo, and is offered only to tested products that deliver a high-quality computing experience with Windows operating systems.

Together, EqualLogic's PS Series and Microsoft's SQL Server deliver record-breaking performance, availability, and scalability within your data center – to support departmental to mission critical server applications, all running within your Microsoft Windows operating system environment.



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