

NORTHERN STORAGE SUITE V8

FOR NETAPP®

THE FASTEST, MOST SCALABLE STORAGE SOLUTION FOR NAS

A deciding part of Storage Resource Management is the investment in storage hardware – ensuring that there is capacity available for storing and retrieving mission-critical data. NetApp NAS devices are recognized as a high-value method of adding capacity and are being integrated into more and more environments. Adding capacity is only half the solution. Storage capacity can successfully be monitored with a robust SRM tool – helping you to manage the content and not just the device.

TOP PERFORMANCE FOR NAS

Delivering the fastest, most secure, most scalable quota for NAS in the market, Northern Storage Suite V8 (NSS V8) perfects its fit for NAS devices. Version 8 maintains a fast access list of file and path size in memory so instead of rescanning, when a change occurs, NSS simply adds the new size to the known size and immediately sends notifications, locks/unlocks the quota etc. This dramatically accelerating quota response times in large NAS environments, cutting network traffic and disk I/O impact to levels unrivalled among quota solutions today.

EVEN BETTER PERFORMANCE FOR NETAPP NAS

Northern Storage Suite V8 further deepens the integration between Northern and NetApp by introduction new advanced quota options for NetApp not yet available for other NAS-systems.

First off is Hybrid quota technology, Northern took the cutting edge technology from previous version and made it even better. Quota targets are monitored passively, guaranteeing zero impact on day-to-day file system activity and maximizing filer performance. When a target passes a locking threshold its priority rating is immediately increased; the object is locked and it is added to a high-priority monitoring list to guarantee immediate unlocking when usage decreases.

Added to this is new quota types and options for NetApp NAS, allowing for an even better quota management and closer fit to your organization's storage strategy. You can now use NSS' own User Quotas, controlling usage by user account, within a project or shared department folders. It is also possible to exclude users, setting quotas on all users except management and IT staff as an example. You can exclude sub-paths, allowing you to block media files on all folders except a specific "Media" directory.

SOLUTION-ORIENTATED GUIDANCE

Streamlined to fit sys admins needs, NSS V8 also introduces the NSS: Dashboard, an interface and emailed report that intelligently highlights current and future storage issues. Providing you with clear-cut analyses and recommendations about your storage issues that transforms into faster, more efficient management. No more manual digging for storage information, no more missed problem areas. Let NSS guide and advise you on your storage situation. NSS: Dashboard encourages proactive management of your storage devices, by providing not only the analysis and guidance but also direct access to the different components of the suite. Multiple Dashboards can be configured to provide the relevant information for any person within the organization; send detailed information on all storage devices to the sys admin every morning and only information on mission critical devices once a week to the CIO for example.

But those are not the only new things in Northern Storage Suite V8. A Quota Wizard to allow you to more efficiently designing and implementing your storage policies. Smart Quota Columns lets you pick up Active Directory data in your quota view for faster micro and mass management. Enhanced Scheduled Report Output for a faster, more graphical way to communicate your information and increased ability to manipulate the output better. Folder-level Reporting give you the opportunity to see usage by file type by user at folder level. New Exchange and Quota reports and much more. Northern Storage Suite V8 is pushing the boundaries for what storage management software should do.

SRM THE NORTHERN WAY...

Northern Storage Suite V8, Northern's latest release, has not only been perfected to meet the central challenge of designing practical storage strategies, but to also go beyond the demand in the market today for automated, yet highly customizable storage management. Northern Storage Suite V8 breaks SRM down into four goals, allowing you to identify and reclaim wasted capacity, control users' storage behavior, encourage users to actively manage their shares, and plan for future hardware investments. Through these goals, Northern Storage Suite V8 ensures that storage costs are minimized, hardware investments optimized, and mission-critical data can always be stored and retrieved.

RECLAIM CAPACITY

Obsolete, duplicate, non-business related and illegal files take up over 30% capacity on an average storage device. This means backup- and restore times are over 30% longer than they need to be, and the cost of managing storage is more than 30% more than it has to be. Northern Storage Suite helps you reclaim this wasted capacity, cuts back-up and restore cycles, reduces costs and guarantees that your NetApp filer is only being used to store high value files.

- Identify what type of content is being stored and where it is being stored
- Schedule cleanup tasks to remove unwanted content
- Set rules to prevent unwanted file types from returning
- Check for files being renamed and contact users individually

SELF-MANAGING STORAGE

Every year the amount of stored data grows by 60%, only 15% of this is strategically significant. Many aspects of storage management can be automated, but as users create the majority of files, it is the users who are the key to managing storage efficiently. Only they know which files are strategically significant and can efficiently clean up their allocated storage space. By involving end-users Northern Storage Suite creates a self-managing storage policy.

- Point users to their Storage Portal pages when they reach a usage threshold
- Encourage users to maintain their shares by providing lists of their unnecessary files
- Force users to take responsibility for their stored data by using hard quota limits
- Set rules and automate requests for increase in storage quotas
- Schedule mundane and repetitive storage management tasks to be performed automatically

CONTROL USER DATA

In the majority of industries an organization's users are directly responsible for over 90% of stored data. Users are often not aware of how expensive storage is; expensive in terms of hardware and very expensive in terms of hardware management. It is at the user level that storage costs can be cut and dramatically increasing storage availability is not the way to cut them. Northern Storage Suite adds the controls needed to protect your NetApp filer.

- Identify usage patterns and forecast trends
- Show users what reasonable storage use is; define an upper limit
- Identify those users who are saving excessively, and contact them individually
- View all files owned by a user to highlight storage misuse
- Prevent specific file types from being saved

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

An estimated 1.6 million terabytes of data were created during 2006, and the number will increase each year. Scalable NAS devices, like NetApp filers, are ideally suited to cope with escalating storage needs; when additional space is required the NAS device can be expanded. Northern Storage Suite ensures maximum life-span of existing resources and gives advanced warning of when additional space is needed.

- History graphs show easily identifiable trends
- View trends at user, volume, file-type group, host and host group levels
- Schedule projections to show the actual impact of current trends
- Financial projections show when budgets will be exhausted

