

iStor iSCSI Storage Solutions: Affordable High Performance and Manageability for Entry-Level and Midsize Organizations



iStor Networks, Inc.TM

Buyer demand for higher performance and more affordable data storage strains the limits of current technologies, IT budgets, and staffing requirements. Regardless of company size and need, additional storage capacity addresses only part of the problem. Data must be instantly available, around the clock, in multiple locations around the world. As the amount of stored data explodes, performance, availability, and costs can quickly escalate and threaten the viability of business operations.

Traditional FC (Fibre Channel) and today's IP storage technologies lack the combination of performance, interoperability, manageability, and affordability needed to support the growing demand for storage. "In the storage market, there continues to be a critical need to dramatically store, access, and manage data across entry-level, SMB, and enterprise categories," says Peter Cmaylo, vice president of business development and sales at iStor Networks, an Irvine, Calif.-based provider of storage solutions. "Customers, especially in entry-level and SMB segments, need a new storage technology that meets today's demand for high performance, interoperability, and ease of management – but at a much lower total cost of ownership."

iSCSI is the Answer

IP Storage – including SCSI over TCP/IP, or iSCSI – emerges as the solution of choice for many companies trying to overcome current technology limitations. iSCSI offers greater cost savings, better overall manageability, higher interoperability/maximum flexibility, improved performance, and virtually unlimited distance over conventional FC. "The iSCSI protocol delivers data transfer over intranets and manages storage over long distances, making iSCSI ideal for Web server, e-mail, database, and business continuity applications," says Cmaylo. Furthermore, according to "Starter SANs" by Logan Harbaugh in the January 31, 2005 issue of InfoWorld, "... iSCSI can run over 10 Gigabit Ethernet, and with the right hardware and software in place, that combination could easily outperform 4Gbps FC."

"Since IP Storage takes advantage of the IP backbones and enterprise networks already in place, iSCSI delivers the networked storage capabilities that businesses need – without adding layers of technology or requiring more IT staff or extensive training," iStor's Cmaylo adds.

First generation IP Storage solutions predominantly comprise discrete implementations of motherboards, RAID storage controllers, iSCSI or TOE controllers, and storage virtualization software. Although these early implementations have met the time-to-market objectives, they do not meet the overall requirements of cost, performance, scalability, and ease of management.

"In order to meet these market demands for IP Storage, solutions must include a highly integrated ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit), along with a fully featured storage firmware stack" says Dave Clark, director of technical marketing at iStor Networks. "Integrating the network and storage subsystems together in one ASIC provides a higher performance, more scalable cost-effective solution."

iStor Networks: Taking iSCSI to the Next Level

Emerging technologies from iStor Networks offer a complete iSCSI storage system-on-a-chip. The iSNP8000TM provides 10Gbps iSCSI, TCP, and IP offload, coupled with embedded processors running a fully featured, integrated storage-virtualization firmware stack on a single ASIC. The solution integrates into iStor's GigaStorTM family of subsystem storage controllers, enabling complete storage systems. iStor solutions reduce time-to-market and lower costs, while delivering higher performance, better reliability and availability, and transparent device-interface support for SATA-I, SATA-II, SAS, and others.

"We see iSCSI entering the early mainstream with thousands of implementations today in production environments," said Tony Asaro, senior analyst for the Enterprise Strategy Group. "iStor is a storage component company that enables wider iSCSI adoption by providing an ASIC that allows storage vendors to come to market faster and reduce their overall costs for iSCSI-based storage systems. iStor can help to significantly change the economics of storage by making iSCSI even more cost efficient and potentially driving greater and more rapid adoption."

Scalable iStor Networks iSCSI storage solutions address today's exploding storage needs with the best performance at the lowest total cost of ownership. "iStor's integrated ASIC is the only solution that delivers the performance, functionality, ease of use, and simplified management that companies need today," says Cmaylo. "We offer scalability, versatility, and value in a reliable, integrated package that businesses of all size can use to solve their critical data-storage issues."

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