

NORTHERN STORAGE SUITE V8 FOR NETAPP®

THE FASTEST, MOST SCALABLE STORAGE SOLUTION FOR NAS

Investments in storage hardware are made for two reasons only; capacity and performance – ensuring that there is sufficient capacity available for storing and sufficient performance for retrieving mission-critical data. NetApp NAS devices are recognized as a high-value method of adding high performance capacity and are being integrated into more and more environments. But adding capacity and performance is only half the solution – monitor and control policies must be put into place if capacity is to be safeguarded and returns maximized.

QUOTAS THAT MAXIMIZE FILER PERFORMANCE

Northern Storage Suite version 8 offers file-caching storage quotas; the fastest, most reliable and most scalable NAS quotas on the market. Version 8 maintains a fast access list of file sizes in memory. This caching mechanism removes the need to rescan entire quotas or folders – dramatically accelerating quota response times, reducing network traffic and optimizing disk I/O.

QUOTAS THAT DON'T DELAY FILE SYSTEM ACTIVITY

The vast majority of file system activity is carried out well below quota thresholds. Northern Storage Suite V8 intelligently allows this activity to continue without any kind of delay; not stalling the activity while calculations are made. When a quota reaches a locking threshold its priority rating is immediately increased. NetApp's FPolicy is used to lock the quota and continually monitor its status – ensuring instantaneous unlocking when usage decreases. This Hybrid-Quota technology focuses system resources on high priority quotas, and only on high priority quotas.

STORAGE ANALYSIS AND ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The most compelling innovation of version 8 is NSS:Dashboard, a dynamic interface and emailed analysis that intelligently highlights storage issues and advises on strategies that will resolve those issues. The scope of this analysis is not limited to the current storage status; forecasting elements identify dangerous trends and show where and what action will be needed in the future. Clear-cut problem identification and practicable action recommendations offer faster, more proactive and more efficient storage management.

NORTHERN STORAGE SUITE V8 INTRODUCES:

- High Performance NAS Quotas – the fastest most scalable NAS quotas available for NAS
- Hybrid NetApp NAS Quotas – zero impact on day-to-day file system activity, maximizing filer performance
- NSS: Dashboard – emailed analysis, warning flags and action recommendations
- User-based NetApp NAS quotas – set quotas on user accounts
- User and Path Exclusion – lift restrictions for specific users or paths
- Set Quota Wizard – a smarter and more efficient tool for designing and implementing quotas
- Smart Quota Columns – pick up Active Directory data in the quota view for faster mass and micro management
- Graphical Report Output – communicating information faster and more accurately
- Grouped Report Output – turn raw data into human information on the fly
- Folder-level Reporting – "three-dimensional" reporting lets you see usage by file type by user at folder level
- Exchange Report – extend your monitoring for Microsoft Exchange mailboxes from within NSS V8
- Quota Report – monitor storage status and the tools used to control that storage side-by-side

RECLAIM WASTED 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

INVOLVE USERS

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 BEHAVIOR

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



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