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VERITAS aligns storage with business priorities

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Last week, VERITAS Software Corporation released the latest version of its storage management software, VERITAS CommandCentral v4.2.



CommandCentral 4.2 consists of an integrated family of tools designed to help enterprises manage nearly all facets of their complex, heterogeneous storage infrastructures. The latest release of the software delivers a single management console and provides a base on which enterprises can administer, dynamically monitor and, if so desired, meter the use of core storage, backup, recovery and other data protection services.

It is my opinion that the ability to monitor service usage and to implement sophisticated 'charge back' schemas will be increasingly adopted over the course of the next few years. In such models organisations, departments, projects or individuals will effectively 'pay' for their use of the IT infrastructure in relation to the resources, or services, that they consume.

It is also to be expected that, in the near future, the IT services devoured will be linked not just to the user groups consuming them but ultimately back to the business value that such services deliver to the business. This, realistically, is the only way that the highly flexible IT infrastructures now being designed (and slowly deployed) can be managed effectively.

To help address these matters in the world of Storage Management, VERITAS has now successfully integrated the metering functionality it obtained eighteen months ago through its acquisition of the Ejascent software. With the release of CommandCentral 4.2, VERITAS can now link together many facets of storage resource consumption with server CPU uti-

lisation and provide sophisticated reporting and chargeback information. Indeed, alongside the many storage platforms addressed in early versions of the software, CommandCentral 4.2 adds the ability to monitor and manage Unified Storage from Network Appliance.

Of equal interest is the introduction of a sophisticated process workflow automation engine to the package. The new process automation engine allows organisations to link together tasks performed by humans with those handled by the management software platforms.

This capability allows many everyday storage management operations—for example, storage provisioning and database table resizing—to be standardised, with a subsequent saving of both time and money whilst significantly reducing the risk associated with manual operations. The software includes adaptors for certain Oracle databases, EMC Symmetrix and EMC CLARiON platforms plus those for the VERITAS Storage Foundation software.

It should also be noted that CommandCentral 4.2 is certified with the burgeoning SNIA SMI-S storage management standards. With the new solution scheduled to become available during June 2005, it will be interesting to see how quickly the many customers of VERITAS begin to make productive use of the new capabilities made available in CommandCentral 4.2.

Information Integrity via a resilient storage infrastructure is the key quality that VERITAS has always sought to deliver. However, I believe that the move by VERITAS towards providing the means to monitor and manage storage and other IT services in response to business value delivery demands is the path that IT organisations need rapidly to adopt. IT management tomorrow needs to be based on new types of knowledge and VERITAS is evolving in ways that look likely to become very attractive to a great range of enterprises.

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