SIX KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL STORAGE MANAGEMENT

Let's face it, buying storage is easy. Managing storage, however, can be extremely difficult—especially when you factor in the many locations, storage architectures and solutions that are prevalent in today's IT environments. If you're investigating new ways to manage your various storage resources, here are some important things you need to consider:

SPEED TO RESOLUTION: Do you need faster resolution of trouble tickets and support issues?
Systems that use machine learning and predictive analytics can help resolve potential issues in your storage environment before they ever turn into a support ticket. Lower-level issues can even be remedied without human intervention. Look for a solution that resolves Level 1 and 2 issues quickly, and provides easy access to Level 3 support when needed. This is extremely important when every minute of unplanned downtime matters.

TROUBLESHOOTING FROM END-TO-END: How are you identifying root cause across your infrastructure? How quickly and confidently can you pinpoint the exact issue and where it resides?
Having a single view to your storage, compute and network resources (including virtual and cloud) can help identify the source of issues and help resolve them accurately and quickly. Look for solutions that provide a single management platform and console to help you monitor and troubleshoot your environment with confidence.

PROACTIVE CONTROL OF STORAGE CAPACITY: Is moving data across storage resources causing performance delays?
Having a clear picture of your storage needs now and in the future will enable proactive planning of your IT resources and budgets. Plus, insights into historical demand and your current consumption patterns can play an important role in ensuring you are managing storage capacity proactively and efficiently—perhaps even uncovering underutilized resources and/or preventing over-provisioning and unnecessary spend. Look for a solution that can provide this valuable information.

PERFORMANCE: Are you evaluating storage performance purely on IOPS?
IOPS alone do not paint a complete picture when it comes to performance. You need to consider performance from a holistic point of view, from application to storage and back. Data latency between storage and applications can be affected by any number of factors. VM, host, network and storage all play a role and each or all can affect performance. Your stack is only as strong as your weakest link, and having insights across your environment help ensure you are running at maximum performance and efficiency.

H/A (HIGH AVAILABILITY): Are you having trouble meeting your uptime guarantees?
In the past, we believed that H/A stopped at redundancy. We now know that high availability is more than just having redundant paths. The smarter approach is to have systems and infrastructure that are stable and proven with preventative measures to unplanned downtime built-in. Look closely at vendor SLAs and claims around availability and uptime. The difference between six 9s (99.9999%) availability and five 9s or less can mean minutes, hours or even days of potential downtime over the course of a year. Especially with mission-critical applications, the difference could have very real impacts to your business' bottom line and brand.

MANAGING OPERATIONAL COSTS: Are you spending too much on resources and not enough on infrastructure?
Typically, for every dollar spent on hardware, up to ten more are needed to manage the environment. Adopting a solution that provides automation of processes and insights for better decision support will also maximize efficiencies of your IT resources and free up budget for innovation and new projects.

Managing storage doesn't have to be a challenge.
To learn more about your storage management options and talk to a storage expert, give Softchoice a call at 1.800.268.7638 or visit: **hpe.softchoice.com**

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