It's a fact: HP storage solutions help meet the demand for more competitive intelligence

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> "Our HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array 5000 systems help us deliver the high level services, availability, and responsiveness our customers expect."
> – Chief Product Officer Karin Borchert, Factiva

"Knowledge is power," so the saying goes. But when organizations are bombarded with the profusion of information available today, how can they harness the content they need, presented the way they need it? Factiva, a Dow Jones & Reuters Company, is providing the solution. And HP is providing Factiva with the extensible storage systems and data management tools they need to keep the information flowing.

News flash: HP delivers multivendor support
Leading organizations around the world use Factiva's content management and integration services. Built on industry standards and open architecture, Factiva's products and integrated solutions provide a single point of access to a deep archive of news and business

information for current awareness, browsing, and alerting. These products allow users to stay abreast of competitive, customer, or industry news – directly from their corporate environment. The Software & Information Industry Association recognized Factiva as the 2003 Codie Awards winner in the Best Online Business News or Information Service and Best Online Professional Financial Information Service categories.

These commendations and others result from Factiva's commitment to provide flexible, customizable solutions. Factiva's Chief Product Officer Karin Borchert says, "Our goal is to be an indispensable knowledge provider, both over the Web and for integration into enterprise intranets. HP helps us deliver on our commitments."

Previously standardized on HP StorageWorks systems, Factiva already had six StorageWorks storage area networks (SANs) equipped with 80 HP StorageWorks HSG80 controllers residing in two separate data centers. However, based on the company's data-storage forecasts, they needed capacity beyond this 50-TB storage infrastructure.

Factiva deployed four HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array 5000 (EVA5000) systems to support back-end

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database management and content storage systems. Two of the EVA5000 systems underpin production operations while another one handles testing and development activities. The fourth EVA5000 provides storage for content and data feeds at the company's hosted business continuity site.

Factiva's StorageWorks EVA5000 systems support HP ProLiant DL580 G2 servers running Microsoft Windows 2000 Enterprise Server, HP ProLiant BL20p G2 blade

> "Since HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array 5000 is denser and has a small footprint, it can fit in one cabinet. We save data center space, obtain twice as much capacity, and gain significantly more throughput."
>
> Chief Product Officer Karin Borchert, Factiva

servers running the Red Hat Linux and Microsoft Windows 2000 operating systems, and HP AlphaServer ES47 systems running the HP Tru64 UNIX operating system. Factiva also attaches the EVA5000s to Sun Solaris UNIX-based servers. In addition, the virtual arrays support HP Tru64 UNIX Logical Storage Manager software, HP TruCluster Server software, and Microsoft SQL Server 2000 databases. Borchert notes: "The beauty of the HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array 5000 system is its ability to support multivendor servers and multiple operating systems – including several versions of UNIX – all on the same SAN."

Factiva continues to add new information sources and data feeds; yet, the company's growth needs are fairly predictable. The EVA5000 systems support 84 disks and can easily expand to 12 TB of storage each, which affords sufficient resources for quite some time. "The HP StorageWorks EVA5000 system provides large capacity, performance potential, and flexibility at a fairly low cost," Borchert says. "We have the flexibility to add storage as we must add storage. It's easy; we just simply slide a disk into the frame. It only takes a few minutes."

Lead story: more agility with HP virtualization technology
Borchert says that performance potential comes from the HP virtualization technology – especially the way the EVA5000 uses all of its disks as one giant stripe set. Increasing the number of disks translates directly to increased data-transfer performance. In addition, the system's virtualization capabilities provide greater flexibility for supporting applications. She says, "The StorageWorks EVA5000 separates out logical data access from physical per-disk data access. We can slice up the appropriate amount of storage dynamically from

large storage pools and present this storage to an application as needed – no matter the size of the disks in the subsystem. This alleviates us from overbuying storage, yet we can still meet the data requirements of a specific project quickly without wasting storage space."

In the past, implementing additional storage for a particular application might have entailed a series of tasks, and the entire process may have taken days, depending on the storage requirement. "With the StorageWorks EVA5000, we can use the HP OpenView Storage Management Appliance to change RAID sets, increase the virtual disk's size, and present storage for an application," states Borchert. "These activities now take seconds and minutes compared to hours and days. The Management Appliance makes it fairly easy to support and configure our storage systems so that we don't need layers of other management software."

Even with an expanded storage portfolio, capacity, and upgraded capabilities, still only two Factiva system administrators handle all storage-related tasks, along with their other responsibilities. That's because the EVA5000 streamlines data-storage management, enabling Factiva to lower its total cost of ownership (TCO). "Our HP StorageWorks environment is less expensive to own because it doesn't require substantial training and additional staff with specialized expertise to manage and maintain it," Borchert notes.

Pioneer-Standard Electronics, an HP value-added reseller and systems integrator, helped design the StorageWorks SANs. In addition, Factiva uses HP Services Gold support for its production operations.

Factual account: simple, integrated NAS/SAN convergence
Factiva standardizes on StorageWorks systems and ProLiant blade servers to reduce the cost and complexity of infrastructure maintenance. Additionally, by adopting

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Challenge

- Streamline the management of data resources and the content processing environment

- Accommodate data growth

- Support a complex, heterogeneous platform

- Increase storage flexibility and performance by incorporating virtualization technology

Solution

Hardware

- HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array 5000 (EVA5000) systems

- HP StorageWorks SANs with HSG80 controllers

- HP StorageWorks NAS E7000 systems, including two G2 versions

- HP ProLiant BL20p G2 blade servers

- HP ProLiant DL580 G2 servers

- HP AlphaServer ES47 systems

- HP OpenView Storage Management Appliance

- Sun UNIX-based servers attached to the EVA5000

Software

- HP OpenView Storage Management Appliance software

- HP Tru64 UNIX operating system

- HP Tru64 UNIX Logical Storage Manager software

- HP TruCluster Server software

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Enterprise Server

- Microsoft SQL Server 2000

- Red Hat Advanced Server Linux operating system

- Sun Solaris operating system

HP Services

- Gold support

Results

- High-capacity, expandable HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array 5000 systems (currently with 19 TB capacity) easily accommodate new service demands and rapid data growth.

- The EVA5000 effectively supports a mixed environment of HP, IBM, and Sun servers and multiple operating systems.

- HP virtualization technology affords flexibility for meeting various application needs and improved data-transfer performance.

- Using the EVA5000, the StorageWorks SAN environment simplifies data management. This enables Factiva's IT staff to complete storage-related tasks in minutes (versus hours and days previously) and to lower its total cost of ownership (TCO).

- The implementation of HP StorageWorks NAS E7000 systems streamlined Factiva's data-flow and content-processing environment.
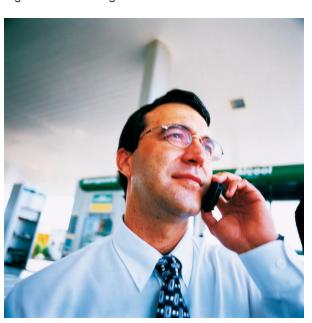
HP storage technology, the company can fuse StorageWorks network-attached storage (NAS) and SAN technologies and profit from both block-level and file-sharing connectivity. Factiva deployed four HP StorageWorks NAS E7000 systems, including two G2 models, primarily as file servers for back-end content processing in the Microsoft Windows 2000 environment.

"The StorageWorks NAS E7000 systems easily integrate into our existing SAN infrastructure," explains Borchert, "and use the same storage switches and components. This helps us maximize our SAN resources and get the most out of our investments." Meanwhile, the NAS E7000 has made back-end data processing more efficient. "The StorageWorks NAS E7000 system also helped us streamline our data flow and content processing environment," she adds.

Borchert concludes: "With HP, we reduce the cost and complexity of infrastructure maintenance. We only have to interface with one technology-solutions company and support organization to create a modular, integrated infrastructure that allows us to meet real-time business needs. HP uniquely provides a better IT experience for us through its integration of hardware, software, and services."

Company profile

Princeton, N.J.-based Factiva (www.factiva.com) provides world-class global content and offers unique and powerful solutions, which are available with multiple language interfaces and multilingual content covering nearly 8,000 sources. A Dow Jones & Reuters Company, Factiva products and services help companies integrate news and business information into their daily workflow to increase organizational intelligence.

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