

A Guide To

Storage Area Networks

Clarity IT Advisors

www.clarityitadvisors.com

CLARITY

Storage Area Networks

Virtualisation

Voice over IP

Terminal Services

IT Project Management

Disaster Recovery Planning & Help

SharePoint for Business & Education

Software Development

On-Site & Remote Support

- ✓ Reduce Server Upgrade Costs as Storage Requirements Increase
- ✓ More Efficient Use of Your Existing Servers & Storage
- ✓ Real-time Backups that Maintain Uninterrupted Productivity in the Event of Hardware Failures
- ✓ Peace of Mind that Genuine Disasters won't Threaten Your Business or Profitability

Clear Solutions to Complex Problems

For more information
please call us on

0845 838 2494

Does backing up your data take too long?

Are your servers running out of space?

Would you like to get a better ROI from your existing servers?

What happens if your system suffered hardware failure, malicious damage, fire or flood damage?

“Your data is one of the most important and valuable assets your business has. Using and protecting that data is critical to your success.”

Organisations are finding that the amount of data they store is increasing faster than anticipated. Servers are running out of storage space and backup solutions can't keep pace.

The loss of a server or hard disk could make it impossible for your business to function normally for days.

A scalable Storage Area Network from Clarity IT Advisors is the answer...

What is a Storage Area Network?

A Storage Area Network (SAN) provides storage space to your existing servers across a network. The physical storage of a SAN can be kept in multiple locations but it's managed as one virtual unit. This makes it possible for you to:

- ✓ Save money by consolidating physical storage space. Utilisation typically rises **from 40% to 80%**
- ✓ Slow your server and storage upgrade and replacement cycle by providing existing servers with almost limitless storage
- ✓ Store data in a **High Availability (HA)** configuration. The loss of a hard disk or storage solution will no longer lose any data or cause any downtime
- ✓ Use **Snapshots** to backup your data to tape during the day with **no impact on your business**
- ✓ Replicate your data to another building or branch office providing you with an excellent foundation for a **Disaster Recovery (DR)** plan



Our SAN storage solutions are **platform independent** and work with many different types of servers including Windows, VMware, Xen, Virtual Iron, Mac OS, Linux, Unix and more.

To Find Out More Call **Ian Goodwin** on **0845 838 2494**,
E-mail **Ian.Goodwin@clarityitadvisors.com** or visit
www.clarityitadvisors.com

Protect Your Data & Your Business

Many organisations cannot back up their data as consistently or as cost-effectively as they would like. Instead they have been forced to devise different backup strategies for various types of data that vary in frequency according to how critical the data is.



By using SAN technologies such as **Snapshots** and **Mirroring** you can achieve continuous backup, with no more overruns or deciding which files can be excluded from a backup. You'll be able to restore or roll back data without your users even realising there was an issue.

High Availability Mirroring stores your data in two separate locations within the SAN. Even the most serious failure won't cause any interruption to your servers or stop you from accessing your data.

Comprehensive Disaster Recovery

Using a SAN it's possible to constantly replicate all of your data to another SAN located in different building or another site—it could be a few metres or hundreds of miles away.



Should disaster strike, thanks to **Remote Site Replication**, your data will be immediately available and ready for use at the remote site.

You **won't waste or lose time waiting** for data to be restored from tape! And you'll have peace of mind knowing your data is always safe.

A Storage Solution That Grows With Your Business

Our SAN solutions are scalable and modular. As your data and business needs increase your SAN grows with you.

Implementing **High Availability Mirroring** or **Remote Site Replication** isn't a decision you have to make at the beginning. You can add features and options as you need to.

Additional storage capacity can simply be connected to your SAN as and when you need it.

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A Storage Area Network Can Help Your Business:

- ✓ Grows with your storage requirements
- ✓ Protect your data using off-site Mirroring
- ✓ Reduce costs by utilising previously wasted storage space
- ✓ Manage your storage quickly and effectively
- ✓ Instant, real-time, snapshot backups of your data
- ✓ Get better ROI with your existing server hardware
- ✓ Eliminate tape backup windows & run multiple backups at any time of the day
- ✓ Supported by Windows, VMware, Xen, Virtual Iron, Mac OS, Linux, Unix and more

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Fewer Server Replacements & Upgrades

Many servers are upgraded or replaced simply because they've run out of storage space. Our SAN solutions incorporate a technology called **Thin Provisioning** which allows you to allocate your servers as much storage space as you like—2TB, 10TB, 100TB; whatever you think they need now and in the future.

But unlike traditional storage systems a SAN with **Thin Provisioning** only needs as much physical storage space as you're actually using.

For example, your e-mail server may be using 400GB but using our SAN you could assign it 2000GB (2TB) of storage space to allow for future growth.

Because of **Thin Provisioning** your SAN would actually only need 400GB of physical storage space i.e. what the e-mail server is actually using. As the amount of data you store increases, you simply need to make sure your SAN has sufficient capacity to store what your servers are actually using.

The ability to use **virtual storage space** stops servers from running out of disk space, **minimises downtime** and **prevents the need to upgrade** or replace individual servers or storage systems.

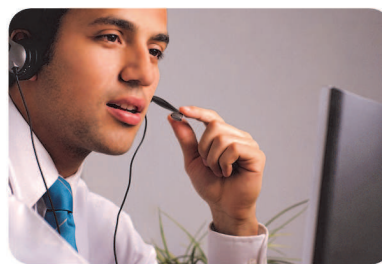
Thin Provisioning saves your business **unnecessary capital** and labour expense and **reduces your running and energy costs**.



Comprehensive Help & Support When You Need It

We understand that your IT system is **mission critical** and to ensure it is continually available our technical support is accessible whenever and wherever you need it.

Help from qualified technicians is available by telephone, e-mail and Internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. And if a hardware fault occurs it's covered by a 4 hour on-site warranty.



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Founded in 2002, Clarity IT Advisors deliver efficient and cost effective advice and technology to both the business and education markets. We have a wide range of customers; from corporate and SME clients through to Local Education Authorities and leading universities. Our customers demand cutting edge technology to help support their customers and users.

Clarity IT have been instrumental in keeping many of the organisations we work with at the forefront of IT developments, helping them to stay one step ahead and allowing them to focus on day to day operations.

Our ethos of "On time, On budget" coupled with ethical and approachable consultants means that we never install systems unless we have 100% faith that they are "fit for purpose". Our reputation has been built on delivering...

*Clear Solutions to
Complex Problems*