

Hitachi HiCommand® Chargeback Software

Centrally metering storage resources assigned to different business units for financial analysis, budgeting, and controlling storage-related capital expenditures, Hitachi HiCommand® Chargeback software provides IT departments with the ability to implement storage usage chargeback.

HiCommand Chargeback Software—Automated, Centralized, and Flexible Chargeback Reporting

Storage-related expenditures can account for more than 50 percent of annual IT budgets. Traditional methods for managing storage make it difficult or impossible to account for those expenditures with any granularity. HiCommand Chargeback software automatically meters storage resource utilization enterprise-wide, calculates costs, and delivers powerful reports that enable you to proactively budget and control capital expenditures.

Building on the HiCommand Storage Services Manager software's extensive auto-discovery capabilities and rich database of logical and physical storage resource information, Chargeback software adds user-settable chargeback values, depreciation formulas, and asset- and storage-based chargeback models. With its flexible chargeback options, it easily reports the associated costs of the quality and quantity of storage utilized by different business groups, enabling IT organizations to deliver storage in a utility model. By aligning chargeback reporting with different storage offerings, storage tiers can be clearly differentiated and billed to business units—accelerating the implementation of tiered storage within your enterprise.

Business Benefits

Reduce Operational and Capital Costs

- Align storage resource needs with revenue objectives by charging back departments for storage allocated or used.
- Simplify reporting and auditing for tiered storage architectures.
- Control storage-related capital expenditures centrally.
- Reduce wasteful consumption.

Improve Administrative Efficiency

- Customize reports for automatic e-mail distribution to key management personnel.
- Implement storage metering without increasing IT staff.
- Automate tedious and time-consuming storage resource utilization management tasks, refocusing IT resources on more strategic projects.

Feature Highlights

Storage Resource Discovery

- Utilize the auto-discovery capabilities of Storage Services Manager software to discover all storage resources and eliminate the need to maintain spreadsheets or search the network for new devices.
- Use the software in heterogeneous storage environments—based on the SMI-S industry standard.

Asset Management

- Provide comprehensive asset management capabilities for tracking the lifecycle of storage resources.
- Offer record, owner, staff, geographic, financial, and optional categories to capture asset information, such as custom names, date of implementation, date last modified, description, status, vendor, model, serial number, bar code, asset code, asset type, asset tag, and geographic location, as well as an unlimited number of user-defined fields; many of these fields are automatically populated by Storage Services Manager software's extensive auto-discovery features.

Application Optimized Storage™ Solutions Enable Practical, Cost-efficient Management of Your Storage Resources

To Hitachi Data Systems and members of the Hitachi TrueNorth™ Channel Partner Program, Application Optimized Storage™ means more than securing your data. It means monitoring and managing your storage dollars. With powerful asset management and business unit chargeback capabilities, you can align your storage infrastructure with business objectives and manage storage as an application-driven utility.

Complementary Solutions

- HiCommand QoS for Microsoft Exchange software
- HiCommand QoS for Oracle software
- HiCommand QoS for File Servers software
- HiCommand Path Provisioning software
- HiCommand Device Manager software

Reporting

- ∴ Deliver a number of out-of-the-box reports that can be sent directly to business units for billing purposes.
- ∴ Enable reports to be customized to reflect individual requirements; these reports can be scheduled for automatic e-mail distribution to business unit managers, accounting, and the IT organization.
- ∴ Output reports in a wide variety of formats, including HTML, XML, PDF, and Microsoft Excel.

Flexible Chargeback Models

Chargeback software supports both asset-based and storage-based chargeback and accounts for four types of assets:

- ∴ Storage systems—the physical arrays on the data center floor.
- ∴ Fibre Channel switches—devices that run the storage network fabric.
- ∴ Hosts—servers that utilize the storage from the storage network.
- ∴ Applications—although not physical assets, their associated costs can be distributed across multiple departments.

Asset-based Chargeback

- ∴ Charge a department or user for a certain percentage of a physical asset, regardless of how it is utilized or deployed in the infrastructure. For example, two departments may each own half of a system, and each will therefore be charged with half of the system's cost per month.
- ∴ Create new assets that are not evident after discovery, which allows them to have one common chargeback engine and one central location to track financial information for the entire storage infrastructure.

Storage-based Chargeback

- ∴ Charge departments only for the capacity they have been allocated.
- ∴ Charge departments for the quality of service; for example, high-end storage resources that deliver 99.999 percent availability can carry higher cost values than storage resources that deliver lower levels of availability.
- ∴ Allow the use of an infrastructure tax to cover ancillary costs, such as wiring, power, etc.
- ∴ Customize storage tiers to be defined for storage systems, storage pools, or individual volumes.
- ∴ Address the most demanding tiered storage needs, up to a maximum of 64 storage tiers, and provide storage-based chargeback reports down to the LUN level.

Prerequisites

Hitachi HiCommand Storage Services Manager Software

HiCommand Storage Services Manager software is the main Hitachi console for HiCommand standards-based, heterogeneous storage infrastructure management solutions. Built on the SMI-S industry standard, it ensures broad support for multivendor storage environments that protect investments in both storage hardware and management solutions. As the base platform upon which Chargeback software builds, Storage Services Manager software allows enterprises to optimize heterogeneous storage infrastructures to meet business objectives and manage storage as an application-focused utility.

System Requirements and Support Matrix

For a complete list of system requirements and supported hardware/software platforms, please visit: <http://www.hds.com/go/hicommandrequirements>

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