Transform Your Storage From a Cost Center to a Service-Oriented Business

As data centers continue to grow in size, complexity and diversification, IT administrators are increasingly challenged with managing mountains of information. At the same time, they must optimize application storage service levels and storage system performance.

Hitachi Command Director enables organizations to better align storage to their unique business objectives and lower costs. This software solution helps to properly monitor storage assets, improve storage utilization, ensure that storage service levels for business applications are met, and detect problems early to avoid performance bottlenecks.

Top 5 Benefits

Here are the top 5 benefits that Hitachi Command Director provides to help you to transform your storage infrastructure from a cost center to a service-oriented business.

1. Gain a Business View of Storage Resource Management

Hitachi Command Director is a flexible management tool that provides a 360 degree view of your storage environment. It enables views of business entities and applications with their dependent storage resources to empower you to make informed business decisions on your storage infrastructure. For example, business applications and their relevant storage capacity and performance metrics can be presented by geography, business unit or function. This information helps companies with remote locations to boost efficiency and reduce administrative costs by centralizing storage management operations.

By properly aligning storage resource performance attributes and costs to business application needs, Hitachi Command Director increases the effective use of existing storage systems. It also improves storage utilization, and enables just-in-time purchasing to help ensure storage service levels for mission-critical business applications are being met.
2. Use Storage Analytics to Establish Service Level Objectives (SLOs), Generate Insightful Reports

To fully understand storage performance and capacity demands, your IT administrators need storage analytics, easy access to key storage management statistics. Armed with these metrics, your administrators can apply specific rules for the performance and capacity requirements and establish SLOs for critical business applications.

Applications used by organizations typically have different SLO requirements based on how important they are to meeting specific business objectives. Command Director makes it easy for you to evaluate, define and customize each application’s SLO, including allocated and utilized storage capacity, storage logical device response times, IOPS, data transfer rates, read hits and writes pending. By enabling the establishment of key storage service level objectives, this helps to ensure that the appropriate storage resources are applied to meet critical business application needs. Hitachi Command Director can also provide comprehensive storage reports covering areas such as storage system health, capacity utilization and service level management.

3. Get a Single Unified View of Your Storage Environment

Visibility across the data center is essential to effectively manage your storage environment. A central, global dashboard in Hitachi Command Director provides a unified view of your storage environment.

Hitachi Command Director enables you to create near real-time storage dashboards for monitoring the overall health of the storage infrastructure and custom business views of applications and their respective storage resources. And you can access a mobile view of the storage management dashboard from virtually anywhere using the Hitachi Command Suite for iPad App.

4. Ensure Service Level Objective Compliance

Once service level metrics are established, the global Hitachi Command Director dashboard makes it easy to monitor business applications against their SLOs. Hitachi Command Director and Hitachi Tuning Manager software combine to collect and analyze statistics from across your storage environment and present that data to help you make better informed decisions.

Tuning Manager software gathers metrics across the application’s data path. In turn, Command Director highlights the key relevant SLO metrics and presents them across a single, unified dashboard. This information can be used to identify applications not meeting their required service levels, track historical trends, and facilitate investigating storage-service-level violations.

To further ensure that SLOs are maintained, Hitachi Command Director includes an SLO investigation unit to help you to quickly identify and troubleshoot potential causes of violations. Your storage administrators can be notified if any applications are out of SLO compliance via the dashboard while using the integrated SLO investigation unit to diagnose the SLO violation for any storage related performance issues so they can take corrective action to minimize any disruptions.

5. Leverage Storage Analytics to Optimize Resources and Enable Chargeback

Predicting future storage requirements is a difficult task for organizations of all sizes, especially if no historical metrics are available to identify trends. By providing detailed information for up to 7 years of capacity and performance trends, Hitachi Command Director simplifies forecasting. Its forecasting allows you to develop an intelligent roadmap for optimizing storage resources and lowering operating expenses. It helps you understand data center economics through detailed reports that identify underutilized and overutilized resources, as well as performance trends for applications. And it also helps you properly plan for future capacity growth.

Administrators are well aware that not all storage is equal. For example, applications sitting on Tier 1 storage are more costly but offer higher performance than applications that reside on lower tiers. Hitachi Command Director enables you to charge each business unit in your organization for the actual storage resources they used. You can make business units aware of their storage expenses and adjust their utilization, if necessary.

Summary

These 5 benefits give your organization an intelligent business view of your Hitachi storage environment. By combining these views with its powerful analytics, Hitachi Command Director ensures your SLOs for mission-critical business applications are met. Command Director simplifies service-level management, facilitates future storage planning, and helps to transform your storage environment from a cost center to a service-oriented business.

For More Information

Please contact your Hitachi Data Systems representative or visit www.HDS.com.