On April 3, 2006 Hitachi announced its new midrange storage subsystem named the TagmaStore AMS1000. The announcement of the Adaptable Modular Storage1000 replaces the HDS Thunder Model 9585V.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Scales up to 208TBs of capacity when using 500GB drives
- Support up to 32 Logical Cache Partitions
- Non-disruptive data movement across multiple tiers of storage
- Embedded multi-protocol support for iSCSI, NAS, and Fibre Channel
- Disk drive support includes: 250GB, 400GB, and 500GB Fibre Channel and SATA drives
- Up to 16GBs of Cache
- 4Gbs/s Fibre Channel host connectivity
- Supports a LUN total of 4,096
- The Adaptable Modular Storage 1000 interoperates with the following Hitachi software products:
  - LUN Migration – provides non-disruptive data movement across tiers of storage
  - Disk-Based write once-read multiple (WORM)
  - Copy-on-Write Snapshot
  - TrueCopy Extended Distance
  - Configuration and Management

EVALUATOR GROUP COMMENTS

With the announcement of the AMS1000, Hitachi continues to demonstrate its seriousness of approach to the midrange storage market. The Adaptable Modular Storage line was first introduced in July of 2005 with the release of the AMS200 and 500 models. The newly announced AMS1000 broadens Hitachi’s reach into the high end of the midrange market.

As with the AMS200 and 500, the newly announced AMS1000 supports Logical Cache Partitioning which enables users to dedicate specific amounts cache and volumes to performance sensitive applications. Hitachi claims that Logical Cache Partitioning provides a clear performance advantage. Evaluator Group believes that Logical Cache Partitioning could aid in alleviating certain performance bottlenecks. Users should request references form Hitachi when considering Logical Cache Partitioning. Such references will enable the user to make a more informed decision when considering implementation of Logical Cache Partitioning.

Hitachi claims support for a tiered storage environment by being able to intermix both fibre channel and SATA drives within the AMS1000 subsystem and the capability to move volumes across drive types manually via Hitachi software called “LUN Migrator”(Announced as generally available; however will ship in June.) Hitachi claims that “LUN Migrator” supports the non-disruptive movement of volumes from tier to tier (Fibre to SATA and vice versa) and from RAID group to RAID group within the array. Hitachi does support attachment of the AMS1000 to the TagmaStore Universal Storage Platform, or the Network Storage Controller, and provides LUN management via Hitachi Universal Volume Manager software.
The tiering support within the AMS1000 represents a significant change in direction for Hitachi. With the departure from Hitachi's past direction of only supporting storage tiering via AMS, or third party attachment, to the Universal Storage Platform, Hitachi now joins other vendors in providing this capability. Hitachi’s unique claim in its tiering capability is that it will support non-disruptive LUN migration even between RAID groups.

The embedded multi-protocol support for iSCSI, NAS, or Fibre Channel is unique and provides users with an opportunity to reduce storage management costs and choice when considering the initial deployment of the AMS1000, or subsequent uses should the storage be repurposed during its useful life span.

With 4Gb Fibre Channel host connectivity support, Hitachi joins other vendors such as Engenio and HP with support for the growing 4Gb connectivity requirement. With 4,096 LUN support, Hitachi has provided for the greater LUN quantities required in larger capacity systems.

Hitachi is demonstrating its growing understanding of the value of common software used across a range of storage models with a product line, or across storage platform product lines. Support for the AMS1000 with TrueCopy, LUN Migration, and Configuration Management is a plus for users who are looking to reduce storage management costs.

Evaluator Group believes that the AMS1000 is a robust replacement for the Thunder Model 9585V. Users should request references from Hitachi when considering the AMS1000 to satisfy their storage requirements.

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