



STORAGEFUSION
AN AVISEN PLC COMPANY

Identifying ROI from Storage Analysis in the Same Business Day

Today, more than ever before, IT departments are being asked to do more with less. Storage requirements continue to grow, storage infrastructures get more complex but CIO's and IT Directors are still under pressure to reduce costs. Here are some key points to consider when fast and substantive storage management improvements are required along with the need to deliver a fast ROI through effective Storage Analysis.

1. Establish Transparency

A vital requirement is to gain transparency or visibility into your storage infrastructure. Transparency has an immediate impact on cost, compliance and efficiency; and the more transparency you have, the more effective your capacity planning process will be. The typical approach taken by most Storage Managers is to outsource a discovery and analysis project either to a vendor or consultancy company. At a tactical level, this solution is often effective but it is expensive, lacks consistency of approach as it's based on the principles and processes of the provider, is often a manual process which can be inaccurate and in many cases, the information has changed by the time it is validated and acted upon. This approach also lacks any real ability to manage change and enable capacity planning.

2. Identify Reclaimable Storage

One of the immediate benefits from gaining transparency and visibility is the awareness of reclaimable storage, or storage that has been 'lost'. Common candidates include 'orphaned' storage which is not masked to any hosts or 'mis-configuration' i.e. copies that are smaller than their primary volumes and cannot therefore be used. Usable storage is also affected by a number of less obvious factors including poor RAID configurations, limiting capacity for better performance, and poorly tiered storage.

3. Effective Reclamation

Whilst every configuration will tend to have reclaimable storage, for effective ROI it is not only important to identify these candidates but also to categorise them. Effective reclamation is a combination of effort and quantity (Return on Effort). Categorising reclaimable candidates makes it much more obvious where to expend precious resources. The chart below gives an example of how this can be presented:

88.00 GB	47,805.28 GB	74.98 GB	0.00 GB	55,226.02 GB
The likelihood of being able to reclaim this storage easily is:	The likelihood of being able to reclaim this storage easily is:	The likelihood of being able to reclaim this storage easily is:	The likelihood of being able to reclaim this storage easily is:	The likelihood of being able to reclaim this storage easily is:
Extremely High	Very High	High	Medium	Low
★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	★

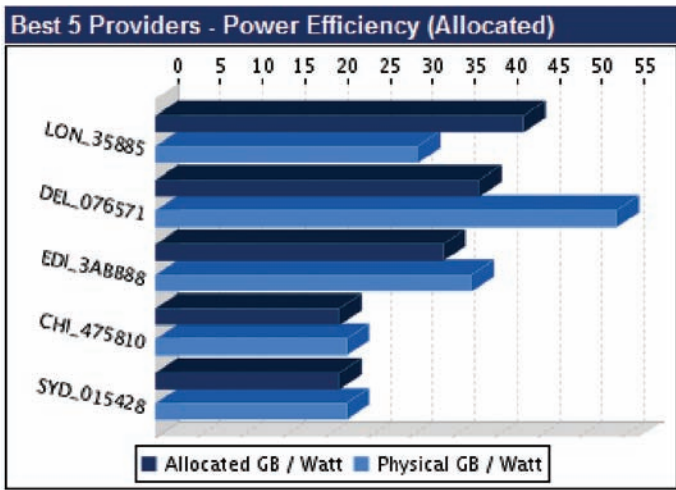


STORAGEFUSION
AN AVISEN PLC COMPANY

Identifying ROI from Storage Analysis in the Same Business Day

4. Associated Costs

Less obvious in terms of immediate ROI are the associated costs of power, heat and space. These costs can be significant in OPEX terms and many data centres are already constrained by such environmental factors.



Transparency must therefore include a detailed analysis of the 'environmental' overhead (heat and power) associated with the actual storage configuration. It is also important to compare these values against the actual storage density, highlighting the least and most efficient storage arrays (shown in the image above) to further quantify the ROI of any reconfiguration.

5. Avoid Sleeping Catastrophes

It is impossible to maintain a perfect storage environment and every installation will have issues and anomalies which, if serious, could be described as 'sleeping catastrophes' and represent operational risk. Transparency must include Exception Reporting which identifies these configuration issues and anomalies before they impact your business.

6. Proof Point

Storage Resource Analysis (SRA) from Storage Fusion is a Software as a Service tool that is revolutionising the way organisations evaluate and optimise their storage environments. **SRA** provides detailed analytics of your entire storage infrastructure within hours and cuts through the complexity of heterogeneous storage environments without the need for expensive and time-consuming consultants.

FREE Headline Interactive Portal!

To request a FREE Headline Interactive Portal summarising your entire storage estate including capacity, tiering, anomalies, reclaimable storage and potential return on investment please call George Newton on 01707 387 100 or email George.Newton@storagefusion.com