

Storage Virtualisation from Kavanagh

Kavanagh's Storage Virtualisation solutions give you complete control over your storage infrastructure, enabling you to leverage the best technology available to meet your data storage requirements while optimising utilisation to gain the most value from your investments.



Data is at the heart of every business and ensuring its safety and availability is paramount. At the same time, the huge demand for data means that storage solutions are a major investment. Consequently, CIOs are under great pressure to maximise both the utilisation and efficiency of the storage infrastructure.

THE CHALLENGES

Inefficient use of existing storage – Many companies report storage utilisation levels as low as 20 to 40 percent, much lower than industry best practice recommendations of 70 percent. This is because of an inability to flexibly allocate space as needed and the lack of a clear view of storage usage. The cost implications in large environments are substantial.

Reacting to business demands – An agile storage infrastructure is required to react quickly to new business requirements. The capability to add or remove capacity or change technology easily and without major disruption is vital.

Data mobility – The ability to move large quantities of data between different environments quickly and safely is crucial. Backup, restore and maintenance of databases is always needed, but other factors such as mergers or equipment changes also drive the need for fast and error-free data migration.

The difficulty of implementing tiered storage – Data storage needs vary widely in terms of speed of access, resilience requirements and size. A mission-critical high performance transaction processing application has very different requirements to a large but lightly used reference database. The ability to match the technology and, therefore, cost of storage solutions to specific needs is invaluable, but mixed environments are complex and hard to manage.

High support and maintenance costs – The administration of large storage configurations involving the use of advanced technologies requires skilled and expensive staff. The management of multiple databases deployed across mixed physical environments can also become excessively labour intensive.

With data growth rates set to increase by around 50 percent each year, and much higher rates likely in content rich environments, the need for a more effective approach to storage management is pressing.

THE POWER OF A HOLISTIC VIRTUALISATION STRATEGY

The benefits of server virtualisation are well proven. As a leading proponent of virtualisation, Kavanagh has extensive experience in helping organisations get more business value from their investments in IT. By harnessing the power of virtualisation Kavanagh has helped many clients to consolidate their data centres, reduce equipment levels, cut management costs, increase utilisation and business agility.

The value of virtualising only the server environment, however, is limited. If a virtual server infrastructure still relies on inflexible, statically allocated storage, overall flexibility and resilience is compromised. Even shared storage using Storage Area Network (SAN) devices with vendor supplied virtualisation fails to deliver the agility and data mobility that can be achieved with a truly virtualised storage environment.

Few organisations can meet all their storage requirements with a single technology or wish to rely on a single vendor. Consequently, to unlock the full potential of server and desktop virtualisation and take advantage of modern multi-tiered storage architectures, a vendor and technology independent approach to storage virtualisation is needed.

A consistent view of all storage types from any application platform, allowing unrestricted choice of storage devices and mobility of data across the entire estate will deliver the greatest business value.

"Kavanagh excelled in the evaluation, helping us interpret the business requirements and shape the solution specification."

**TIM WRIGHT, HEAD OF KNOWLEDGE
MANAGEMENT AND ICT, ITI SCOTLAND**

THE KAVANAGH SOLUTION

The experts at Kavanagh bring best practice and advanced virtualisation software to the challenge of data storage management. They are exceptionally qualified to provide business and technical consulting in order to build an efficient, manageable, virtual storage environment specifically designed to meet your current and future requirements.

Storage virtualisation from Kavanagh provides pooling of capacity from multiple physical network storage devices into what appears to be a single storage device managed from a central console. The often difficult and time-consuming management of storage devices is simplified by a layer of virtualisation software that disguises the complexity of SAN technology to present the administrator with powerful, easy-to-use management tools.

Kavanagh's solutions provide fully automated storage provisioning and fabric zoning to greatly simplify the process of adding capacity. A single point of control and well established policies facilitate the centralised management of heterogeneous storage infrastructures. Storage administrators can provision a network volume to a host once, then transform, migrate and copy volumes without any further host configuration.

With Kavanagh's Storage Virtualisation Solutions, error-prone manual data migration processes become a thing of the past. Virtualisation opens the door to Kavanagh's Data Migration Solution, which can be leveraged to resolve the high cost and unpredictability of large and complex migration projects such as data centre moves or consolidation.

Kavanagh provides a complete end-to-end solution from a thorough analysis of your IT environment and storage requirement through to design, implementation and support of the storage infrastructure. The solution includes:

- ◆ Capacity Assessment Consulting Services using highly experienced professionals
- ◆ Enterprise Storage Supply and Implementation
- ◆ Project and Programme Management
- ◆ Data Migration Evaluation and Consulting Services

Furthermore, our experts can work with you to develop a holistic virtualisation strategy covering servers, storage and desktops to help maximise the performance and impact of your overall IT resources.

Kavanagh delivers a wide range of innovative IT solutions and services to its enterprise clients and helps organisations gain the maximum value from their IT assets. If you would like to find out more, please email us at kavanagh@kavanagh.co.uk or call us on 01344 407977.

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BENEFITS

- ◆ Much improved operating efficiency through better manageability of the storage environment using powerful, unified administration tools
- ◆ Greatly increased utilisation levels across heterogeneous storage types
- ◆ Comprehensive virtualisation capabilities not limited by the capabilities of specific storage array technologies
- ◆ Fast, efficient and non-disruptive data mobility, removing a major barrier to implementing change
- ◆ Enhanced service availability and rapid recovery of data
- ◆ An independent approach that allows complete freedom of choice in the selection of storage technology and vendor
- ◆ The ability to build flexible, tiered storage architectures that are independent of the computing platforms used
- ◆ Maximised return from investments in server and desktop virtualisation
- ◆ Improved agility through the ability to respond rapidly to new business needs for storage or data access
- ◆ Lower TCO through better hardware utilisation, greater reliability and reduced administration workload

WHY KAVANAGH?

- ◆ Extensive experience of designing and deploying a wide range of data centre solutions which maximise return on investment
- ◆ Thorough understanding of virtualisation techniques and solutions
- ◆ Ability to carry out comprehensive capacity planning and requirements analysis
- ◆ Ability to design, supply, configure and install the complete solution, including the hardware, for rapid time to benefit
- ◆ Highly-qualified and experienced consultants
- ◆ Ability to undertake proof-of-concept projects at its demonstration centre
- ◆ A proven track record of successful storage virtualisation implementation
- ◆ Complete service for support, including hardware and software
- ◆ Absolute commitment to the customer and a long term approach to partnership
- ◆ A holistic approach to a virtualisation strategy – server, storage and desktop

