

Open Text

Open Text is the leading provider of collaborative commerce applications. Livelink®, their flagship product, connects employees, business partners and customers across global organizations and trading communities. By providing a collaborative environment for the development of intranets, extranets and e-business applications, Livelink removes boundaries and connects you to what matters most. People.

From the outset, Open Text has worked to develop technologies that promote innovation. Their efforts have been rewarded. Today, the Company is the largest supplier of collaborative Web-based solutions for the enterprise, supporting over four million users across 4,000 corporations in 31 countries and 12 languages throughout the world.



The Environment

Open Text have development systems, production systems, intranet systems, webserver systems, search engine systems and archival systems running on Solaris, NT and Linux. All of these play distinct but vital roles in the overall operation of their business.

The Requirements

Naturally, Open Text wanted to protect their data with redundancy. Some of their systems had some form of data protection using a variety of RAID (redundant array of independent disk) systems, but it quickly became evident that putting RAID systems into each of these areas was not going to be cost effective. Some of the applications only required a small amount of disk space but the data was mission critical and had to be protected with fault-tolerance. In addition to that, there was to be no compromising performance for protection. It had to be a high performance system.

The Solution

A Storage Area Network (SAN) quickly made a lot of sense. The open nature of a SAN from Open Storage Solutions® would allow them to attach multiple NT systems, Sun systems and Linux systems to the same data storage array to centralize the storage and storage management. They could now dynamically allocate storage to the different areas and increase the allocation as growth occurred.

The storage was achieved with an 850 gigabyte Open Storage Solutions Infinity™ FC² RAID system which would give them the fault tolerance and redundancy they needed and even increase their data I/O performance. The SAN fabric was created using a Brocade 8 port switch.

Using a 16 port Brocade switch, an additional SAN was added with a second Infinity FC² RAID system of 1 terabyte in a second SAN to mirror the first. This gives an even higher level of redundancy.

The current SAN fabric is strictly for disk access to logical units on the disks. Within the next few months, Open Storage Solutions will install phase two, which will enable file sharing between the NT, Solaris and Linux servers as well as LAN-free tape backup over the SAN.