SDS

Software Defined Storage (SDS)

Buyer's Guide and Reviews

October 2019

IT Central Station
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Dell EMC	ScaleIO
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Elastifile	Elastifile
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Top Software Defined Storage (SDS) Solutions

Over 370,586 professionals have used IT Central Station research. Here are the top Software Defined Storage (SDS) vendors based on product reviews, ratings, and comparisons. All reviews and ratings are from real users, validated by our triple authentication process.

Chart Key

● **Views**

Number of views

● **Comparisons**

Number of times compared to another product

● **Reviews**

Total number of reviews on IT Central Station

● **Words/Review**

Average words per review on IT Central Station

● **Average Rating**

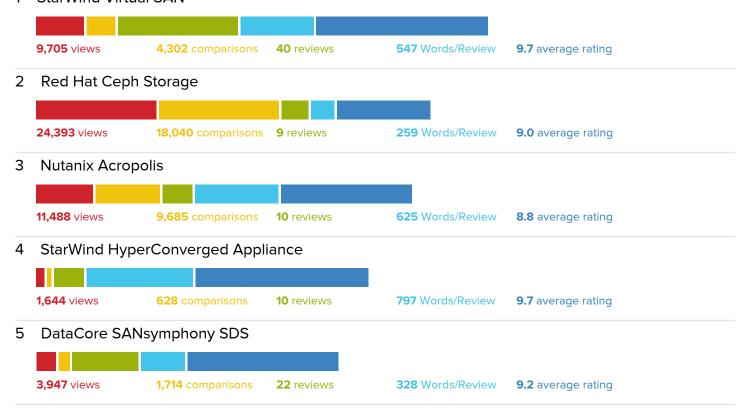Average rating based on reviews

Bar length

The total ranking of a product, represented by the bar length, is based on a weighted aggregate score. The score is calculated as follows:
The product with the highest count in each area gets the highest available score. (18 points for **Reviews**, **Words/Review**, **Views** and **Comparisons**.) Every other product gets assigned points based on its total in proportion to the #1 product in that area.
For example, if a product has 80% of the number of reviews compared to the product with the most reviews then the product's points for reviews would be 18 (weighting factor) * 80% = 14.4. For **Average Rating**, the maximum score is 28 points awarded linearly between 6-10 (e.g. 6 or below=0 points; 7.5=10.5 points; 9.0=21 points; 10=28 points).
If a product has fewer than ten reviews, the point contribution for Average Rating and Words/Review is reduced: 1/3 reduction in points for products with 5-9 reviews, two-thirds reduction for products with fewer than five reviews.
Reviews that are more than 24 months old, as well as those written by resellers, are completely excluded from the ranking algorithm.

1   StarWind Virtual SAN

9,705 views   **4,302** comparisons   **40** reviews   **547** Words/Review   **9.7** average rating

2   Red Hat Ceph Storage

24,393 views   **18,040** comparisons   **9** reviews   **259** Words/Review   **9.0** average rating

3   Nutanix Acropolis

11,488 views   **9,685** comparisons   **10** reviews   **625** Words/Review   **8.8** average rating

4   StarWind HyperConverged Appliance

1,644 views   **628** comparisons   **10** reviews   **797** Words/Review   **9.7** average rating

5   DataCore SANsymphony SDS

3,947 views   **1,714** comparisons   **22** reviews   **328** Words/Review   **9.2** average rating

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6   StorPool

3,088 views   **1,232** comparisons   **6** reviews   **534** Words/Review   **9.8** average rating

7   IBM Spectrum Virtualize

2,173 views   **1,134** comparisons   **6** reviews   **536** Words/Review   **9.2** average rating

8   ScaleIO

11,946 views   **8,064** comparisons   **1** reviews   **287** Words/Review   **8.0** average rating

9   HPE StoreVirtual

7,918 views   **5,427** comparisons   **3** reviews   **179** Words/Review   **9.0** average rating

10   Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct

5,520 views   **4,637** comparisons   **1** reviews   **899** Words/Review   **8.0** average rating

Top Solutions by Ranking Factor

🔴 Views

SOLUTION		VIEWS
1	Red Hat Ceph Storage	24,393
2	ScaleIO	11,946
3	Nutanix Acropolis	11,488
4	StarWind Virtual SAN	9,705
5	HPE StoreVirtual	7,918

🟢 Reviews

SOLUTION		REVIEWS
1	StarWind Virtual SAN	40
2	DataCore SANsymphony SDS	22
3	StarWind HyperConverged Appliance	10
4	Nutanix Acropolis	10
5	Red Hat Ceph Storage	9

🔵 Words / Review

SOLUTION		WORDS / REVIEW
1	Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct	899
2	StarWind HyperConverged Appliance	797
3	Nutanix Acropolis	625
4	StarWind Virtual SAN	547
5	IBM Spectrum Virtualize	536

StarWind **StarWind Virtual SAN**   See 42 reviews >>

Overview

For SMB, ROBO, Cloud and Hosting providers, who look to cut down virtualization expenses, our solution is StarWind VSAN. It is software that eliminates any need in physical shared storage by basically "mirroring" internal hard disks and flash between hypervisor servers. There is less hardware to buy in general, consequently less money is spent on purchase and maintenance. The existing hardware is used with maximum efficiency, so there is no money wasted at all.StarWind Virtual SAN targets those who already have servers, or are bound to a particular vendor list to buy from. In case there is a new virtualization infrastructure to be built from scratch, StarWind offers a much better way – StarWind HyperConverged Appliance. It is a turnkey solu... [Read More]

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Baker Tilly BVI, CMS Internet, Board Harpeth Hall School

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. StarWind Virtual SAN ... Compared 36% of the time [See comparison]
Nutanix vs. StarWind Virtual SAN ... Compared 17% of the time [See comparison]
Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct vs. StarWind Virtual SAN ... Compared 10% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *	**VISITORS READING REVIEWS ***
TOP INDUSTRIES	**TOP INDUSTRIES**
Energy/Utilities Company ... 16%	Energy/Utilities Company ... 11%
Software R&D Company ... 15%	Manufacturing Company ... 11%
Manufacturing Company ... 10%	Construction Company ... 11%
Construction Company ... 10%	Insurance Company ... 7%
COMPANY SIZE	**COMPANY SIZE**
1-200 Employees ... 58%	1-200 Employees ... 59%
201-1000 Employees ... 19%	201-1000 Employees ... 21%
1001+ Employees ... 23%	1001+ Employees ... 21%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

≋ StarWind **StarWind Virtual SAN**

Top Reviews by Topic

💡 VALUABLE FEATURES

Bryan Schuler

* The control panel is nice. It gives you a lot of good feedback as to the status and health of the VSAN. * The synchronization is very nice. * I like its flexibility. It is more flexible than most VSAN solutions that I have seen. For example, you can run it across two hosts. You don't need a third host observing it. [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

The most attractive feature is, as a Virtual SAN, the data on one is copied to the data on the second. We have two in tandem. So, the data on one is the same as the data on the second one. If we need to do maintenance on the server, it doesn't necessarily have to be after hours, or recommended after hours. If I need to do something in an emergency, I can stop the sync and know that one server has all the information, do what I need to do, and sync them back. Once we resolve the syncing issues, a first sync of about 4TB of data was done in under 30 m... [Full Review]

Dan Reynolds

Performance, reliability, I love the management console (once I got used to it). It works and it works well. Maybe not exactly a feature but tech support is beyond great. It is fantastic. The techs are supportive, understanding and really care about your implementation. I feel they really want to see you succeed. I'm so pleased with the tech support that I consider it better than any feature. [Full Review]

FAFCO

Without question, the support. StarWind has been a valuable technology partner for us from the beginning. On the rare occasion when we have had a problem, or have simply needed to do an upgrade, they have provided first-rate support. Anyone who has dealt with common off-shore support understands the frustration in dealing with incompetent and difficult to communicate with support staff. This is not so with StarWind, as their support staff is comprised of true experts who can also communicate clearly. For highly technical products this is essential. ... [Full Review]

📄 IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Bryan Schuler

It is more of a perceptual thing with the users. The system that we moved onto it is our ERP system, which handles everything. It handles our orders, workflow, and shop work orders. It was by far the slowest, clunkiest system that we have here. When we put it together the StarWind Virtual SAN, and we moved it onto the flash drives, everything seemed to run a lot faster. I went from a drive system that peaked out at 2000 IOPS to a system that could now do over 200,000 IOPS. It was absolutely a night and day difference. Everything is just snappier. Wh... [Full Review]

Matthew Henson

Instead of having to maintain two completely separate systems: * The cluster where all the data processing is happening. * Maintaining the SAN clustering. Now, we can do everything in one location, because the storage and processing are all happening on the same cluster. It has reduced our overall maintenance and overhead by having to only maintain physical boxes for one cluster instead of having to manage physical boxes for two clusters. It also has reduced the amount of switching, network connections, etc., because the converged StarWind Virtual S... [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

I don't have to stay late at night. Prior to using this VSAN, if anything happened to a server, everything went down. We couldn't do anything, and that was a nightmare. There was even a time where all the data on the server got wiped. People were unable to work for half a day. We did have a backup. We had to go to a third party to get a hard drive, have it shipped, and upload the data back into the server, then foster continuum. It happened like that twice before they said, "Enough is enough, what are our options?" We had the option of a physical se... [Full Review]

≋ StarWind **StarWind Virtual SAN**

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Bryan Schuler

For improvement, I would like to see how the software determines which networks to use for which purpose. It seems like the naming terminology changes a bit from here to there. When I access the console on the computer, where is it going in through: * The computer's connections? * The heartbeat connection? * The iSCSI connection? It is a little odd as far as making sure those networks are isolated just for their function. On the console, there is no good way to see how all the networks are allocated. Other than that, once they are set up and allocat... [Full Review]

Matthew Henson

If there are domain controllers inside the cluster, there needs to be some sort of logic allowing them to boot independently so all the rest of the domain clients can gain the authority they need to come online. We made that mistake at first. We have since moved one of our domain controllers out of the cluster, so everything can obtain whatever authentication it needs on the initial boot. Ultimately, Microsoft says they support it, but we would like to see all of our domain controllers running within the cluster, too. We don't want to have additiona... [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

Initially, when we first started, the sync was horrible. It would take about 13 hours. However, they have since then improved on it. It also depends on the pipe. We had a small pipe back then. So, we would do things at around 8:00 AM, then by 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning (the next day), everything would be back on. Once we upgraded the pipe between them, within half an hour, it was synced. StarWind made us understand that we had a small pipe and our drives were not SSD, but SATA. All these things contributed because they have tons of clients. Thus, i... [Full Review]

MarkMgr

It would be helpful to have a little more insight into what kind of performance the VSAN cluster is utilizing; something that would be more proactive on our side, versus their ProActive Support. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Bryan Schuler

I was so impressed by what I saw, because at first, you set it up for free. I set it up for free to see how it worked, because I was losing nothing but time. After I set it up, and everything worked, I was like, "Okay, I don't need anything else for this. Let's get the licensing and go." The pricing is more than reasonable. The licensing is a bit weird. If you license the standard version of StarWind, it allows you four terabytes. Then, they have a pro version, but with the pro version, the only difference is it doubles the terabytes to eight. Howev... [Full Review]

Matthew Henson

For pricing, you have two things that come into it: * The cost of the hardware. * The software licensing pricing. When we did all the analysis for StarWind, it was approximately 20 percent less than any of the other solutions that we looked at. This wasn't our only criteria, as you don't want to buy the cheapest thing, then find out you have a problem. Also, StarWind isn't the cheapest solution out there, but it is certainly cost-effective relative to the major players. I haven't seen any difference in quality overall. StarWind works as well as any ... [Full Review]

Richard Ojeleye

The pricing is fine for the work that it does. I have had no issues. When we bought it three to four years ago for what we needed, it was literally cheaper than the alternative which was ten times the amount and took up physical space. The license is reusable. We can always rebuild it and apply the license. Then, boom, we get new servers, apply the license, and we're back up and running. [Full Review]

Red Hat Ceph Storage   See 9 reviews >>

Overview

Red Hat Ceph Storage is an enterprise open source platform that provides unified software-defined storage on standard, economical servers and disks. With block, object, and file storage combined into one platform, Red Hat Ceph Storage efficiently and automatically manages all your data.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Dell, DreamHost

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. Red Hat Ceph Storage ... Compared 26% of the time [See comparison]
ScaleIO vs. Red Hat Ceph Storage ... Compared 15% of the time [See comparison]
LizardFS vs. Red Hat Ceph Storage ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company ... 29%
Comms Service Provider ... 20%
Manufacturing Company ... 10%
Financial Services Firm ... 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 31%
201-1000 Employees ... 19%
1001+ Employees ... 50%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

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Red Hat Ceph Storage

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

George Paraskevas

The ability to present Rest API, POSIX filesystem, and block devices from the same distributed object storage back-system (RADOS) is of major value to me. [Full Review]

Flavio Carvalho

* We can reuse servers of any type and include them in the deploy of the solution. * radosgw and librados provide a simple integration with clone, snapshots, and other functions that aid in data integrity. [Full Review]

Enterpri91c5

When going open-source, there is actually not much of a choice. Ceph was chosen to maintain exact performance and capacity characteristics for customer cloud. [Full Review]

Anthony D'Atri

By being open source, Ceph is not tied to the whim or fortunes of any one vendor. The community of Ceph code contributors and admins is large and active. Ceph's ability to adapt to varying types of commodity hardware affords us substantial flexibility and future-proofing. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

George Paraskevas

Ceph has simplified my storage integration. I no longer need two or three storage systems, as Ceph can support all my storage needs. I no longer need OpenStack Swift for REST object storage access, I no longer need NFS or GlusterFS for filesystem sharing, and most importantly, I no longer need LVM or DRBD for my virtual machines in OpenStack. [Full Review]

Flavio Carvalho

The product spawned a new vision of storage deployment, as well as a strong interest in reusing equipment and increasing ROI. We have some legacy servers that can be associated with this structure. With Ceph, we can rearrange these machines and reuse our investment. [Full Review]

Diego Woitasen

It has helped to save money and scale the storage without limits. We did not depend on expensive hardware to start using it and can upgrade it if our demand grows. [Full Review]

Red Hat Ceph Storage

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

George
Paraskevas

Ceph lacks a little bit only in performance. It needs to scale a lot and needs very fast and well-orchestrated/configured hardware for best performance. This not a downside though, it is a challenge. Ceph only improves the given hardware. [Full Review]

Flavio
Carvalho

In the deployment step, we need to create some config files to add Ceph functions in OpenStack modules (Nova, Cinder, Glance). It would be useful to have a tool that validates the format of the data in those files, before generating a deploy with failures. [Full Review]

Enterpri91c5

Ceph is not a mature product at this time. Guides are misleading and incomplete. You will meet all kind of bugs and errors trying to install the system for the first time. It requires very experienced personnel to support and keep the system in working condition, and install all necessary packets. [Full Review]

Siddhartha
Sinha

This product uses a lot of CPU and network bandwidth. It needs some deduplication features and to use delta for rebalancing. After adding new OSD, e-balancing is an huge issue if not properly configured, as it can cause huge performance issues. [Full Review]

Nutanix Acropolis

Overview

Nutanix Acropolis combines feature-rich software-defined storage with built-in virtualization in a turnkey hyperconverged infrastructure solution that can be deployed out-of-the-box in 60 minutes or less. Eliminate the need for standalone SAN or NAS-based storage, reduce the complexity of legacy virtualization management and lower virtualization costs by up to 80%.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

AT&T, Beedie, AccorHotels, Airbus, BAE Systems

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSphere vs. Nutanix Acropolis ... Compared 41% of the time [See comparison]
KVM vs. Nutanix Acropolis ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]
Proxmox VE vs. Nutanix Acropolis ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company ... 32%
Comms Service Provider ... 11%
Government ... 7%
Manufacturing Company ... 7%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 44%
201-1000 Employees ... 37%
1001+ Employees ... 19%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

Nutanix Acropolis

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Senior9883

On-demand scaling is the most valuable feature, I can keep on scaling on-demand. Secondly, Nutanix allows me to create my own configuration. I can create my own configuration and I can get all of it as per my configuration. Number three is that in Nutanix if I do three or four nodes if I look at the traditional environment I have to really figure out the wave concept. Connect wave one, wave two, wave six, wave five. In Nutanix I don't have any of these issues. Lastly, deduplication. Deduplication and erasure coding. [Full Review]

Gerhard Joubert

I definitely find the reduced power consumption very valuable. Another aspect I really like, when one compares Citrix to VMware, is the interface where you talk directly to your VM from the present software. We have found that it is a lot more responsive using VMware compared to Citrix. [Full Review]

MohamedMostafa1

Flexibility. We're able to mix performance nodes with storage nodes easily. Unlike other vendors where, if we start a hyperconverged solution with them, we have to stick to a specific model, to a specific series with specific capabilities, with Nutanix it's very easy to mix and match the best solution, especially for a dynamic infrastructure like ours. [Full Review]

Ran Givon

The management interface of this solution is great. We really enjoy not being locked into VMware as the app adviser vendor. The latest version of Acropolis has a very handy micro-segmentation feature, which we use very often. Overall, I think the most significant upside is the great support provided by Nutanix. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Senior9883

One of the benefits this solution has had for my organization is the space consumption. Space consumption was reduced by approximately 40% because if I had gone with another kind of traditional, or open world solution, then I would have not saved my floor space. Another way it has benefited my organization is because of the energy consumption. Currently, energy consumption has been saved by around 30% to 40%. Plus the number of IOPS has increased, I'm getting the highest IOPS in Nutanix. I had situations where I got applications that depend on publi... [Full Review]

Gerhard Joubert

We are not fully in production yet and we are still busy testing Nutanix. A couple of things that it makes a huge difference in is our company's power consumption because we don't have to use computers for all our employees. We can simply put down a Raspberry Pi or a little nook, and in the Inuvika environment, everything is up and running immediately. It gives the users a lot more freedom in connection with what they usually have in a standard setup. With everything operating in the cluster, the chances of losing data is reduced by about 90%. We us... [Full Review]

MohamedMostafa1

The TCO model of Nutanix is much more mature than other solutions, because everything is consolidated. We're getting the best value for our investments. We're able to build cost-effective solutions, so it helps us to generate better revenue, and better margins as well. [Full Review]

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Nutanix Acropolis

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Senior9883

As of now, Acropolis and VMware cannot talk to each other. Until we have some kind of interface, it would be much better for Nutanix if they built an interface which can talk. Otherwise, if I have a VMware stack and I already have a Nutanix stack, I can create containers, I create clusters on VMware, I create clusters on Nutanix. All of these clusters cannot talk to each other. Then it has to be then subverted as a parallel execution. What happens then is that I have to work in two different environments within my data center. Practically, they are ... [Full Review]

Gerhard Joubert

One thing I've noticed is that, when you do a shift from VMware to Nutanix, it opens the setup of the VM that's currently running. If people from another site double click on it, it opens the VM instead of the setup of the unit. So I would suggest that this could perhaps be switched. That is so far the only change I would like. I would like it if they could fix the instance where you double click on a VM and it opens the VM instead of the setup. That's the only thing that's a major bother to me. [Full Review]

MohamedMostafa1

It would be fantastic if there was a built-in layer, in Nutanix, that acted like a cloud interface. So far, we need to integrate a cloud interface on top of Nutanix for billing the usage for specific customers' domains. It would be great if a cloud gateway was built-in, inside Nutanix. Also, one of the very important things that I would like to see in Nutanix, but I'm not sure if it's in the roadmap or not, is to have some kind of caching optimization at remote sites, to build active-active data centers more easily. [Full Review]

Ran Givon

I believe the only things that may need to improve is that the Nutanix Controller VM consumes quite a lot of resources. If that could be reduced, it would be great. Secondly, I would have liked it if Nutanix were a hardware as well as a software platform. I think they are currently progressing into a software only path. I think that, in the near future, their own hardware will be discontinued. I can understand why they're doing it, but I would have preferred them to continue being a one-stop shop for hardware and software alike. However, so far, for... [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Gerhard Joubert

One of the major problems with IT in South Africa is that licensing fees are 14 times more expensive than anywhere in the world. This is due to the rand/dollar exchange rate. If I remember correctly, our licensing fee on the total setup was about R900,000. There are no additional costs. The only additional things we added to the system was Commvault for additional backup services for the cluster. [Full Review]

≋ StarWind   **StarWind HyperConverged Appliance**   See 10 reviews >>

Overview

For SMB, ROBO and Enterprises, who look to bring in quick deployment and operation simplicity to virtualization workloads and reduce related expenses, our solution is StarWind HyperConverged Appliance (HCA). It unifies commodity servers, disks and flash, hypervisor of choice, StarWind Virtual SAN, Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct or VMware Virtual SAN and associated software into a single manageable layer. The HCA supports scale-up by adding disks and flash, and scale-out by adding extra nodes.StarWind HyperConverged Appliance consists of StarWind Virtual SAN, Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct or VMware Virtual SAN "Ready Nodes", targeting those, who are building their virtualization infrastructure from scratch. In case there is an existing se... [Read More]

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Sears Home and Franchise Business

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. StarWind HyperConverged Appliance ... Compared 20% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. StarWind HyperConverged Appliance ... Compared 18% of the time [See comparison]
VxRail vs. StarWind HyperConverged Appliance ... Compared 9% of the time [See comparison]

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 50%
201-1000 Employees ... 38%
1001+ Employees ... 13%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

≋ StarWind **StarWind HyperConverged Appliance**

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

David Rager

High-availability is what I bought it for. The hardware footprint size is good. They use Dell EMC boxes for the appliances. They're pretty standard for the industry, as far as servers go. I think they're good. [Full Review]

Kristopher Skully

The biggest thing we were looking for was redundancy, with both the compute and the storage, so that way we could lose a full node and still keep everything up and running, and not have to worry about it. Another of the most important features we were looking for, since we're short on time, was something that we could deploy quickly and easily. They were offering what they call a "turnkey solution." We could just buy it, they would preconfigure it, we would throw it in our environment and do some very minimal configuration on the phone with them, an... [Full Review]

Ho-Ching Yung

* StarWind Virtual SAN. We no longer have to manage storage via multiple local server disks. * Added fault tolerance helps everybody sleep easier at night knowing we can lose an entire node without affecting production. [Full Review]

Ben Poole

The most valuable features are consolidated storage, low cost and overhead compared to previous solutions. As an NPO, we are always concerned with new technology and the associated costs. The solutions from StarWind were not only a major increase in performance, but they were very affordable for us. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

David Rager

We're getting close to 50 trucks and growing pretty quickly. We have guys out on the road all the time and this system we're putting in place is going to track all of that in the greatest of detail. If anything happens with a load, it's all being communicated back through the system. That includes dispatching the drivers, monitoring the drivers as they're hauling the load, tracking when they arrive at their destinations. All that is done through the system. Any time that it goes down for an extended period of time is a time that we have to operate o... [Full Review]

Kristopher Skully

The old solution we had worked. It was starting to show its age and it consisted of several more pieces of equipment than the StarWind HyperConverged Appliances. It has saved us time because there are fewer devices to update. We no longer have to worry about updating our hardware SANs, which would actually cause a brief outage, even though the upgrades are advertised as non-disruptive. We just update the StarWind software every once in a while with no downtime. In terms of overall systems performance, the latency has been reduced. Instead of having ... [Full Review]

reviewer968 163

Our two goals were to improve performance and add fault tolerance. Even before implementation, the StarWind team analyzed our current workload to determine which HCA would be appropriate for us. This allowed us to make a decision based on data rather than instinct. Performance has been excellent, and we have really noticed a big improvement from our old system. Our other goal, improving fault tolerance, was immediately realized with the installation of the second HCA node. We have been running flawlessly since day one with zero downtime. The second ... [Full Review]

StarWind HyperConverged Appliance

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

David Rager

This is just being nit-picky but the only thing I have run into is that I did want to add more hard drives into the host, so that we could look at doing a RAID 10, and the hard drive prices were pretty expensive. I think they're just getting pricing straight from whoever supplies their hardware. They do have the Dell EMC guarantee where, if you have hardware that goes out, you will have a replacement there by the next day. So if one of my drives goes out they'll have a new one to me by the next day. But I compared the price of one hard drive - I can... [Full Review]

Ho-Ching Yung

It could potentially be less reliable due to the Hypervisor, and the cluster relies on Microsoft Windows Server. However, we have not had any issue since putting them in production 12 months ago. [Full Review]

Ben Poole

The only thing my team has recommended improving on is possibly a StarWind-customized GUI to monitor the overall system health, similar to 5nine Manager. There is nothing else I would recommend improving because everything from sales, installation to post-install service for the past year has been great. [Full Review]

Andrew Wolf

A desired feature or service would be the ability to have a hardware subscription plan that ensures routine hardware updates in conjunction with hyper-converged software. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

David Rager

I honestly feel that there's no one else in the market doing what they're doing for the price point that they're doing it at. That's why I asked them about investing in their company. I think that the options they're providing and the software that they have is sort of revolutionary for the price point. It's making it possible for small businesses and medium-sized businesses to be able to have high-availability at a cheap price. The total cost was $24,400. I believe it was just a one-time fee. They did a per-hour plan for their services, which was f... [Full Review]

Kristopher Skully

Other than the standard licensing fee for StarWind HCA, there are the server costs and the server support. We purchased all of this thorough StarWind on one invoice. [Full Review]

reviewer968 163

Do your research. You will find that nothing compares to the value you get with the HCA appliance. If you have a limited budget, the decision is an easy one. [Full Review]

DataCore SANsymphony SDS

Overview

DataCore™ SANsymphony™ enterprise-class Software-defined Storage (SDS) platform provides a high-performance, highly available and agile storage infrastructure with the lowest Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Volkswagen , Maimonides Medical Center, The Biodesign Institute, ISCO Industries, Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, United Financial Credit Union, Derby Supply Chain Solutions, Mission Community Hospital, Bellarmine College Preparatory, Colby-Sawyer College, Mount Sinai Health System, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Quorn Foods, Bitburger, University of Birmingham, Stadtverwaltung Heidelberg, NetEnt to name a few.

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. DataCore SANsymphony SDS ... Compared 15% of the time [See comparison]
EMC FAST vs. DataCore SANsymphony SDS ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]
Nutanix vs. DataCore SANsymphony SDS ... Compared 9% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Real Estate/Law Firm ... 27%
Outsourcing Company ... 12%
Government ... 12%
Manufacturing Company ... 11%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Government ... 23%
Transportation Company ... 15%
Non Profit ... 15%
Manufacturing Company ... 15%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 52%
201-1000 Employees ... 19%
1001+ Employees ... 29%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

To read more reviews about Software Defined Storage (SDS), please visit:
https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/software-defined-storage-sds

DataCore SANsymphony SDS

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Damon

No more vendor lock-in, overpriced drives, or forklift upgrades. With DataCore SANsymphony, you can utilize just about any storage you wish with this product such as another SAN, NAS, JBOD, FusionIO, etc. If Windows can see it as a non-removable drive, you can use it with SANsymphony. Also, you can use this to mirror any of these various types of storage, which is awesome for migration. Say, for example, you have an HP SAN and you want to migrate off it to your own JBOD-type storage, or you have two sites with two different storage SANs that you wan... [Full Review]

reviewer109 0101

The most valuable feature is auto-tiering, which allows for storage pools containing different speed storage systems and the data automatically moved to the most appropriate pool. [Full Review]

Rog Fed

DataCore's ability to seamlessly move virtual volume data between storage pools as well as their synchronous mirroring has made maintenance and disaster recovery planning achievable. DataCore's auto-tiering feature also allows us to use our SSD arrays efficiently. [Full Review]

MichaelP

* Redundancy of vdisk: It provides less downtime. * Continuous data protection: It is always good to have a possibility to "go back". * Technical support: Technical support is amazing. It is very fast and always has a solution in no time. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Damon

This solution allows the use of off-the-shelf hardware and charges by the TB of storage. So, we can throw in our own enterprise-class hardware (including SSDs) and not pay any extra based on the type of storage we use. This is the same model used with server virtualization. This has allowed us to keep the hardware separate from software. It is true "storage virtualization" at its finest. It has all the features of any high-end SAN such as fiber channel, iSCSI, thin provisioning, storage tiering, snapshots, continuous data protection/recovery, synchr... [Full Review]

Rog Fed

DataCore has been doing software-defined storage since back before SDS was even a buzzword. It has provided a great deal of flexibility, performance, and efficiency for our Enterprise SAN. We are not tied to any one hardware vendor and over the nineteen years that we've had DataCore, we have gone through various models of IBM servers to Dell servers as well as various storage arrays from IBM, Dot Hill, XIO, Kaminario, and Dell (all with some of the same data from year one). [Full Review]

MichaelP

* SANsymphony gives us the possibility to get storage redundancy with a very good ROI. * It also helps us to get a more balanced performance of our storage systems. [Full Review]

DataCore SANsymphony SDS

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Damon

There's very little that I can find in their software that I would say needs to be improved. Sometimes the updates are too frequent, where just as we finish updating all of our sites, another update comes out. Due to the many various options for what hardware to use, sometimes it is difficult trying to figure out what hardware options are the best for the money. DataCore can help a bit with this, but because they are only the software side of the solution, they tend to not prefer one hardware vendor over another (they get along with everyone). They ... [Full Review]

reviewer109 0101

The cost is becoming prohibitive since they moved to a subscription model. 'Education' pricing is such in name only (we are a school). When we originally purchased Datacore (in 2014) it was on a perpetual basis and provided exceptional value for money. We have renewed our DataCore solution this year, in 2019, and have found that DataCore has moved to a subscription model. Not only was the initial licensing far higher than previously, partly due to additional storage requirements but also because we can no longer acquire a 'limited' license and we al... [Full Review]

Rog Fed

DataCore needs a more efficient and better way to keep track of metrics and counters so that we can do baseline analysis to measure performance. Datacore has some functionality where you can send performance metrics to a SQL database however it has not always worked well for us. We actually had to turn it off because we were actually collecting too much data, but in my opinion we sometimes want this data. Ideally if there was a way to see metrics for current and specific points in time it would be great for troubleshooting and any type of trend anal... [Full Review]

Scott Lambourne

Installing updates could be a bit more straightforward and easier to install. I have only installed one update on the systems, and for that, I had to bring in outside help that was more knowledgeable with the product than I currently am. He also had to contact DataCore support for assistance as the update did not go smooth. I also did Windows updates at this same time as it was strongly suggested to me not to do the Windows updates as they are released. The Windows updates were installed with no problems and caused no problems to the system. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Damon

I would recommend sending administrators through DataCore's DCIE training/certification. DataCore has many options from hyper-converged solution, to even providing their own storage appliances if that's what you are looking for. [Full Review]

reviewer109 0101

When we initially purchased DataCore, it was extremely cost-effective with a perpetual license. They have since moved to a subscription model, which may prove too expensive for us in the future. Make sure you are made aware of the annual subscription cost when purchasing. [Full Review]

Rog Fed

In regards to Fibre Channel, buy a server that can handle the highest number of Quad Port HBA cards. Purchase as much memory for the server as you can afford. Anything you spec out, you will need to double if you want redundancy. [Full Review]

StorPool   See 5 reviews >>

Overview

StorPool is intelligent storage software that runs on standard servers and builds scalable, high-performance storage system out of these servers (software-defined storage). It focuses on the block-level storage and excels at it. It is incredibly flexible and can be deployed in both converged setups (on compute nodes, alongside VMs and applications) or on separate storage nodes.StorPool has advanced fully-distributed architecture and is arguably the fastest and most efficient block-storage software on the market today. It is the best storage system when building a cloud.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

CloudSigma, Kualo, Togglebox, Neterra, Serveo, Superhosting.bg, GroupOne, DRFortress, Metanet, Dia, Server Storage Solutions

TOP COMPARISONS

Red Hat Ceph Storage vs. StorPool ... Compared 37% of the time [See comparison]
ScaleIO vs. StorPool ... Compared 16% of the time [See comparison]
LizardFS vs. StorPool ... Compared 10% of the time [See comparison]

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

StorPool

Top Reviews by Topic

VALUABLE FEATURES

Maria Rochkova

When we first tested StorPool, we were impressed by the performance and the option to expand our storage almost without limit. In the beginning, we used several servers and expanded storage when needed. Doing so, we gave our clients stability and ensured their needs would always be met. [Full Review]

Ivailo Nikolov

Built-in redundancy for both storage nodes and network gives us peace of mind in case of a hardware failure, be it a storage node or a network component. The speed of the storage solution also allows us to provide service to applications that are very I/O intensive. [Full Review]

SuhaOnay

StorPool is a software-only solution with practically unlimited expansion capabilities. Its performance is very high. We were able to replace our SSD-only local storage systems without any performance penalty. [Full Review]

Richard Lingsch

Managing StorPool is much simpler than our previous storage system, especially having a CLI option which our previous storage system was lacking. Monitoring a StorPool cluster is also simple with the built-in JSON API. [Full Review]

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Maria Rochkova

We started our platform with ordinary storage solutions, but they led us to many problems that took a lot of time to debug and resolve. Since implementing StorPool we have not had any downtime. We have high-performance storage that we can expand if needed. We can also provide custom solutions, based on StorPool, that work for our clients. StorPool software is also cost-effective and gives us a pricing advantage over our competitors. [Full Review]

Ivailo Nikolov

With StorPool we were able to build live failover on top of our LXC infrastructure. This allows us both to live-migrate containers between compute nodes without any downtime and, in case of an entire node suffering any type of failure, we can bring all containers back online within a minute on a spare compute node. [Full Review]

SuhaOnay

The two 10GE networks provide redundancy and increased performance as they serve as two separate networks doubling the throughput and doing multipathing and load balancing. We now have a high performance shared storage system which enables us to run on private cloud. Our previous system used bare-metal hardware, which provided high performance but inflexible management. Now we have best of both worlds, SSD-class performance with flexibility of a private cloud system. [Full Review]

StorPool

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Ivailo
Nikolov

We have generally been happy with StorPool's product. As previously mentioned we haven't had any issues since deploying their solution. The only place we feel they could improve is the time it takes to bring new features to production. [Full Review]

SuhaOnay

It would be good if, with next releases, StorPool provide a better GUI for monitoring and statistics. This would make our experience even better and complete. [Full Review]

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

Ivailo
Nikolov

StorPool's pricing and licensing model is very transparent. As always, one has to due his due diligence when choosing a product like distributed storage solutions. [Full Review]

IBM **IBM Spectrum Virtualize**

Overview

IBM Spectrum Virtualize is a dependable solution that improves data value, security, and simplicity for new and existing storage infrastructure. Proven over 12 years in thousands of deployments, its innovative virtualization capabilities help organizations achieve better data economics by supporting new workloads that are critical to their success. IBM Spectrum Virtualize software helps make new and existing storage more effective and standardizes functions traditionally deployed separately in disk systems for greater flexibility and potentially lower costs.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Pelephone, Sprint IT Enterprise Services

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. IBM Spectrum Virtualize ... Compared 29% of the time [See comparison]
EMC ViPR vs. IBM Spectrum Virtualize ... Compared 18% of the time [See comparison]
IBM Spectrum Accelerate vs. IBM Spectrum Virtualize ... Compared 11% of the time [See comparison]

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Healthcare Company ... 20%
Manufacturing Company ... 13%
University ... 13%
Financial Services Firm ... 13%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 23%
201-1000 Employees ... 6%
1001+ Employees ... 71%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

IBM **IBM Spectrum Virtualize**

Top Reviews by Topic

💡 VALUABLE FEATURES

it_user12768

The SVC gives excellent performance with tiered storage behind it, and the Spectrum Control suite. The newest versions that I have now are very useful in terms of managing, monitoring, and alerting. The full suite handles everything I need. We have had a lot of success through the years with Virtualize, which was originally just SVC, and we use it heavily. My environments are extremely large and busy, and it does the job without any problems. So, we are very happy with it. [Full Review]

Lance Hawkes

* The virtualization layer * Easy tier * The ability to have a feature-rich software set which extends the capabilities of the back-end storage arrays. [Full Review]

Michael Drapkin

* Ease of use * Scalability * The product comes in hardware, software, and appliance models, so I have a lot of choice on how we deploy it and its interoperability. [Full Review]

📄 IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

it_user12768

It has the ability to seamlessly move hardware in and out as we refresh technology. It provides transparency, because of its advanced copy features. Our disaster recovery has also improved drastically because I am able to use a lot of the Spectrum Virtualize features to create multiple copies that we use to test and do development. Our disaster recovery plan tests are always successful, which is good. I have had zero downtime in the last three years. [Full Review]

Michael West

ADT acquires companies (and things), so we end up with odd hardware. We bring it behind the SVC and it allows us to migrate stuff off of it seamlessly. SVC can also cover up a host of defects of the underlying storage. Dell Compellent, which maybe was good at one time, but is no longer ready for prime time, SVC made the Compellent look good. The other thing, because services are licensed at the SVC level, it does not matter what the underlying capabilities of the other storage is. [Full Review]

Lance Hawkes

It is a single pane of glass management interface, so once the storage is allocated to SVC, they only have one place to go to manage it for everything. Then, my Power customers using Power VC can allocate storage themselves from Power VC, because it has integrated with SVC, so AIX admins do not have to know anything about storage. It is very powerful. [Full Review]

Michael Drapkin

It lowers cost. It does so by getting more efficient use out of the technology behind it. It also simplifies access. You set it and forget it for a lot of things. [Full Review]

IBM. IBM Spectrum Virtualize

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

We would like the right support and the ability to add disks concurrently to arrays. There are big arrays now, and if a customer wants add more disks to it, you have to have another array. Adding disks to existing arrays is one of the most demanded things from our customers. [Full Review]

ITArchit5ff0

We would like the CPU cycle to save more on the licensing costs for us. Also, anything which improves performance and the ability of our systems would be a nice. [Full Review]

SysEng5515
61

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

We have struggled with Pure Storage, but people are understanding that much of Pure has been consumer grade SSDs. Therefore, when the customer is really understands what they are getting, they realize that IBM presents the same sort of value as existing vendors. [Full Review]

Lance
Hawkes

DELLEMC **ScaleIO**   See 1 review >>

Overview

ScaleIO is purposely designed to be an enterprise-grade scale-out software-defined storage solution. It applies the principles of server virtualization to standard x86 server flash and hybrid media, turning them into high performance, sharable, pools of storage. Whether your block storage needs are for traditional, modern or cloud workloads, ScaleIO has you covered.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Check Point Software Technologies, Blue Central, Deltares, Sentinel Technologies, The Binding Site Group, Swisscom, Itrica

TOP COMPARISONS

Red Hat Ceph Storage vs. ScaleIO ... Compared 29% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. ScaleIO ... Compared 25% of the time [See comparison]
Nutanix vs. ScaleIO ... Compared 17% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company ... 23%
Financial Services Firm ... 11%
Manufacturing Company ... 11%
Comms Service Provider ... 7%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

To read more reviews about Software Defined Storage (SDS), please visit:
https://www.itcentralstation.com/categories/software-defined-storage-sds

DELLEMC **ScaleIO**

Top Reviews by Topic

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

Vladimir
Gajic

The idea was born from pre-sales requests for storage resources. The primary goal was to have a storage solution where you do not have to invest a large amount of money just to start, and have idle resources, yet have a locally supported enterprise solution on commodity hardware. In other words, have a pay-as-you-grow, horizontally scaled solution, where front-end controllers are not the bottleneck. [Full Review]

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Vladimir
Gajic

* Ecosystem around the product: There is no built-in system for viewing history data, such as volume IOPS. We have to provide graphing by Prometheus and Grafana, which would be a good new feature in ScaleIO. * The next good new feature would be moving volumes between different storage pools, e.g., from a SAS pool to a SSD pool. * It would be nice to set minimum IOPS per volume, besides just the maximum, to be able to satisfy this demand from customers out-of-the-box, not by calculating number of disks, etc. * It would be nice to have better integrat... [Full Review]

HPE StoreVirtual   See 3 reviews >>

Overview

HPE StoreVirtual storage ensures that organisations can optimise the benefits of server virtualisation with cost-effective high availability and disaster recovery. The iSCSI-based, scale-out storage platform is easy to manage and change – meeting ongoing business demands without creating IT bottlenecks or application downtime. Overcoming the cost and management limitations of traditional storage area networks (SANs), HPE StoreVirtual nodes use storage clustering to form a single pool of resources that enable organisations to buy only what they need today, scaling non-disruptively to meet requirements in the future.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

NBrIX, WIND Telecom, Netrics

TOP COMPARISONS

Nutanix vs. HPE StoreVirtual ... Compared 27% of the time [See comparison]
VMware vSAN vs. HPE StoreVirtual ... Compared 24% of the time [See comparison]
HPE SimpliVity vs. HPE StoreVirtual ... Compared 15% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Financial Services Firm ... 15%
Software R&D Company ... 15%
Manufacturing Company ... 11%
Comms Service Provider ... 8%

VISITORS READING REVIEWS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Healthcare Company ... 14%
Hospitality Company ... 10%
Government ... 10%
Construction Company ... 10%

COMPANY SIZE

1-200 Employees ... 29%
201-1000 Employees ... 34%
1001+ Employees ... 37%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

HPE StoreVirtual

Top Reviews by Topic

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

See more Improvements To My Organization >>

SimonBegin

Data is stored in two different places, leveraging more security and availability. Therefore, network problems are having less affect on iSCSI. We also plan to build a Metro Cluster using VSA. [Full Review]

it_user4040
22

* Input/Output (I/O) has greatly improved. * Easy updates without taking down storage and virtual machines (VMs). * HA is now a real possibility which I could not fully achieve with normal NAS datastores. [Full Review]

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

See more Room For Improvement >>

SimonBegin

Product looks like it is in the end of development. HPE will be probably be merging with SimpliVity. I hope they will continue the product as we already have multiple HW servers besides HPE, and a software SDS means more flexibility for us. [Full Review]

Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct   See 1 review >>

Overview

Storage Spaces Direct uses industry-standard servers with local-attached drives to create highly available, highly scalable software-defined storage at a fraction of the cost of traditional SAN or NAS arrays. Its converged or hyper-converged architecture radically simplifies procurement and deployment, while features like caching, storage tiers, and erasure coding, together with the latest hardware innovation like RDMA networking and NVMe drives, deliver unrivaled efficiency and performance.

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

TOP COMPARISONS

VMware vSAN vs. Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct ... Compared 52% of the time [See comparison]

Nutanix vs. Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct ... Compared 15% of the time [See comparison]

StarWind Virtual SAN vs. Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct ... Compared 10% of the time [See comparison]

REVIEWERS *

TOP INDUSTRIES

Software R&D Company ... 39%

Retailer ... 11%

Manufacturing Company ... 9%

Government ... 9%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users reviewing and researching this solution.

Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct

Top Reviews by Topic

IMPROVEMENTS TO MY ORGANIZATION

See more Improvements To My Organization >>

The performance is immediately noticeable by end users of all our on-premise applications. The cost (we were a Hyper-V customer anyway) was significantly less than anything comparable. [Full Review]

reviewer984
885

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

See more Room For Improvement >>

RDMA ease of deployment. The performance benefits only came with all the new technology, and not only was RDMA a big requirement, but it was also the most challenging to be fully confident in 100%. We used RoCEv2 and switched to iWaRP a year later. To expand on our challenges, we have the hosts connected via multiple 40GB connections to Cisco 9396 switches with vPC. We had a lot of experience with Fiber Channel in the past, but using ethernet for storage was a change that we didn't have a lot of practical experience with. MS strongly recommends usin... [Full Review]

reviewer984
885

PRICING, SETUP COST AND LICENSING

See more Pricing, Setup Cost And Licensing >>

If you still use VMware as your hypervisor, you should consider Hyper-V. Since 2012 R2, it is as good as VMware, and with S2D it is much more cost effective. [Full Review]

reviewer984
885

About this report

This report is comprised of a list of enterprise level Software Defined Storage (SDS) vendors. We have also included several real user reviews posted on ITCentralStation.com. The reviewers of these products have been validated as real users based on their LinkedIn profiles to ensure that they provide reliable opinions and not those of product vendors.

About IT Central Station

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors but what you really want is objective information from other users.

We created IT Central Station to provide technology professionals like you with a community platform to share information about enterprise software, applications, hardware and services.

We commit to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective and relevant. We protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

IT Central Station helps tech professionals by providing:

- A list of enterprise level Software Defined Storage (SDS) vendors
- A sample of real user reviews from tech professionals
- Specific information to help you choose the best vendor for your needs

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