

Cost-effective and complete

The new Dell/EMC AX100 SAN puts scalable, reliable shared storage within reach for small and medium-sized businesses

One of the most critical assets for organizations of any size is information. To operate effectively and enhance productivity, information must be kept highly available and secure. But for smaller organizations, managing data is often a challenge. Like their corporate counterparts, small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs), educational facilities, government agencies, and remote offices of larger companies require flexible, reliable storage environments that can accommodate ever-increasing amounts of data. However, small organizations seldom have sufficient budget or in-house technical expertise to acquire and manage one of the most useful tools available for data storage and management: the storage area network (SAN).

In response to these needs, Dell has successfully teamed with other storage industry leaders to deliver the Dell/EMC AX100—a complete and cost-effective SAN configuration that smaller organizations can easily install and maintain. Ideal as an entry-level storage consolidation platform, the AX100 is easy on the budget and offers great performance, availability, and scalability. By connecting data storage devices over a high-speed, specialized network, the AX100 enables organizations to consolidate storage—providing flexible and highly available access to stored information. The powerful AX100 scales from 480 GB to 3 TB of data storage to help provide investment protection as organizations grow.

Simple setup, easy growth

The Dell/EMC AX100 array can be paired with other components for a complete SAN setup. The rack-dense 2U AX100 storage array disk enclosure—with a



Dell/EMC AX100 SAN

1U uninterruptible power supply (UPS)—holds up to 12 Serial ATA (SATA) hard drives; one Brocade® SilkWorm® 3250 8-port switch to route data between devices attached to the SAN; and two QLogic® QLA200 host bus adapters (HBAs), which interconnect servers to the SAN using Fibre Channel.

Once an administrator connects the AX100 to a server, a simple installation and setup wizard helps configure the storage array in only four steps. Additional wizards allow organizations to quickly and easily add extra devices to the SAN, such as switches and up to eight servers.

A complete software package

The AX100 comes bundled with powerful, proven EMC® software. EMC management software helps ensure that administrators can quickly provision the exact amount of storage needed, then securely assign it to a server—all from one, central console. The AX100 also includes EMC failover and snapshot software. Failover software helps ensure high availability by rerouting data to an alternate path in the SAN if a component fails. Snapshot software enables flexibility by making copies of data that can be used either for disaster recovery or secondary processes such as backup, testing, or data mining.

Redundancy and performance

The optional dual-processor configuration of the AX100 is designed to protect data availability through a highly redundant architecture—including dual active/active controllers, mirrored cache, hot-swap fans, and redundant power supplies and drives. One of the array's 12 SATA hard drives can be configured as a dedicated hot spare—a backup drive on which data can be rebuilt if one of the other drives fails.

A flexible fit for evolving needs

By delivering a flexible offering—including the option of purchasing the AX100 as a simple direct attach storage array with 480 GB of data storage and a single controller—and a strong migration path for future growth, Dell has made SAN functionality easy to acquire, support, and sustain. As data storage needs grow and information availability becomes paramount in increasingly competitive business environments, the Dell/EMC AX100 can help bring sanity to storage management by reducing both the cost and complexity of SAN ownership.

For more information:

In U.S.: www.dell.com/emc

In Europe: www.euro.dell.com

In Asia: www.dell.com/ap