

Engenio arrays support SSDs, iSCSI

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September 28, 2009 -- LSI has upgraded its Engenio 7900 disk arrays with support for solid-state disk (SSD) drives and iSCSI host interfaces, adding to support for Fibre Channel and SATA drives and 4Gbps/8Gbps Fibre Channel host connections.

The [SSDs](#) are Zeus-IOPS devices from STEC, which also has OEM agreements with virtually all of the other major disk array vendors. The SSDs come in 73GB and 300GB capacities, with Fibre Channel interfaces. OEMs, integrators and end-users can mix and match SSD, Fibre Channel and SATA drives, with an SSD limitation of 20 drives per array.

LSI also added support for 1Gbps [iSCSI](#) on the 7900 via a dual-ported card. The 7900 can be configured with two cards per controller, in a number of combinations (e.g., 4Gbps FC and 8Gbps FC, 4Gbps FC and 1Gbps iSCSI, and 8Gbps FC and 1Gbps iSCSI. (InfiniBand is also supported on some 7900 models.)

Market researcher IDC predicts that the market for iSCSI-based IP SANs will grow at a 24.6% CAGR over the next five years.

LSI also supports iSCSI on its recently introduced [Engenio 4900 array](#).

Another enhancement to the 7900 is the DE6900 external drive enclosure, a high-density (60 3.5-inch SATA drives in a 4U enclosure) subsystem with up to 60TB of capacity using 1TB SATA drives. The density of the DE6900 is 2.8X the density of LSI's existing 16-drive enclosure. LSI claims that the density of the DE6900 reduces power consumption by more than 30% and floor space by more than 65% compared to previous models. Cascading DE6900 enclosures enables a 7900 array to support up to 480 drives in a 19-inch rack.

In addition, the Engenio 7900 array now supports up to 64GB of cache in dual-controller configurations.

LSI also expanded its "meet in the channel" relationship with Tek-Tools regarding its Profiler suite of storage resource management (SRM) tools, which can also monitor networks, servers, virtual machines and applications.