

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: SAN 101</i>	5
Chapter 1: The Storage Area Network.....	7
Chapter 2: SAN Building Blocks	23
Chapter 3: What Makes a SAN Go	63
Chapter 4: What Makes a SAN Stop	75
<i>Part II: Designing and Building a SAN</i>	91
Chapter 5: Designing the SAN.....	93
Chapter 6: SANs and Disaster Recovery	139
Chapter 7: Putting It All Together	157
<i>Part III: Using Advanced SAN Features</i>	193
Chapter 8: Networking SANs	195
Chapter 9: SAN-Based Backup.....	225
Chapter 10: Mirror, Mirror: Point-in-Time Copies	247
<i>Part IV: SAN Management and Troubleshooting</i>	271
Chapter 11: Approaches to SAN Management	273
Chapter 12: Troubleshooting SANs	305
<i>Part V: Understanding the Cool Stuff</i>	333
Chapter 13: Using Data De-Duplication to Lighten the Load.....	335
Chapter 14: Continuous Data Protection	357
Chapter 15: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Virtualization.....	379
<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	405
Chapter 16: Ten Reasons to Use a SAN.....	407
Chapter 17: Ten Reasons NOT to Use a SAN.....	413
<i>Index</i>	419

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book	1
Foolish Assumptions	2
Conventions Used in This Book	2
How This Book Is Organized	3
Part I: SAN 101	3
Part II: Designing and Building a SAN	3
Part III: Using Advanced SAN Features	3
Part IV: SAN Management and Troubleshooting	3
Part V: Understanding the Cool Stuff	3
Part VI: The Part of Tens	3
Icons Used in This Book	4
<i>Part I: SAN 101</i>	5
Chapter 1: The Storage Area Network	7
Defining a SAN	7
Fiber versus Fibre	8
How a SAN Makes Computing Different	9
Understanding the Benefits of a SAN	10
Finding Out Whether a SAN Is Right for You	12
Who should use a SAN?	12
Who should not use a SAN?	13
Dissecting a SAN (The Four Ps)	14
The Parts of a SAN	14
The host layer	14
The fabric layer	15
The storage layer	16
Storage arrays	16
The SAN Protocols	18
The SAN Players	20
The SAN Platforms	20
Applications that benefit from a SAN	21
Applications that require a SAN	22
Chapter 2: SAN Building Blocks	23
SAN Components and How They're Used	23
The Host Layer	26
Host bus adapters	26
Gigabit gadgets: GBICs and GLMs	27



- The Fabric Layer 29
 - Understanding storage fabrics..... 29
 - SAN hubs..... 30
 - SAN switches 33
 - Data routers..... 38
 - Cables 40
 - Cable-connector types 43
 - SAN ports and port naming 43
 - Basic SAN port modes of operation 44
 - Protocols used in a Fibre Channel SAN..... 46
- The Storage Layer..... 48
 - Storage arrays: Storing your data..... 48
 - Explaining Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) 49
 - RAID benefits 49
 - RAID types 50
 - Logical Unit Numbers (LUNs) 53
 - Understanding storage-array classification..... 55
 - Modular versus monolithic 56
 - Monolithic (Enterprise) 56
 - Modular (Departmental)..... 57
 - Why Cache memory makes a difference..... 58

Chapter 3: What Makes a SAN Go 63

- Networking Basics 63
- Moving Data at the Speed of Light 64
- Bandwidth 66
- Fibre Channel Protocols 67
 - The arbitrated loop 68
 - Loop addressing..... 69
- The Switched Fabric..... 70
 - The fabric protocol..... 71
 - Fabric addressing 72

Chapter 4: What Makes a SAN Stop 75

- Discovering What Causes SAN Problems 75
- Preventing Poor SAN Design 76
 - Bandwidth..... 77
 - Too much distance between components 78
 - Excess latency 79
 - Congestion 80
 - Over-subscription 81
- Using the Right Cables in the Right Way 82
 - Avoiding connection issues..... 83
 - Macro- and micro-bends, and the patch panel pain..... 83
 - Cable labeling 85
 - Choosing the right host bus adapter for your computer 85

Going with a single vendor 86
 Mixing switch vendors 89

Part II: Designing and Building a SAN..... 91

Chapter 5: Designing the SAN 93

Basic SAN Designs: Understanding the Layers 93
 Point-to-Point Topology 96
 Arbitrated Loop Topology..... 98
 Cascading hubs 99
 Loop of hubs..... 101
 Creating resilient hub networks..... 102
 Fault-tolerant loops 104
 Switched Fabric Topology..... 105
 Types of SAN switches 106
 Choosing which switches to use..... 107
 Using the right bandwidth for the job..... 108
 Trunking and what it's used for 108
 Basic Fabric Topologies..... 110
 Dual switches, the SAN fabric building block 110
 Loop-of-switches topology 113
 Meshed fabric topology 114
 Star topology 117
 Core-edge topology..... 119
 Understanding Zoning..... 123
 The parts of a zone 125
 Types of zoning 126
 Zone alias names 127
 Initial Switch Setup..... 130
 Setting up a Brocade switch 131
 Setting up an original McData (Brocade) director switch..... 135
 Best Practices — Tips from the Trenches 135
 When to choose a director-class switch 136
 Standardize on a single vendor's switches..... 136
 Standardize your firmware versions 136
 Standardize your HBA drivers..... 137
 Use unique zone alias names 137
 Using storage from multiple vendors..... 137
 Always use two fabrics..... 137

Chapter 6: SANs and Disaster Recovery 139

How Much Downtime Can You Afford?..... 140
 Gathering the data for a disaster-recovery plan..... 141
 Create a detailed plan that meets your requirements 143

Recognizing the Importance of Distance, Bandwidth, and Latency	145
Distance.....	145
Bandwidth.....	145
Latency	147
Choosing the Recovery Site	148
Existing facility	149
Co-location facility	150
Choosing Where to Run the Data Replication Process.....	151
Host-based data replication solutions	151
Appliance-based data replication solutions	152
Array-based data replication solution	154
Shipping tapes as a solution.....	155
The Importance of Testing	156

Chapter 7: Putting It All Together 157

Building a SAN by Hand	158
The SAN Plan	159
Fabric Zoning 101.....	160
LUN security	161
Setting Up the SAN	162
Keeping good notes	162
Setting up the switches	162
Preparing the Servers	170
Loading the driver	171
Customizing the HBA card's configuration	171
Planning the HBA connections.....	171
Configuring the Array.....	172
The hardware	172
RAID setup	174
Plugging Things In	177
Configuring the Zones.....	180
Mapping the zones first.....	180
I'm zoning out	181
Back to the Servers: Did It Work?	183
Unix servers.....	184
Windows system	187
iSCSI, You SCSI, We All SCSI	188
Initiators and targets	188
IQN: iSCSI qualified name.....	189
SCSI Name Service	189
Data domains.....	190
Getting started with iSCSI	190
Getting serious with iSCSI.....	191
Data Migration	191
Network migration	192
Backup/restore migration.....	192
Disk-to-SAN migration	192

Part III: Using Advanced SAN Features 193

Chapter 8: Networking SANs195

- Defining a SAN Island 196
- Connecting SAN Islands 198
 - Disk/data sharing 198
 - Data copying 199
- The Storage WAN, MAN, and SWAN 199
 - Using the network only for storage management 200
 - The storage SWAN 202
- Choosing and Using SAN Extenders 202
- Choosing the Correct Link for the Job 204
 - IP connections 205
 - OC-type connections 206
- Reducing Costs with Compression, Data De-duplication
and WAN Tuners 208
 - Compression 208
 - De-duplication 210
 - WAN tuners 211
- SAN Connection Protocols 211
 - FCIP: The SAN tunnel 211
 - iFCP: The SAN gateway 213
- Stretching the SAN (The Rubber-Band Approach) 216
- Using Connected SAN Islands (The Two-Rubber-Bands Approach) 219
- Using a SAN as Network Attached Storage 220
- iSCSI: An Alternative Method 223

Chapter 9: SAN-Based Backup225

- Understanding Backup 225
- Understanding SAN Backup 227
 - The backup window 227
 - Tape drives 228
 - Tape libraries 229
 - Backup policy 230
- Choosing a Backup Solution 230
 - Integrated tape drive in each server 232
 - Backup over a corporate LAN to a tape drive
connected to an independent backup server 233
 - Backup over corporate network to robotic
tape library connected to an independent backup server 234
 - LAN-less backup to shared tape library over SAN 235
 - Serverless backup to shared tape library through SAN 236
 - Disk-to-disk backup 237
 - Image copy and snapshots in the SAN 239
 - SAN data replication/remote backup 242

Determining How Long a Backup Will Take	242
Determining backup speeds	244
The formula for backup	245

Chapter 10: Mirror, Mirror: Point-in-Time Copies 247

The Uses of Point-in-Time Technology	248
Make backups	248
Make corruption-recovery images	250
Save space	251
The possibilities are endless	252
Complete versus Metadata Copies	254
Which PiT Type Should You Use?	256
Creating a PiT Copy	257
Managing Your Point-in-Time Copies	259
Pair up your volumes	259
Create the pairs	260
Splitting the mirror, snapping a copy	261
Doing a resync: Refresh and restore	262
I need my data now!	263
Using a PiT copy	264
The Finer Points of PiT	264
Guideline #1: Understand when to snap a copy	265
Guideline #2: Keep your PiT pairs separated	267
Guideline #3: Use the right disk storage for PiT copies	268
Questions to ask your SAN vendors	270

***Part IV: SAN Management and Troubleshooting* 271**

Chapter 11: Approaches to SAN Management 273

Management: From Simple Networking to SANs	274
SAN Management from the Ground Up	275
Start small; think big	275
Documentation is key	275
Cable Management: Spaghetti, Anyone?	276
Physical cable management	277
Logical cable management	279
Labeling Your Cables	279
Data center coordinate system	280
Standard naming convention	282
Documenting the cable arrangements	283
Using a SAN Management Framework	283
Working with SAN management software	284
Communicating in a common language	284
Speaking the language yourself	285
Putting everything together	286

What SAN Management Gives You.....	286
A bird’s-eye view of your network.....	287
Agent-based management.....	288
Health monitoring.....	289
Records of events	291
Change management	291
Predictions of problems.....	292
Streamlining SAN Administration.....	292
Step-by-step administration	292
Using a framework	293
Automating Your System: “SAN? Do You Read Me, SAN?”.....	294
Backing up	295
Managing database storage.....	296
Providing a Service Level Agreement	296
Simple versus complex SLAs.....	297
Setting service levels.....	298
Building a Storage Management Team	298
SAN architects.....	299
SAN engineers	300
Monitoring team.....	301
SLA and performance specialists.....	301
Provisioning staff	302
Planning for the future	302
Common responsibilities	303

Chapter 12: Troubleshooting SANs 305

The Best Method: Prevention	306
Troubleshooting Methodology.....	306
Go with what you know.....	306
Elementary, my dear Watson	307
Didn’t read the manual, did you?.....	309
Build a golden configuration	309
Typical Problem Types.....	310
Obvious problems	310
Phantom problems	316
Continuous problems.....	318
Catastrophic problems	322
Example Scenarios	322
Scenario #1	323
Scenario #2	326
Scenario #3	328

Part V: Understanding the Cool Stuff..... 333**Chapter 13: Using Data De-Duplication to Lighten the Load 335**

Understanding Data De-Duplication.....	336
Benefits of data de-duplication.....	336
How de-duplication works.....	337
Data De-Duplication in the Datacenter.....	338
The de-duplication vendors.....	339
How data gets de-duplicated.....	339
In-band versus out-of-band data de-duplication.....	346
Using Data De-Duplication in a SAN.....	347
Files: Honey, I shrunk the files.....	347
Blocks: Been there, stored that.....	347
What about hash collisions?.....	350
Why Data De-Duplication Is Important.....	352
When to Use Data De-Dupe (And When Not To).....	354
Applications for which data de-duplication makes sense.....	354
Applications for which data de-duplication doesn't make sense.....	355
De-Duplication in Action.....	356

Chapter 14: Continuous Data Protection 357

Understanding What Continuous Data Protection Is.....	357
How CDP Makes Storage Work Like a Database.....	358
CDP data journaling.....	359
Splitting the writes.....	360
CDP makes everything different.....	363
Sizing a CDP journal.....	365
Best Practices for Storage When Configuring CDP Solutions.....	367
The Truth about Near CDP and True CDP Solutions.....	368
Example 1: Recovering a database with traditional backup.....	369
Example 2: Recovering a database from a snapshot.....	370
Example 3: Recovering a database using near CDP.....	370
Example 4: Recovering a database using true CDP.....	370
CDP versus Snapshots.....	371
Using CDP to Eliminate Backups.....	372
Using CDP to Simplify Recovery and Reduce Costs.....	374
Knowing Your CDP Vendor.....	376

**Chapter 15: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know
about Virtualization 379**

Understanding What Virtualization Is.....	379
Exploring the Types of Virtualization.....	381

Implementing Virtualization in a Datacenter 383

- Server virtualization 386
- Storage virtualization 389

In-Band versus Out-of-Band Virtualization 399

- In-band virtualization 399
- Out-of-band virtualization..... 400

The Virtualization Vendors and Where They Play 401

- Host-based storage virtualization vendors 401
- Fabric-based virtualization storage vendors..... 402
- Storage-array-based virtualization 402

Part VI: The Part of Tens..... 405

Chapter 16: Ten Reasons to Use a SAN407

- You Want Better Disk Utilization..... 407
- You Need a Good Disaster Recovery Solution
for Multiple Applications 408
- You Need Better Availability for Your Applications 408
- You Need More Storage Room..... 409
- Backup Is Taking Too Long 409
- You’re Focusing on Server and Storage Consolidation 409
- You’ve Been Tasked to Save Your Company Money 410
- You Need to Manage Storage for Many Locations from a Central Site ... 410
- You Need to Decrease IT Management Costs 411
- You Need Better Performance for Your Applications 412

Chapter 17: Ten Reasons NOT to Use a SAN.....413

- You Need Larger File Servers..... 413
- You Only Have a Few Inexpensive Servers 414
- You Want to Save Your Company Money This Year..... 414
- You Want to Use the Latest and Greatest Solutions Available..... 415
- You Need a Disaster-Recovery Solution for a Single Application 415
- You Want a SAN but Don’t Have the Budget..... 415
- You Use Gigabit Ethernet on Your LAN..... 416
- Everything Already Runs Fine..... 416
- You Need to Back Up Multiple Remote Offices over Slow Links 417
- You Need to Replicate Your Data for Disaster
Recovery but Can’t Afford Fast WAN Connections 418

Index..... 419

