

48x Faster Report Generation in Microsoft SQL Servers with FlashMAX[®] II

Fluidata

Challenge

Need for faster performance and high availability for business-critical applications running on Microsoft SQL Servers.

Solution

Replace LeftHand Network SAN with new Gen 8 HP Servers, SQL Server 2012 with Availability Groups, and gain performance and high availability delivered by FlashMAX II PCIe SSDs.

Benefits

FlashMAX II card performs 8x faster than the test 15K SAS server, and 28x faster than the live network SAN setup, enabling Fluidata to generate reports that previously took over 4 hours to run, to complete in less than 10 minutes.

Fluidata pioneers an innovative and high-speed data service, providing bespoke solutions for the needs of each individual client. As a company, they provide a reliable, high level of service excellence clients will not have experienced elsewhere.

As an independent provider, they have relationships with multiple suppliers, interconnecting into the backbones of national and international carriers, creating a unique and diverse network. With an exclusive position in the market, Fluidata can provide for all business demands. Their award winning area of expertise covers everything data.

Fluidata is growing rapidly (approximately 45% per year). Three years ago the company purchased a LeftHand Networks SAN from HP. The SAN consisted of two nodes each running on HP Gen 7 Servers using Microsoft SQL Server 2008.

The SAN was showing its age with its performance ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 IOPS. The SAN is in two different locations with replication between two of the LeftHand Networks nodes. Most importantly, business-critical applications running on Microsoft SQL Servers were beginning to lag behind. In one case, a monthly report used by management was taking an average of 4-5 hours to process, which was deemed unacceptable.

Fluidata knew of HGST and its local UK team from previous product research. Fluidata's presales team brought HGST PCIe Flash and server-side networking solutions to the attention of the internal IT team who decided to run a performance benchmark test using HGST FlashMAX II PCIe SSDs. The results were astounding. The team observed that the report mentioned above, will now run in approximately 5 minutes or 48 times the speed of the LeftHand SAN. Replication will now be run on SQL Servers using Availability Groups and asynchronous replication, which should enhance the speed of other processing tasks as well.

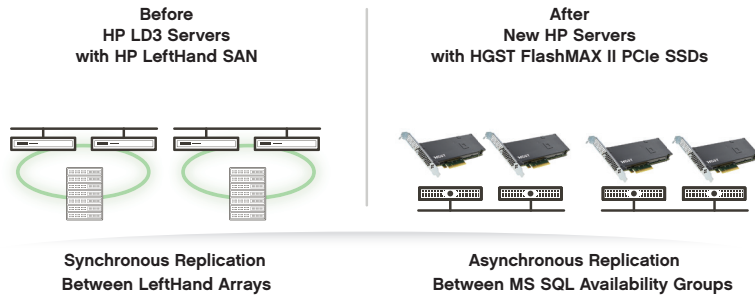
Fluidata has ordered new Gen 8 HP Servers and will be deploying a completely new infrastructure including the SQL Server 2012 with

“HGST provided us with a test system and performance improvements were seen right away. We are very excited to deliver this new capability to our team and expect to see significant performance improvements immediately.”

– Chris Rogers, Operations Director, Fluidata.

Availability Groups to recreate the topology for replication between the two data center sites. According to Chris Rogers, Fluidata’s Operations Director, “For simple data retrieval the FlashMAX II card performs 8x faster than our test 15K SAS server, and 28x faster than our live network SAN setup.” This enables Fluidata to generate reports that previously took over 4 hours to run, to complete in less than 10 minutes.

Transforming the Microsoft SQL Platform with HGSTFlashMAX II PCIe SSDs

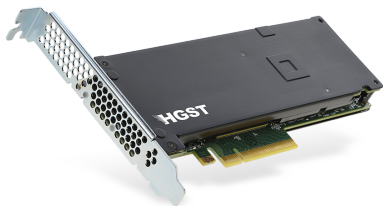


48x Improvement in Report Generation

5x Improvements in IOPs

Significant Improvement in User Experience

Space and Power Savings



HGST FlashMAX® II PCIe SSD

For more information on HGST FlashMAX II PCIe SSDs for Microsoft SQL Servers, visit HGST at <http://www.hgst.com/solid-state-storage/enterprise-ssd/pcie-ssd/FlashMAX-II>.