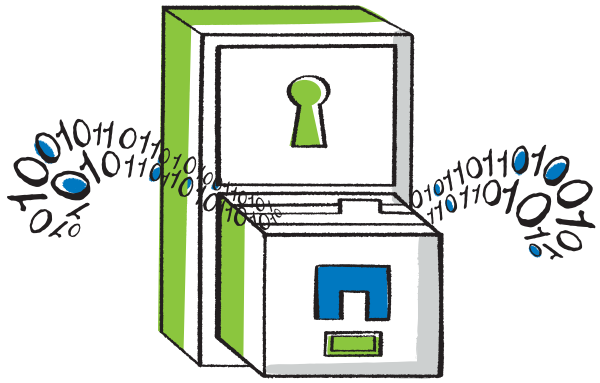
NetApp®



Solution Brief

Windows File Services

KEY BENEFITS

Lower Costs
Slash your costs by up to 40% through consolidation, higher utilization, and reduced downtime.

Simplify Manageability
Lower your administrative overhead by as much as 60% while delivering scalable and reliable file storage.

Improve Efficiency
Increase your organization's productivity by minimizing disruptions and meeting changing business needs.

Microsoft Partner
Gold Independent Software Vendor (ISV)
Gold Messaging
Gold Portals and Collaboration
Gold Content Management
Gold Data Platform
Gold Business Intelligence
Gold Server Platform
Gold Communications
Silver Virtualization

The Challenge

Cost-effectively respond to the demand for Windows File Services

IT organizations today face a seemingly unquenchable thirst for data storage. While some of this demand is from centralized repositories such as databases, for many IT organizations, user storage and application file storage are among the fastest-growing IT service demands. Traditionally, Windows® file servers have been deployed with direct-attached storage (DAS) to serve this need, but supporting these DAS deployments can increase the complexity of your IT environment, resulting in high overhead and administrative costs. Widely distributed data assets often lack integration and result in poor storage utilization and availability. A better approach is to upgrade your Windows file server environment to a flexible, enterprise-class storage solution that serves data efficiently with nondisruptive operations while providing intelligent management to reduce the overhead expense.

The Solution

Implement Windows File Services on NetApp storage

You can easily combine and manage data from multiple Windows file servers when you deploy on simple, unified, and scalable NetApp® storage systems. You get more efficient and reliable data storage while cutting costs at the same time. The consolidation of your Windows file servers onto our storage solutions can help you achieve:

- An agile data infrastructure for your Windows File Services environment
- Intelligent management that reduces storage and data management costs
- Nondisruptive operations and integrated data protection
- Enhanced storage and server utilization
- Security with our antivirus partner integration
- Advanced management with third-party software for quotas and logs, security auditing, and analysis

By consolidating data, you can benefit from increased utilization and NetApp storage efficiency features, including deduplication and space-efficient Snapshot™ copies. As the need arises, you can seamlessly scale and extend your storage solution with disk-based backup vaulting, disaster recovery, and other capabilities.

Do more with less

With our solutions, you can reduce the total cost of storing your Windows data by almost 40% while protecting, retaining, and providing continuous access to your files, whether for hosting home directories or shared file storage for applications. You will be able to respond to changing business and storage needs without having to provision new hardware or accept poor storage utilization.

Our automated policy-based management can help reduce overhead by up to 60% and you can grow or shrink your file system as needed while protecting vital files.

You can migrate files from your existing mixed storage and file servers to a consolidated NetApp solution with minimal disruption to end users. Moreover, our file virtualization and management tools can help you intelligently classify and migrate Windows files to the right storage tier on NetApp network-attached storage.

Minimize disruptions

Disruptions, downtime, impaired service levels, accidentally deleted flies, disk failure, poor performance, and outages all can cost your organization valuable productivity. Protect your end users and your bottom line with our integrated data protection and availability features, including redundant design, self-managed RAID-DP® technology (our patented high-speed implementation of RAID 6), and powerful backup capabilities based on near-instantaneous, low-impact Snapshot copies.

With shorter backup windows, you will be able to perform backups more frequently, and our self-service capability enables end users to restore previously backed-up files by themselves. You can enable continuous access to storage with our flexible and affordable business continuity solutions with the choice of synchronous or asynchronous remote data mirroring to implement the business continuity that best suits your needs.

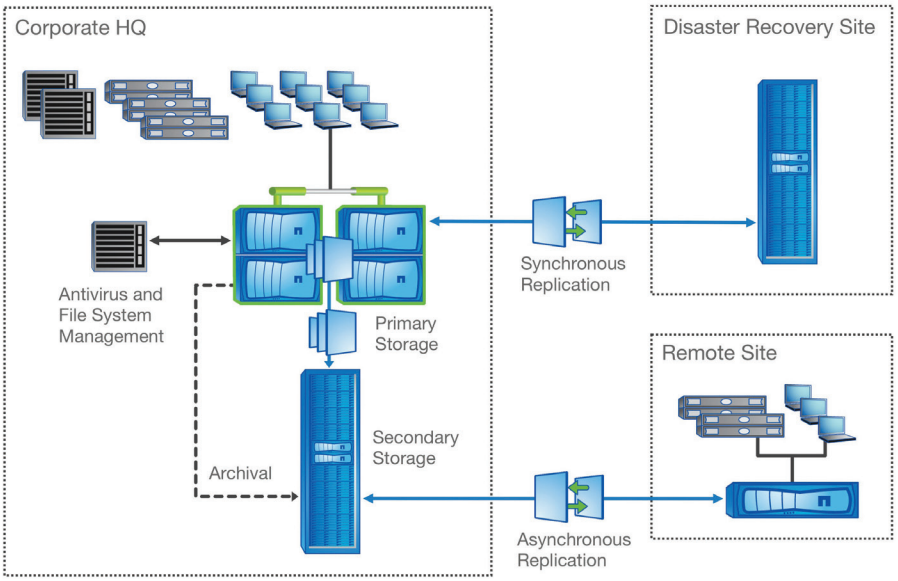


Figure 1) Typical deployment of file services solution.
You get a complete solution for file storage, protection, continuity, and archiving with NetApp.

Consolidate with confidence

You can consolidate your existing file storage with the confidence that it will easily integrate with your existing SMB (Windows) environments as well as your NFS (Linux®, UNIX®) environments, all while utilizing your current Active Directory® infrastructure. You also can implement our proven partner solutions for antivirus scanning, quota management, security, and auditing to lower your overhead even further.

See your solution in action

To see how well our storage and data management solutions can support your Microsoft® file server environment, visit any Microsoft Technology Center. NetApp Global Support and our extensive partner network can provide expert help to assist you in planning and implementing an efficient and reliable storage and data management solution for your file server environment. Please contact your NetApp representative for further information.

For more information about NetApp Microsoft solutions, go to *www.netapp.com/microsoftsolutions.*

Use of the word "partner" or "partnership" does not imply a legal partnership between NetApp and any other company.

About NetApp

NetApp creates innovative storage and data management solutions that deliver outstanding cost efficiency and accelerate business breakthroughs. Discover our passion for helping companies around the world go further, faster at *www.netapp.com*.

Go further, faster®

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