

1: A Crash Course in Storage Area Networking (Part 1)

"Storage Networking Fundamentals" is a comprehensive overview of storage technologies that also provides insights on designing and running SAN and NAS implementations. This book is part of the Cisco Press Fundamentals Series.

You might have heard someone say that SANs are complicated or expensive, but you might have wondered how a SAN differs from a traditional network. In this article series, I will discuss the basics of Storage Area Networking. My plan is to start out by talking about what a SAN is and is not. What is a Storage Area Network? I will never forget the first time that I ever heard someone mention a SAN. Many years ago a friend called me on the phone excited because he had just implemented a SAN. When I asked him what a SAN was he told me that his storage was tied directly to the network. I remember wondering what the big deal was since networked storage had been around for years. To show you what I mean, consider the nature of a NAS device. There are a lot of different types of NAS devices on the market, and some are more sophisticated than others, but generally speaking, a NAS device is an appliance that connects to the network via one or more Ethernet cables. A NAS appliance contains one or more disks, and is usually configurable through a Web interface. Once the NAS device is put into production, the device is treated much like a typical file server. In any case, you can think of a NAS device as a self-contained file server. When a NAS is in use, a user with the proper permissions can connect directly to a NAS volume through a file share and read and write files. SANs can be configured to provide similar functionality, but there is a lot going on behind the scenes. Even though this difference in protocols might seem trivial, it actually hints at the very essence of a SAN. In other words, these types of networks are ideally suited for reading and writing files that are stored on file servers, Web servers, etc. Instead, Fibre Channel reads and writes individual storage blocks. There are a couple of reasons why this seemingly trivial distinction is important. Having less overhead allows Fibre Channel to move data more quickly. This means that in a SAN environment, it is possible to treat a remote storage device as if it were a local storage resource. To give you a better idea of what I am talking about, consider what happens when you connect a Windows machine to a NAS device. The NAS storage gets mapped to a network drive. In the case of a SAN however, it is possible to get Windows to treat a SAN volume as local storage as opposed to a network drive, even if the physical storage device is located remotely. This is an important distinction because the Windows operating system treats local and networked storage differently. For example, there are Windows applications that can be installed to local storage, but not to a network drive. These types of applications can be installed to SAN storage however, because the Windows operating system does not distinguish between true local storage and SAN storage at least not as far as the application is concerned. Keep in mind that I am not saying that SAN storage is always treated as local storage or that it cannot be used for anything else. Often times the end users actually see SAN storage as a mapped network drive. So how can this be? It all has to do with the fact that the users workstations do not normally connect directly to SAN storage. It is usually servers or virtual workstations that make use of SAN storage. Imagine for example that a file server is configured to use SAN storage instead of true local storage. The file server is connected to the SAN in a way that allows the storage to be treated as local. However, when end users attach to the file server they might be accessing files that are stored on the SAN, but they are not directly connecting to the SAN. The file server is the only machine that accesses the SAN storage directly. Exactly the same thing happens if the file server is connected to a SAN. The only difference is that the storage is not local to the file server. If you would like to read the other parts in this article series please go to:

2: Pearson Education - Storage Networking Fundamentals

Storage Networking Fundamentals is a comprehensive overview of storage technologies that also provides insights on designing and running SAN and NAS implementations. This book is part of the Cisco Press Fundamentals Series.

3: Course: SN71G: Storage Area Networking Fundamentals - IBM Skills Gateway - Global

STORAGE NETWORKING FUNDAMENTALS pdf

Storage Networking Fundamentals gives you an in-depth look into the most important storage technologies. The entire storage landscape is described, incorporating a complete view of system, device, and subsystem operations and processes.

4: Storage Networking Protocol Fundamentals [Book]

Looking into the important storage technologies, in this work the entire storage landscape is described, incorporating a view of system, device, and subsystem operations and processes.

5: Storage Area Networking Fundamentals

Storage Networking Fundamentals has 8 ratings and 0 reviews. An Introduction to Storage Devices, Subsystems, Applications, Management, and File Systems.

6: Storage Area Networking Fundamentals Course and Training | NetComLearning

Course title: Storage Area Networking Fundamentals Upon submission of the enrollment request, the status will be pended. The enrollment request will be reviewed by the brand focal.

7: Storage Networking Protocol Fundamentals

Storage Networking Fundamentals (ISBN) by Marc Farley is an introductory book on storage fundamentals. It does a decent job of presenting a broad range of topics in storage networking and is well suited for a reader looking to gain a high level understanding of how SAN, NAS, and other related aspects of data storage tie in together.

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