

Great News: Network Storage

by Jeff Verry

► "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." So Charles Dickens began his *Tale of Two Cities*, describing the bitter irony of an Industrial Revolution gone awry, growth at the expense of sanity. A century and a half later, and such words could ring just as true of an Information Revolution that has exploded with mind blowing increases in capabilities, and corresponding challenges.

When we think of data storage for business and personal use, on one hand, **it is the best of times**. Hard drive costs have plummeted. Performance has skyrocketed. The SATA II and SAS interfaces provide speed and reliability that we would only have dreamed of five years ago for the price. Life is good.

On the other hand, it can be **the worst of times** as well. The reliance of business on data is greater than it has ever been. According to a study commissioned by the Back to Business Act of 2007 close to 80% of businesses that experience a significant data loss cease to exist in two years.

Even at a personal level, we have seen just too many individuals walk through our doors, the color gone from their skin as they describe how all of their wedding pictures or videos of their kids are on their computer. Data has become indispensable. This has been historically difficult, and expensive, to handle.

Another challenge leading to a worst of times headach: as hard drives have become larger and more reliable, the amount of space used by an average person has skyrocketed. Consider the following:

- **Good news:** 1080p offers crisp images and great color depth.
- **Challenge:** Uncompressed 48-bit high def can weigh in at well over *half a gigabyte per second*.

- **Good news:** The 21 megapixel cameras are coming! Yipee!

• **Challenge:** 17 to 39 MB *per picture*. Yikes! Short story: Data size is getting out of control. The same is true for business data. Outlook used to have a file size limit of 2 GB. The latest version has a "configurable" limit that starts at 20 GB. The basic message from the software manufacturer seems to be "go ahead and make it as big as you need."

But there is **really great news** in this. File servers are not nearly as frightening a proposition as they may have been. I know, even mentioning the word server can cause some business owners to run for cover. You now have many options.

Network attached storage devices (NAS) are available in a variety of surprisingly affordable configurations. They offer disk arrays for redundancy, lightning fast network speed and USB ports for backup. (You can even use many of them as a print server too!)

If you need something real affordable to get started, we can configure a fast workstation to act as a file server. Now we're talking! Think about sharing files between all your computers. Now think in terms of hundreds, not thousands of dollars. Home users are starting to use devices like these to store music, pictures and video. Ask us how.

Whether you need a simple file server to share information between a couple of users, or need assistance with scaling a full blown storage network with offsite synchronization, *CCS Technologies* has the know how and expertise to guide you from beginning to end.

When you think of all your data and the importance you place on it, there is no need to freak out just...

"Relax...we're on IT"

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NETGEAR ReadyNAS Pro™ Business Edition 1.5 TB NAS Network Attached Storage



- High Performance NAS
- RAID 5 auto management
- 2 x Gigabit Ethernet
- 2 USB Ports
- Intel multi-core processor
- Backup to external drive or across the network
- Synch with other servers
- User folder security



CCS has a New Face... and New Capabilities

► Maybe you've been in our office and seen a new face, or have already had the pleasure of meeting or being helped by our newest Project Manager:

Joe Vanderstelt. When evaluating a new addition, it is often helpful to use **The 3 Cs**:

Character: To be blunt, Joe is above reproach. Speaking personally, Joe and I go way back and I would trust him with anything.

Competence: Joe brings a fresh perspective as well as new skills like expertise in open-source

software, other programming languages, VOIP. He is such an effective troubleshooter, some around the office have taken to calling him Jeff version 2.0.

Chemistry: As a former client, Joe has been working with our firm for over four years. Joe is another creative mind to add to our already effective team. We are excited about our enhanced capability and increased ability to serve our clients even better.

Welcome Joe!

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