APTARE®

APTARE Helps Organizations Make Smarter Capacity Decisions

KEY CHALLENGES

- Storage needs to support the growing data needs of applications in a responsible manner
- Lack of visibility into real capacity prevents smart decision making
- Manual processes to collect capacity information is cost prohibitive
- Over-provisioning is rampant

Visibility and insight into storage environments allow administrators to support the data needs of new business initiatives while keeping an eye on the bottom line.

On the surface, you could say that the responsibility of the storage team is to support the capacity needs of the organization's applications, ensuring that the tools users rely on are running smoothly and that the data created and accessed by the applications is accurate and reliable. However, it would be criminal to simply provide unlimited storage. While the cost of disks keeps falling, the cost of managing storage continues to rise. The real role of the storage team is to make intelligent decisions regarding capacity requests, aligning storage needs with business goals while keeping an eye on the bottom line.

Administrators need the visibility and insight into storage environments so they can make intelligent capacity decisions in real time. This includes visibility into hosts, current utilization, arrays, performance profiles, and reserved storage.

"Dynamic performance demands can create significant friction between application and storage teams, both of whom can suffer from the tempting urge to simply throw storage at the problem," said Mark Peters, Senior Analyst at ESG. "Organizations need to make smarter capacity decisions and get a better handle on their storage environment as a whole. Blind over-provisioning is almost always inefficient, always costly, and ultimately unsustainable."

A Holistic and Drilled-Down View of Capacity

APTARE® IT Analytics™ provides complete visibility into storage environments so that administrators can make intelligent capacity decisions that make sense for the organization. APTARE includes a single pane of glass that gives administrators a holistic view of storage usage and the ability to drill down to individual hosts and arrays. The solution collects information in real time and stores it in a central database for reporting and analysis. The information can also be shown through hundreds of out-of-the-box reports or the Report Library of custom reports that have been used in live customer environments already.

APTARE IT Analytics provides visibility into:

Hosts: Administrators can get insight into allocated storage and utilized storage, giving them a better understanding of the real capacity needs of the organization. Reports include basic physical and virtual host information, topology through the SAN and storage, any related hosts that utilize the same LUNs (like in a cluster), the mounted volumes, and any NAS shares present. APTARE can also provide better insight into how hosts are connected through the SAN backbone to the storage array.

Why APTARE?

- Automatically collects capacity information about hosts, current utilization, arrays, performance, and reserved storage
- Consolidates information in a central database that can be analyzed in dashboards and exported as reports
- Custom reports meet the unique reporting challenges of each environment

Current Utilization: One of the largest sources of excess capacity and easy reclamation opportunities are unused or orphaned LUNs. APTARE looks inside host's volume manager to see how the space has been allocated to volume groups and how that storage is being utilized. More often than not, unused space is identified and put to better use.

Arrays: APTARE provides a wide view of storage broken down by tier, allowing them to make smarter capacity decisions that could save the organization thousands of dollars. Administrators can drill down to view a list of storage frames that have sufficient capacity to satisfy requests and go deeper to evaluate available thick or thin LUNs in the array pool. Administrators can also review past provisioning activities to optimize them for future provisioning and improve storage economics for the enterprise.

Performance: Properly distributing masked capacity across the storage array and fabric ports is essential in maintaining application performance levels. APTARE creates a performance profile for each type of storage and compares it to actual performance, allowing administrators to make a quick assessment whether performance needs are being met. Metrics can be created as well that assist in determining which ports are least utilized. When application performance degrades, the exact storage location where the degradation occurs can be isolated.

Reserved Storage: Future allocation needs can be stored in the APTARE database and used to project data growth for existing and new business initiatives. Administrators can also keep track of storage that is off lease or being removed from the environment, highlighting growth by individual arrays, by historical growth, or by capacity that is scheduled to come on line in the future.

Eliminate Over-Provisioning

Understanding true capacity and having a better handle on the storage environment allows organizations to make smarter provisioning decisions that support business initiatives while keeping an eye on the bottom line. Applications will run smoothly without breaking the bank, and performance and availability SLAs can be met efficiently. Automation inherent in the APTARE solution makes collecting this information an easy task that doesn't sap resources away from more strategic projects.

"APTARE gives administrators the visibility they need to appropriately support growing capacity needs without having to make estimates or over-provision," said Graeme Kelly, VP of Engineering and Services, APTARE. "Real capacity needs are calculated, analyzed, and fulfilled based on existing policies and SLAs."

As a result of better utilized storage, organizations can save millions of dollars in reclaimed storage, delaying buys while reducing the overall cost of owning storage.