

Interoperability of Sun™ Cluster Software with IBM TotalStorage® Products



A solution from joint testing by Sun and IBM for high-availability, mission-critical application services with IBM TotalStorage products

Highlights

- Investment protection in IBM TotalStorage products
- Expanded choice of well-tested IBM TotalStorage products for Sun Cluster software deployments
- High quality through rigorous testing
- High availability with quality stamp from both Sun and IBM
- Joint interoperability matrix with IBM TotalStorage products providing clarity on the architecture at a component level
- Cooperative support for deployment and service
- To learn more about the Sun Cluster Open Storage Program, visit www.sun.com/clusters/osp/



Sun™ Cluster software is Sun's availability platform for improving the predictability and resilience of business-critical applications. The software and its associated flexible configurations are designed and tested to deliver on the high-availability demands of a 24 x 7 global economy. In order to meet these stringent demands for high availability in a heterogeneous data infrastructure, Sun establishes a direct relationship with industry storage vendors through the Sun Cluster Open Storage Program. The Sun Cluster Open Storage Program provides customers with an expanded choice of industry storage arrays that are interoperable with Sun Cluster software. Customers can protect their storage investments, while leveraging all of the software functionality and associated benefits from Sun Cluster software.

The Sun Cluster Open Storage Program

This business program manages the relationship with industry storage array vendors to help them certify their storage arrays with Sun Cluster software and the Solaris™ Operating System I/O stack. The key objective of the program is to offer joint interoperability, high-availability solutions from Sun and the storage partner for customers that prefer a non Sun storage partner for their data infrastructures. IBM participates in this program, and the two companies support services' teams cooperate to assist customer needs.

The program is managed through a company-wide business office at Sun, enabling a storage partner to discuss various Sun solutions within the context of Sun Cluster software. The program clearly establishes the commitment by Sun and IBM for well-tested, well-supported Sun Cluster software configurations.

The program also provides a framework for Sun and IBM to discuss joint configurations and support infrastructure. Sun offers the Sun Cluster Automated Test Environment (SCATE) to IBM, and audits the test results before

announcing the interoperability of the joint configuration. The joint interoperability matrix is instrumental in architecting a high-availability solution with clarity and confidence.

Sun's open I/O stack for heterogeneous storage interoperability — cost savings and higher quality with wide choice

Sun's open I/O stack based on the Solaris OS consists of multipathing software (Sun StorEdge™ Traffic Manager software), Sun Fibre Channel (FC) firmware, Solaris™ Volume Manager, and Sun file systems. Sun's open I/O stack reduces software licensing, support, and administrative costs by providing multipath access, I/O load balancing, automated path failover and fail back, and automatic LUN (Logical UNit) detection and creation without rebooting, increasing high availability. Sun consolidates disparate host bus adaptor (HBA) and driver stacks into a single stack, helping to reduce costly storage area network (SAN) ports by eliminating the need to support multiple disparate driver stacks on Sun servers running the Solaris OS.

“In today’s diverse IT climate, customers want increased choice in configurations without compromising on availability and quality. With the Sun Cluster Open Storage Program, customers now enjoy a wider choice of storage arrays that seamlessly interoperate with Sun Cluster. The program enforces high quality and joint support, giving customers the assurance that their Sun Cluster deployments will continue to deliver unmatched levels of high availability.”

Tom Goguen

Vice President, Software Systems Marketing
Sun Microsystems

Continuously expanding choice

In addition to validating configurations, the program helps ensure a continuous partner engagement focusing on the success of customers using non Sun storage vendors with Sun Cluster software. The process includes analysis for future business requirements that can then become the criteria used by Sun and the storage vendor to determine the next set of configurations that are evaluated, tested, and validated with Sun Cluster software. The process also expedites Sun Cluster software support for new features in hardware and software from both Sun and other storage vendors.

A higher degree of confidence

Sun offers a spectrum of services to help customers deploy highly available, mission-critical applications. As part of the Sun Cluster Open Storage Program, certified and tested configurations are cooperatively supported by Sun and the associated storage vendor via the nonprofit Technical Support Alliance Network (TSANet), an industry standard, vendor-neutral, worldwide support alliance community that allows for cooperative support between its members in facilitating call transfers. Customers that deploy the configurations in the interoperability matrix can do so with a higher degree of confidence, knowing both Sun and the storage vendor are cooperating to resolve their issues.

Conclusion

It is clear that Sun’s investment in overall quality and support of Sun Cluster software can be a competitive differentiator for customers deploying high-availability environments to support demanding service levels. With the Sun

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Cluster Open Storage Program, customers can choose to implement IBM TotalStorage products in a Sun Cluster environment with the same outstanding quality, predictability, and support as deployments with Sun storage products.

Interoperability Matrix with IBM TotalStorage Products

Please refer to the Interoperability Matrix for Sun Cluster software and IBM TotalStorage products located at www.sun.com/cluster/software/osp/ibm_interop.html/. SunSpectrumSM Gold or Platinum service is required. Please contact a Sun Sales Representative for the latest updates and details.

Get the details

To learn more about the Sun Cluster Open Storage Program, please visit www.sun.com/clusters/osp/.