

Information Technology consulting you can Trust.

Welcome to the Projects Group January newsletter!

If you have a short term project, a migration or need on-going emergency support, give us a call: 425-373-1394 / x131

More about the MACROSTAFF Projects Group

Q: How many years of experience do Projects Group consultants average?

A: Over 10 years. Not only will you work with only one consultant, but you can be assured that your Projects Group consultant will be highly skilled and well seasoned in IT. Since 1999, we have been providing practical, cost-effective solutions to companies just like yours in the Puget Sound area.

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Newsletter Spotlight

High Tech Solution to avoid traffic

Living in the Puget Sound area often makes for a tough commute. We all check traffic sites from our computers before our trips, but what about while we're on the road? Install a traffic map application to your PDA.

Browse to HYPERLINK "<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/seattle/products/>" and click on the link that matches your PDA. You'll soon know exactly why you're stuck in traffic and how long until it will clear.

Storage Showdown: real world situations to help you choose between DAS, NAS and SAN

Most IT professionals know what the different storage option acronyms stand for and possess at least a basic understanding of how DAS, NAS and SAN work. **The challenge is choosing the most appropriate storage option for your situation.**

Here are some real world scenarios that can help determine the best storage option to use. First, a quick review:

DAS (Direct Attached Storage) is attached directly to the server that will use it. DAS can be internal or external. It cannot be shared with any other server.

NAS (Network Attached Storage) is attached directly to the network (usually TCP/IP). The NAS device is assigned an IP address and can be accessed and shared by multiple servers and clients for their storage needs.

SAN (Storage Area Network) is shared storage similar to a NAS with the difference being that the communication between storage devices and servers is over a separate fibre network. Just as a LAN is a connection of computers and devices connected by switches and Ethernet cables so a SAN is a connection of computers and storage devices but connected by a fibre switch and fibre cables.

Real world scenario #1: Company A needs a new database server and a new file server.

Details: The current database size is less than 50GB and file server size is less than 100GB. New servers must have minimum 250GB storage and ability to add more. Each server will be the failover hot spare for the other.

Solution: DAS. At first glance a SAN might seem like the best way to go here, but with the small storage needs and the fact that each server is a failover for the other, the best way to eliminate storage as being the single point of failure is to use a DAS solution for each server. Using DAS also reduces costs by not requiring the extra hardware needed to implement a SAN.

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Real world scenario #2: Company B needs file storage but does not want to maintain a traditional server.

Details: Small office with two users has expanding needs for storage beyond what is available in their workstations. However, they do not have the desire, expertise, cash, or need to require a full server OS and hardware just to run a file server.

Solution: NAS. Since this company has no IT staff and no need for an email and authentication server (the logical place to add a file server), a NAS device is the way to go. A NAS device can be plug and play and very easy to configure. In this case, the company was up and running in under an hour. The NAS requires virtually no IT expertise and has plenty of storage for future growth. The company saved money and resources by using a NAS storage device and did not need to invest in a traditional server.

Real world scenario #3: Company C needs quicker and more reliable access to media store.

Details: Millions of multimedia files spanning several TB of data are currently stored on DLT tape and retrieved by robotic arms. Current solution is slow and tape system crashes with frequent drive, robot and SCSI errors.

Solution: SAN. A robust fibre attached SAN is the best fit here as the SAN allows the several TB of data to be accessed from multiple points across the network and with the right hardware, provides, with a cost, very high availability. Because fibre allows a much longer cable length, the SAN can be installed on a different floor than the servers to which it connects if the current datacenter is full.

There are a lot of storage solutions out there. Make sure you do your research so you end up with the right solution to fit your needs, and a price that fits your budget.

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Questions, comments, ready to start a project? E-mail us at information@projectsgroup.com or call 425-373-1394 x131