

Latest Trends in Hitachi's Storage Systems and Storage Solutions



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AS the environment surrounding business changes on a grand scale, the digitization of different kinds of data is continuing, and data volumes are growing rapidly, at about 60% annually. In particular, the increase in the volume of unstructured data such as e-mail, video images, and audio files has recently been significant. Moreover, it is forecast that by 2011 data volume for the entire market will grow to seven to eight times the size of the market in 2007.

Managing such a continuously increasing volume of data is becoming a major challenge to IT (information technology) operations in business organizations. In particular, as for storage systems, while boosting the utilization efficiency of storage infrastructure, it is necessary to provide solutions for more robustly storing data and applying that data usefully.

With those needs in mind, Hitachi established a new storage-solution concept called “Services Oriented Storage Solutions” — aimed at providing business solutions for customers and cutting storage TCO (total cost of ownership) — in May 2007. As our first product based on this concept, the “Hitachi Universal Storage Platform V,” a disk array subsystem for eliminating complicated

capacity management by customers by means of virtualization technology, was the first to be commercialized. After that, several new products and new storage solutions were announced and offered in 2007.

Starting with important big ten forecasts for storage trends in 2008, this special issue first introduces storage-virtualization technology (which is evolving further), disk arrays for the SMB (small and medium-sized business) market, NAS (network attached storage) gateway products, and content-archive solutions. It then reviews the storage-management software and solution services for supporting these products. In addition, it describes future trends in storage technology.

The Hitachi Group is expanding its storage solutions worldwide. In particular, as regards enterprise disk arrays, our storage-virtualization technology is rated highly. We hope that our activities targeting business solutions — based on the new concept and centered on the above-described products — for our customers will not only be understood through this special issue but will also be useful to everyone.