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Title

Commodity Reliability and Practices, Building Enterprise-Class Storage Systems Using CRAP

Abstract

The phenomena of using commodity, consumer-grade electronics in enterprise-class applications has been prevalent and successful in many areas of the computer industry at large. Commodity processors, networks, and graphics engines have all become mainstream and are widely accepted as sufficient for use in the enterprise. That acceptance is partially due to a tradeoff between price and reliability as we have learned how to use these commodity devices in demanding environments. This same phenomena is now occurring in the storage industry as consumer-class disk drives are being employed in enterprise-class environments. Given our history with processors, networks, and graphics engines, it is believed that this trend will continue in storage for the foreseeable future. This presentation discusses where this trend could go and the implications for the computing and storage industry particularly considering the advantages of using not just 3.5-inch disks but 2.5, 1.8, and sub-1-inch disk drives for massively parallel storage systems.

Biography

Tom Ruwart has been in the computer and data storage industry for over 29 years starting in 1977 with Control Data Corporation. His experience spans hardware and software from IBM mainframe disk drives to large supercomputer-class storage systems. Aside from Control Data, Tom has worked for a start-up company, Edge Computer Corporation, the Minnesota Supercomputer Center, the University of Minnesota Laboratory for Computational Science and Engineering, Ciprico, and the University of Minnesota DTC Intelligent Storage Consortium that he co-founded. Tom is currently at Sherwood Information Partners as

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well as consulting on various government-funded large-scale storage projects. As part of this work Tom is actively involved in the Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) Object-based Storage Device (OSD) Technical Working Group (TWG) and the IEEE Mass Storage Systems Technical Committee. All these activities are focused on driving the research, development, and deployment of intelligent storage technologies, applications, and markets.

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