

Re: Need experiences regarding booting from SAN

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From: Wheelock, Michael D (*Michael.Wheelock_at_INTEGRIS-HEALTH.COM*)

Date: 02/27/04

Date: Fri, 27 Feb 2004 12:53:42 -0600
To: aix-l@Princeton.EDU

Hi,

I have a 7026-M80 that I am using SAN boot disks on. It has a pair of 6228 fibre cards. The storage is a FastT700. IBM Brocade rebranded switches.

Initial install was seamless (started with 5.2, so no issues seeing the fibre channel devices).

For me the big win was not having to crack the case to get to a failed internal drive (the M80 has its internal disks inside its first I/O drawer).

I have booted several other unices off of the SAN (Tru-64 unix almost forces you into it if the system is a cluster as each members boot disk must be on shared storage).

We use Tivoli Storage Manager for System Backup and Recover (the old sysback tool) for our mksysb's and been able to successfully rebuild at a DR site (to the point where I would need all of my tapes from production anyway).

I have updated from base to ML1 and then ML2 with no issues.

Another nice advantage is that for disk redundancy, I don't have to use LVM copies. This greatly simplifies disk replacement (as it is all behind the raid controller, so AIX only sees the single hdisk).

My \$0.02

Michael Wheelock
Integrus Health of Oklahoma

-----Original Message-----

From: IBM AIX Discussion List [mailto:aix-l@Princeton.EDU] On Behalf Of pSeries AIX Geek
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2004 10:47 AM

AIX-L: Re: Need experiences regarding booting from SAN

To: aix-l@Princeton.EDU

Subject: Need experiences regarding booting from SAN

Proposed environment is a mix of p670s and p630s. IBM business partner is pushing booting from SAN (Shark).

Customer (and I) favor booting from internal disks, because of our mutual feeling that this is more RELIABLE (while more inflexible).

Questions:

1. If you're booting from SAN (or did in the past), what problems/advantages did you encounter?
2. What SAN solution, pSeries solution, and fiber HBA combination were you using?
3. Does a particular SAN solution (EMC, Shark, Hitachi) make it easier/harder to implement SAN booting?
4. Any issues with migrations/updates/mksysb restores?
5. Other commentary.

I still prefer booting from internal disks (and including SAN disks as non-boot rootvg disks if I must), but I realize that there must be some real advantages....

- pAG

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