

Re: Booting P670 off Clariion with FC 6239

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.aix/2004-10/0039.html>

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Date: 10/04/04

Date: Mon, 04 Oct 2004 02:39:48 +0200

> Worked with Power Path years ago before boot from fiber was supported. We
> don't boot from fiber at our shop, but I did try it just for fun.
> I will give you the method for IBMs SDD.
> Booting from a sudo device vpath or powerpath device is NOT supported.
Rootvg under powerpath control is supported by EMC and IBM.
See eg the EMC whitepaper "EMC Clariion and IBM AIX Fibre Boot"
The bootlist will still contain the various hdisk devices instead of
hpowerdisk devices though, but these hdisk devices correspond to the
alternative paths to the boot disk.

With SDD, there is a command you can run to prevent a vpath from being
> created, leaving just hdisks. I don't remember if EMC has such a thing but I
> seem to remeber and exclude file.
> Zone 2 disk to the server, one on one path, the other on the other path.
> Now load your OS on one of the disk with alt_disk_install or if you want to
> do a NIM install, take the LPAR down and follow the normal process and
> choose your 2 fiber atached disk for the install.
> The firmware will see them if they are supported for boot, I believe EMC as
> sell as Shark are supported.
> Note: you need to mirror your rootvg between the 2 fiber disks, so make sure
> they are on different paths with different switches.
> When you yank a cable, the box will stay up but you will get a million
> errors and will have to reboot to get the path back and resync the mirror.
> This is not unexpected, if you pulled a scsi cable the same thing would
> happen. Personaly, I feel you can't beat scsi attached disk for
> Availabilty... but that really doesn't mater any more does it....
> Doug
>
>

Thanks for sharing your SDD experiences.

The powerpath method did work eventually, but the install procedure is still very tricky (EMC and IBM should improve on this). During install only one single path should exist to the san disk. This means, one FC HBA connected to a switch and also one cable between the switch and the storage server. Now the san lun will show up as hdisk0. After installing aix and powerpath, the second path can be added and rootvg can be configured under powerpath control. Advantages are plenty. No reboot

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required after path failure, no mirroring of rootvg required (rootvg is on a high available LUN already) and proper load balancing over multiple paths

Gert