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Storage Bridge Bay Working Group Issues 2.0 Specification

Growing roster of industry leaders support emerging ecosystem of standardized storage system building blocks

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., January 28, 2008 — In a move that furthers engineering design improvements and increases end-user customer benefits, the Storage Bridge Bay Working Group (SBB) today announced the completion and public availability of the SBB 2.0 Specification. The newly ratified specification defines increased commonality of the physical form factor of Storage Bridge Bay slots and canisters – enabling faster introduction of new storage technologies across a broader selection of storage solution providers.

The SBB additionally announced that Sun Microsystems, Inc. has joined as a Promoter Member and as a member of the Board of Directors which also includes Dell, EMC, IBM, Intel, LSI, Network Appliance, and Xyratex.

“I’m happy to see the SBB initiative progressing,” said Steve Duplessie, founder and senior analyst at Enterprise Strategy Group. “Ultimately having standard form factors and interconnects will allow storage manufacturers to concentrate on higher value functionality and should decrease their costs. Users will benefit by finally getting some standardization.”

The SBB 2.0 Specification is designed as a reference guide for storage system designers desiring a higher level of compatibility for their storage solutions – while still allowing for differentiation and value-add. By standardizing physical, electrical and enclosure management characteristics of the controller slot and the controller module, the SBB specification enables storage providers to more rapidly introduce new technologies to end-user customers across a variety of enclosures. With the proper level of integration work between vendors, SBB 2.0-based storage enclosures and controller modules can be combined in various ways, giving end-user customers a wider choice of storage solutions.

“The growth of the SBB ecosystem is a clear indication of the significant value this standardized electromechanical controller interface brings to the industry,” said Bill Dawkins, chairman of the SBB Working Group. “Standardized storage products are available more quickly, giving customers more choices, higher value and a wider range of technology features. System providers can look forward to seeing further updates as the specification matures.”

Since the original SBB 1.0 ratification in September 2006, the total membership has grown 39 percent from 31 to 43 members. Additionally, the number of SBB products and prototypes shown at Fall Storage Networking World (SNW) increased by 67 percent compared to the previous SNW show. The SBB Working Group expects to see an increasing number of SBB-based products introduced by member companies throughout 2008.

In addition to the Promoter Members listed above, the SBB Working Group is currently supported by the following Contributor Members: Accusys, Adaptec, AIC, ADM, AMCC, Aristos Logic, Astute Networks, Celestica, Chenbro Micom, Ciprico, Digi-Data, Dot Hill Systems, Emulex, EqualLogic, Honhai Precision Industry Co. (Foxconn Technology Group), Infortrend Technology, Inspur (Beijing) Electronic Information Industry Co., Inventec Enterprise System Corporation, iStor Networks, Lanner Electronics, Mellanox Technologies, MiTAC International, NEC, Neterion, Newisys Data Storage, Nextronics Engineering Corp. (Leapac Division), PMC-Sierra, Promise Technology, Qsan Technology, Quanta Computer, RASILIENT Systems, Seagate, Tyco Electronics, Universal Scientific Industrial Co., and Wistron.

About SBB

The SBB Working Group is a cooperative, non-profit organization comprised of a range of IT leaders representing the storage industry. The SBB working group is focused on expanding membership and invites other companies to participate. To learn more about the SBB working group, visit www.sbbwg.org.

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