



Five considerations for adopting enterprise flash storage

Flash storage solutions have only recently started to gain widespread adoption—mostly because costs have become increasingly competitive with traditional HDD for many tier-one applications. IT departments that once considered flash unaffordable—even a few months ago—now feel they can't afford not to use it in some capacity. If you're ready to add flash to your storage infrastructure, here are five key things to consider as you shop for a solution.

1. Use flash to boost performance for critical applications

Flash storage eliminates the rotational and seek latencies found in disk-based storage systems for significant performance gains. This makes it ideal for I/O-intensive workloads, such as highly virtualized environments, online transaction processing or data warehousing.

2. Right-size flash for your workloads

Flash deployments should be designed with specific workload requirements in mind. Mission-critical applications may call for all-flash, while other applications might better be suited for a hybrid array that can deliver peak performance when needed while helping to keep costs low.

3. Build flash into an integrated, intelligent tiering environment

Flash is more affordable when integrated into a larger storage architecture—rather than a siloed solution. Look for arrays that integrate flash with HDD storage and use intelligent tiering to automatically move your data to the ideal storage tier.

4. Deploy flash that fits your budget

One of the obstacles to widespread deployment of flash in the enterprise has been its high cost. Dell has redefined the economics of SSD storage by rewriting its intelligent tiering software for flash. That innovation can save you up to 5x over competitive all-flash solutions.

5. Choose full-featured enterprise-class storage

Many flash arrays are point-based solutions that focus solely on performance and lack advanced features. But enterprise-class storage features are key to realizing the full value of a flash investment. Expect features like thin provisioning, automated tiering, replication, unified file and block storage and third-party integration in your solution.

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Source: "Top Reasons to Consider Flash Storage for the Enterprise," TechTarget