IOmark-VM

DotHill

AssuredSAN Pro 5000

Test Report: VM- 130816-a

Test Report Date: 16, August 2013

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Executive Summary

IOmark is a storage specific workload and benchmark designed to test storage systems performance using a variety of real world, application centric workloads. The IOmark-VM benchmark is a specific workload which measures Server Virtualization workloads (VMs) run against storage systems. Results are published after audit and certified approval by IOmark authorized auditors.

This document is the official benchmark report for the tested configuration using DotHill's AssuredSAN Pro 5000 storage system. The result of the benchmark showed the AssuredSAN Pro 5000 supported 240 virtual machines at a cost of $509.42 per VM, meeting the read and write response time averages required. In addition IOmark-VM requires several hypervisor operations as part of the benchmark, including "Clone and Deploy" and vMotion. AssuredSAN Pro exceeded the required minimums.

The criteria and performance requirements are as follows, with a full description of the benchmark and workloads available in Appendix A:

- For all application workloads:
  - Workloads are scaled in sets of 8 workloads
  - 70% of response times for I/O's must not exceed 30ms
  - All storage must reside on the storage system under test
  - The replay time must complete within 1 hour and 15 seconds for each 1 hour workload
- For hypervisor operations:
  - Each set of 21 workloads must run 1 instance of the following workloads:
    - Clone, deploy, boot, software upgrade, VM deletion
    - Storage migration (aka Storage vMotion) between storage volumes

The rest of this report is dedicated to reporting on the product tested, configuration and results

Vendor Product Description

Dot Hill's new AssuredSAN Pro 5000 Series adds automated tiered storage capabilities to a smart, simple, SAN storage line-up. Using the Pro 5000 Series with integrated RealStor™ management software, IT managers can improve data responsiveness, remove provisioning and allocation guesswork, and simplify storage management and expansion. RealStor, Dot Hill's unique, patent pending software takes tiered storage to a more advanced level -beyond batch data migration to Real-Time automated tiered storage, which continuously responds to user data demands by moving 'hot' data to a high-speed SSD tier – in real time – for maximum performance.

Additional features of the AssuredSAN Pro 500 Series include:

- RealTier™ Tiering Software
- RealPool™ Automatic Pooling
- RealThin™ Provisioning
- RealQuick™ Rebuild Function
- Smart, Simple Management
- Modular Expansion of Storage Tiers
- Rapid Data Hot Spot detection

- Maximum 384 TB raw capacity
- Up to 96 LFF drives or 240 SFF drives
- SSD Drive support – 200GB and 400GB
- HDD Drive support – 600GB 10K SAS, 1T

IOmark - VM Result Details

For the tested configuration, the following data is provided

Item	Value
Testing Identifier:	VM- 130816-a
Product:	DotHill AssuredSAN Pro 5000
Test Sponsor:	DotHill, Inc.
Auditor:	Evaluator Group Inc.

Table 1: Test Identifier Information

Item	Value
IOmark-VM Version:	Version: IOmark-VM 3.2.10
Testing Completed:	August, 2013
Equipment Availability:	March, 2013
Audit Certification Date:	16, August 2013
Report Date:	16, August 2013

Table 2: Test Revision and Dates

IOmark-VM Results

Shows below are the IOmark-VM results for the system under test. The definition and workload characteristics of the benchmark are provided in Appendix A starting on page 10.

Price information provided below is explained in detail in Table 7 later in this report.

Table 3 below shows an overview of the IOmark-VM results.

IOmark-VM Total VM's	IOmark-VM Response Avg.	Tested Useable Capacity	Tested RAID Level(s)	Total Price	IOmark-VM : $ / VM
240	8.92 ms.	28.6 TB	RAID-5 + RAID-10	$122,621.00	$509.42

Table 3: IOmark-VM Result Summary

The results above are detailed further in Table 4 below, providing additional information regarding the results of the tested storage system. As described, applications sets must be run together for passing results. The total number of virtual machines tested consisted of 30 sets, with 8 VM's per set, this equates to the results of 240 total VM's as reported above in Table 4.

In addition to application workloads, IOmark-VM requires several hypervisor operations as part of the benchmark. These values are shown below, with two components being reported. The "Clone and Deploy" portion of the workload will create a clone from a specific VM template, start the VM running and then upgrade its version of VMware tools installed. The reported value indicates how many operation cycles were completed during the 1-hour test run. Similarly, the storage vMotion value reported indicates how many migration cycles were completed during the 1-hour test run. A combined score is calculated, known as the "Hypervisor Workload Score," which is the ratio of reported results to the minimum required results. The minimum number of operations are 6 and 3 respectively.

Table 4 below shows additional details of the tested configuration.

IOmark-VM Application Sets	Read Resp. Average	Write Resp. Average	# vCenter Clone and Deploy	# vCenter storage vMotion	Hypervisor Workload Score (1 - inf.)
30	16.12 ms.	6.27 ms.	8	5	1.75

Table 4: IOmark-VM Result Details

Tested Configuration Details

Connectivity, configuration and pricing information for the system under test are provided.

Storage Configuration for IOmark-VM Workload

- A total of 114 SCSI logical units (LUNs) were created on the DotHill AssuredSAN Pro 5000
- VMFS was the datastore type, with "VMFS 5" chosen
- Each application set was allocated thickly provisioned according to the requirements specified in Table 1.

Configuration items

Detailed configuration parameters for the system under test, including connectivity are provided below in Table 5.

Storage System Parameter	Value
Number of interfaces to the storage system:	4 (4 available, 4 utilized)
Connectivity to the storage system:	16 Gb FC
Hypervisor storage protocol used:	FCP (SCSI over Fibre Channel Protocol)
Hypervisor version:	VMware ESXi 5.1
Thin provisioning:	Not utilized in VMFS
Hypervisor Storage Access:	VMFS datastore
Datastore Filesystem:	VMFS 5 – 1 MB block size
VAAI:	VAAI supported
SATP:	VMW_SATP_ALUA
PSP:	VMW_PSP_MRU
Total capacity of system allocated to IOmark-VM:	13.4 TB

Table 5: VMware Configuration Parameters

Detailed configuration parameters for the system under test, including connectivity are provided below in Table 6.

Storage System Parameter	Value
Total raw capacity of system under test (SUT)	41.6 TB
Thin provisioning:	Not utilized on DotHill AssuredSAN 5000
RAID Level(s)	6 - RAID 5 groups 8+1 (stripe size of 512 KB) 600GB 10K HDD 4 – RAID10 – 400GB SSD's 1+1
Total Cache Capacity:	4 GB (2 GB / controller)
Read Cache	Adaptive Read Ahead
Write Cache:	Writeback
VAAI Features Enabled:	Yes
- Block Zero	Yes
- Full Copy	Yes
- HW Locking	Yes
- NAS Clone	N/A
- NAS Reserve	N/A
Automated tiering within the storage system:	Yes (RealTier™ & RealPool™ utilized)
Deduplication or compression of data:	Not available or not utilized
Storage system clones / writeable snapshots:	Not utilized
Type of storage system clone:	N/A
Storage Media Utilized:	-
- SSD's – 400GB	8
- 15K RPM	0
- 10K RPM – 600GB	54 active; 64 available / total
- 7.2K RPM	0

Table 6: Storage System Configuration Parameters

Configuration Diagram

The logical data layout of the test configuration is shown below in Figure 2.

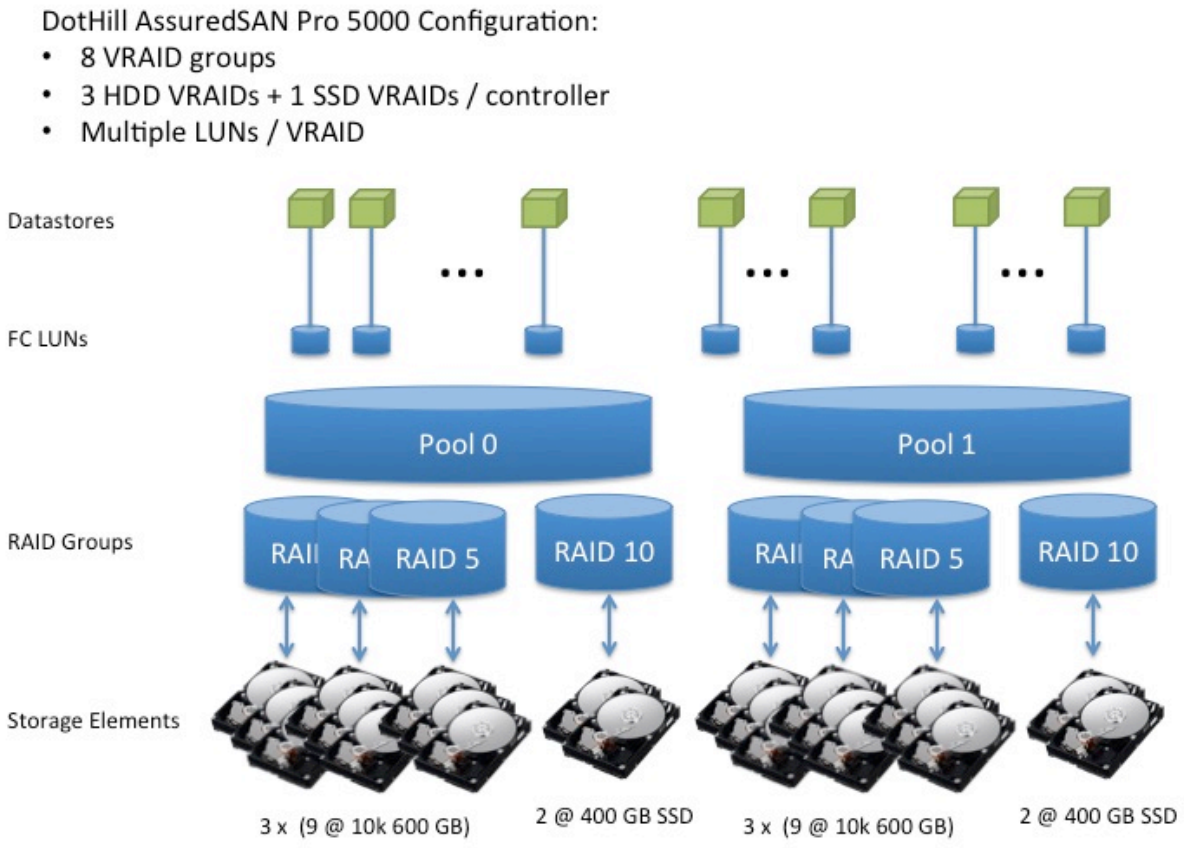

Figure 2: Logical System Configuration

Connectivity

The host to storage connectivity used during testing was FC, utilizing 4 @ 16Gb FC connections between the physical hosts and switch, and 4 @ 16 Gb FC between the switch and the storage system. A diagram is shown below in Figure 3.

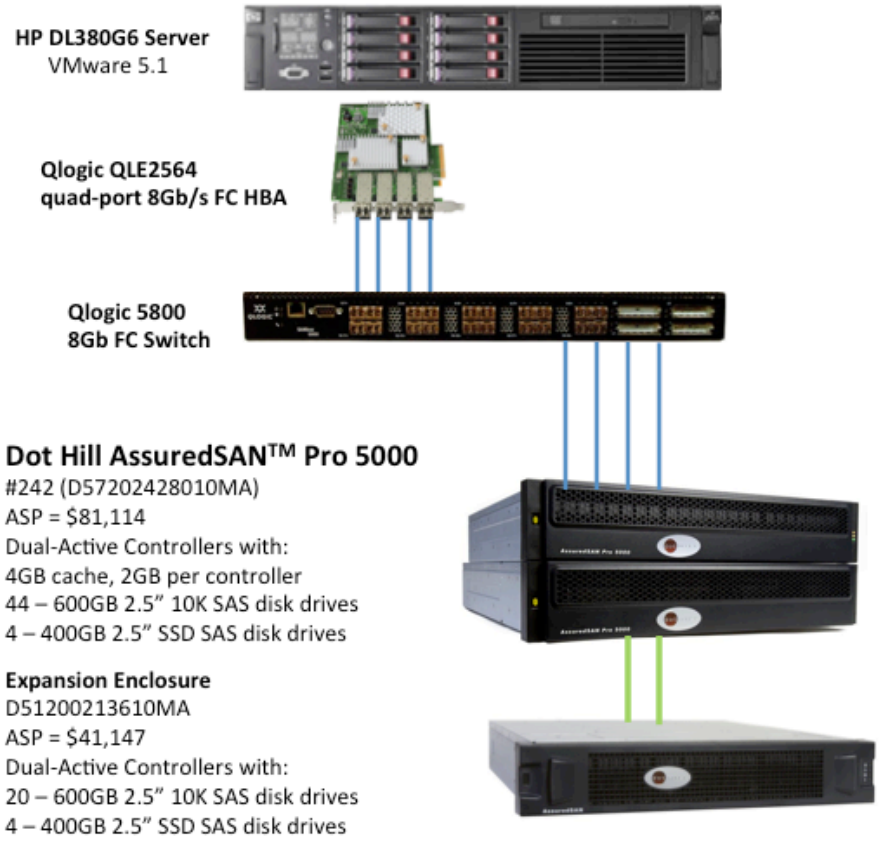

Figure 3: Physical System Connectivity

Tested Configuration Pricing

Item	Description	Qty	Price
1	AssuredSAN Pro 5000 Base System (#242)	1	$81,114.00
2	AssuredSAN Pro 5000 Expansion	1	$41,147.00
4	Feature Licenses	1	N/A (incl.)
Total	Discounted Price		$122,261.00

Table 7: IOmark-VM Price Information

Detailed Results

IOmark-VM performance results are measured by application workload. The eight applications that comprise a workload set are shown below in Table 8, with average response times reported per application type.

Application Workload	Avg. Response Time
DVD Store DB	23.95 ms
Exchange Mail Server	13.55 ms
Olio Database Server	3.25 ms
Olio Web Server	2.65 ms
DVD Store Web App 1	1.2 ms
DVD Store Web App 2	1.2 ms
DVD Store Web App 3	1.2 ms
Windows Standby	1.2 ms

Table 8: Application Workload Response Times

Appendix A - IOmark-VM Overview

The ability to recreate a known workload is important for comparing a system against potential alternatives. Establishing a reference or benchmark workload enables system vendors as well as resellers and IT users to compare several systems utilizing a known workload.

Specifically, the IOmark-VM benchmark recreates a storage workload that typically occurs in a virtual infrastructure environment. The workload is non-synthetic and recreates several applications that are commonly found in virtualized server environments.

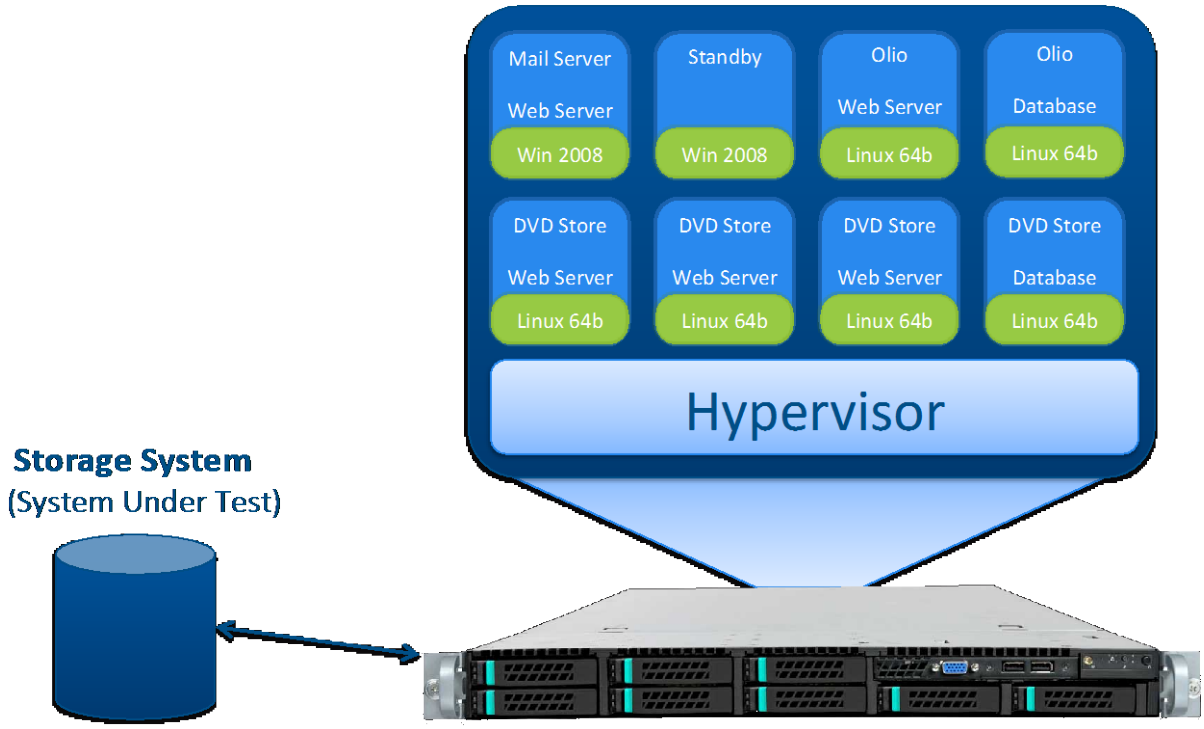

Figure 1: IOmark-VM Conceptual Overview

Why the Need for IOmark-VM

Datacenters running applications in a virtual infrastructure contain multiple workloads running on a virtualization platform. Often multiple physical servers share the resources of a single storage system providing primary storage for both virtual machine OS and applications.

Currently, several benchmarks have been developed that focus on the server aspects of infrastructure, including the CPU, memory and I/O bandwidth capabilities of the infrastructure. However, there has been no corresponding development of standardized workloads designed to drive storage workloads for these application environments.

By establishing a set of standard applications and capturing their I/O streams, it is possible to recreate application based storage workloads for these complex environments. IOmark-VM is designed utilizing these concepts, and as such is the first benchmark designed to accurately generate application

workloads for storage systems, enabling direct comparison of storage system configurations and their ability to support a specific number of applications.

Additionally, IOmark-VM realizes that a significant impact on storage may occur from administrative functions common in virtual infrastructures. For this reason, several hypervisor-based functions are a part of the IOmark-VM workload. These additional operations include; cloning a virtual machine, booting a vm and updating software, while also migrating a virtual machine from one storage volume to another.

How IOmark-VM Operates

IOmark-VM uses the concept of workload replay. I/O streams are captured from actual running applications and then "replayed" so that the exact sequence and I/O commands are issued. This allows the creation of a workload that is indistinguishable from an actual workload to the system under test, while being reproducible and requiring fewer resources. Additionally, the test environment is less expensive, easier and faster to create since actual applications are not required. Because CPU and memory are not consumed running applications, a much higher I/O workload may be generated with a set of server resources than is possible using native applications. This ratio is typically 10: 1, but may vary.

In Figure 1 on the previous page, a single set of applications is depicted running on a single physical host in a virtual infrastructure. In order to scale up the workload on a storage system, additional applications sets may be added to the same, or to other physical hosts. The only limitations to the scale of the test are the physical infrastructure supporting the workload. Sufficient, CPU, memory and I/O capabilities must be available to run additional workload sets.

Unlike artificial workload generation tools, IOmark-VM recreates accurate read vs. write and random vs. sequential I/O requests. Another benefit of IOmark-VM is the fact that it creates accurate access patterns, thus enabling storage cache algorithms to work properly.

Finally, IOmark-VM maintains an accurate ratio of performance to capacity as workloads are scaled, ensuring that storage performance is measured with respect to storage capacity accurately. As a result, IOmark-VM maintains an accurate ratio of I/O to capacity, producing results applicable to IT users.

Benchmark Application Workload Set

A concept utilized for testing multiple applications is that of "Application sets", also known as "tiles." A set of 8 applications is run together, along with several common hypervisor infrastructure operations. In order to scale the workload up and place a higher load on the storage system, additional application sets are run. Application sets are always run together for official benchmark results, along with a defined set of infrastructure operations.

The specific applications comprising a workload set are detailed below in Table 1.

Application	Guest OS	Storage Capacity / Instance
Microsoft Exchange 2007	Microsoft Windows Server 2008, Enterprise, 64 bit	80 GB
Olio Database	SuSE Linux Enterprise Server 11, 64bit	14 GB
Olio Web server	SuSE Linux Enterprise 11, 64bit	80 GB
Idle Windows Server	Microsoft Windows Server 2003 SP2 Enterprise Edition, 32-bit	10 GB
DVD Store Database	SuSE Linux Enterprise 11, 64bit	45 GB
DVD Store Web Server 1	SuSE Linux Enterprise 11, 64bit	10 GB
DVD Store Web Server 2	SuSE Linux Enterprise 11, 64bit	10 GB
DVD Store Web Server 3	SuSE Linux Enterprise 11, 64bit	10 GB
Hypervisor Clone & Deploy	N/A - VMware vCenter required	15 GB
Hypervisor Storage Migration	N/A - VMware vCenter required	30 GB
--	--	Total = 305 GB

Table 8: IOmark-VM Application Overview

The total capacity required for each set of applications is approximately 305 GB of capacity. Each additional workload set requires an additional 305 GB of capacity.

Workload Details

The Olio application consists of both a database server, and a web client running on different virtual machines with a pre-loaded data set. For more details on Olio see: http://incubator.apache.org/olio/

The DVD application consists of a single database server along with three web clients, each running on a different virtual machine using predefined workload and data set. For more details on the DVD database application see: http://linux.dell.com/dvdstore/

The Exchange server is a Microsoft messaging and email server. Only the server portion of Exchange is recreated in this workload set, with the client workloads not being a part of the I/O, only indirectly through their requests to the messaging server.

The two hypervisor workloads are based on common operations performed in virtual infrastructure environments and require the availability of a VMware vCenter server to perform the operations.

Understanding Results

IOmark-VM produces results indicating the response time of a storage system given a particular workload. Based on established criteria, these results in turn dictate how many total virtual machine sets are supported by a specific storage configuration and the average response time. The report is audited for accuracy and issued by Evaluator Group, Inc., an independent storage analyst firm.

Benchmark Criteria

IOmark has established the benchmark criteria for the IOmark-VM workload. The performance requirements are established as follows:

- For all application workloads:
  - Workloads are scaled in sets of 8 workloads
  - 70% of response times for I/O's must not exceed 30ms
  - All storage must reside on the storage system under test
  - The replay time must complete within 1 hour and 15 seconds for each 1 hour workload
- For hypervisor operations:
  - Each set of 21 workloads must run 1 instance of the following workloads:
    - Clone, deploy, boot, software upgrade, VM deletion
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More Information about IOmark-VM

For more information about the IOmark benchmark, a theory of operations guide, published results and more, visit the official website at http://www.iomark.org . Some content is restricted to registered users, so please register on the site to obtain all available information and the latest results.

About Evaluator Group

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