

Maxta Solution Brief

Maxta Storage Platform for Test and Development

The Challenge

Server virtualization has provided significant benefits by dramatically simplifying provisioning and management for compute resources. It has provided the ability for test and development teams to self-deploy virtual machines but deploying storage for these virtual machines is still a complex process and further needs coordination with storage administrators limiting the test and development teams to take full advantage of server virtualization. Having point-in-time copies of latest production data for testing and development is crucial to accelerate time to market of applications. Additionally having the ability to manage these point-in-time copies by the test and development team is vital to enhancing their productivity. The key storage challenges faced by test and development teams are:

- ▶ Provide a storage solution that is simple to manage and can be managed by the engineering team
- ▶ The storage solution that provides the ability to create point-in-time and fully functional copies of production data for all the team members
- ▶ Minimize CAPEX and OPEX

The Solution

Maxta has developed a ground breaking, highly resilient, scalable distributed Software-Defined VM Storage platform (MxSP) that enables IT to fully realize the vision of the virtual data center. The innovative, peer to peer architecture aggregates storage resources from multiple standard servers, assimilating a global namespace and all the storage functionalities for leveraging the benefits of server virtualization.

MxSP delivers the storage needs of even the most demanding test and development environments by reducing complexity and improving productivity, time to market of applications and storage cost. By eliminating storage provisioning and storage management, MxSP provides the ability for development and test teams to self-deploy virtual machines and associated storage. Empowering complete end-to-end provisioning and management from the virtualization user interface minimizes errors, improves productivity and time to market of applications. The utilization of capacity and time efficient snapshot and clones improve productivity even further. MxSP's capacity optimization features such as thin provisioning, in-line compression, and in-line de-duplication improve storage efficiency. Combining storage efficiency with the utilization of standard components and the elimination of storage arrays enable a very cost effective solution.

Eliminate Storage Management

MxSP eliminates the need for storage provisioning and managing storage constructs such as volumes, LUNs, file systems, and RAID. Storage provisioning is as simple as provisioning CPU and memory. All storage related tasks are integrated into the virtualization user interface. In fact, the only storage parameter that the user has to specify while provisioning virtual machines is the storage capacity. Policies for all data services such as snapshots and zero-copy clones are configured at the virtual machine level granularity within the virtualization user interface. This simplification enables the users to self-manage the life cycle of the virtual machines that is used for testing and development, improving productivity of the engineering team.

Enterprise-Class Data Services

MxSP supports unlimited number of time/performance/capacity efficient snapshots and zero-copy clones. Snapshots and clones can be used to create point-in-time read-only copies or fully functioning copies of production VMs. This will enable engineers to setup and manage their own environment for testing or development improving productivity and accelerating application development. Additionally, snapshots and zero-copy clones do not consume any capacity unless original data is modified nor impact the performance of the primary virtual machine.

Maximize Savings

MxSP enables significant capital savings by converging compute and storage resources on standard servers and commodity components, without compromising performance or scalability. MxSP leverages any combination of disk drives and flash technology to deliver a spectrum of cost/performance options for all storage workloads in a virtualized environment. Additionally the engineering team can self-administer their environment eliminating the strain on the IT organization. By significantly simplifying storage management, increasing storage efficiency, MxSP delivers substantial operating savings.

