Storage Area Network (SAN)

Return to Glossary

Storage Area Network (SAN) is a dedicated high-speed network or subnetwork that interconnects and presents shared pools of storage devices to multiple servers. The availability and accessibility of storage are critical concerns for enterprise computing. Traditional direct-attached disk deployments within individual servers can be a simple and inexpensive option for many enterprise applications, but the disks – and the vital data those disks contain – are tied to the physical server across a dedicated interface, such as SAS. Modern enterprise computing often demands a much higher level of organization, flexibility and control. These needs drove the evolution of the storage area network (SAN). SAN technology addresses advanced enterprise storage demands by providing a separate, dedicated, highly scalable high-performance network designed to interconnect a multitude of servers to an array of storage devices. The storage can then be organized and managed as cohesive pools or tiers. A SAN enables an organization to treat storage as a single collective resource that can also be centrally replicated and protected, while additional technologies, such as data deduplication and RAID, can optimize storage capacity and vastly improve storage resilience – compared to traditional direct-attached storage (DAS). SAN architecture Source: https://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/storage-area-network ~~DISCUSSION:on|Outstanding Issues~~ ~~DISCUSSION:off~~