

Saturday, November 1, 2008

Something strange with the EMC Symmetrix DMX4

There is something really strange in the numbers for the EMC Symmetrix DMX4. A colleague gave me this hint. Just look on the specification sheet. They state on page 2 that this system can house up to 2400 disk (albeit they restrict that in the footnote by writing that more than 1920 drives are just available on RPQ). But that's not the point.

Just look at the numbers at system capacity on page 3: They state on this whitepaper, that you can plug 1920 1 TB hard disks into the system. Okay let's take the example for RAID 5 with 7+1. You could cut 240 of this RAIDs out of 1920 disks (1920/8). 240 multiplied with 7 Terabyte is 1680 Terabyte. But the maximum system capacity is stated by EMC with 585.91 Terabyte. WTF?!?!? Where is the missing Petabyte? The first approx. 670 1 TB disks in your DMX4 gives you capacity, the other approx 1250 disks gives just heat dissipation and some nice blinking lights.

I don't really think, that there is an error in my calculations. Why? When you calculate this for 73 GB you get 122 Terabyte ... almost the system capacity number stated on the specification sheet (you have to deduct some of the storage for internal usage, so it's slightly less).

I smell a architectural weakness here. Something like "640 Kilobyte is enough for everyone" decision ... just on a larger scale

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 19:27

You are right, something is fishy here. All of them are that way. WOW..That's horrible.
Anonymous on Nov 1 2008, 21:36