

RamSan Solutions

The World's Fastest Storage®



Client: News Limited Community Newspapers,
a division of News Corporation

“The RamSan-320 has been so successful in providing users with the performance they demand”

Facts At a Glance

Organization:

News Limited Community Newspapers, a division of News Corporation
(www.newscorp.com)

Industry:

Media

Application:

Business Reporting

Operating System

Windows 2000 Advanced Server

Environment:

SQL Server 7.0 on an IBM Xeon-based server

Challenge:

Maximize user concurrency and minimize reporting times

Solution:

RamSan-320 attached via Emulex HBAs and a Brocade switch

Results:

Over 100 supported concurrent users
30 to 60x speed increases on reports

News Corporation is known worldwide as one of the most dominant and demanding media and entertainment companies. It is a highly diversified company with operations in eight industry segments: filmed entertainment; television; cable network programming; direct broadcast satellite television; magazines; newspapers; book publishing; and other related enterprises.

A successful company of this scale lives or dies by the flow of relevant data to its management. One of News Corporation's Australian News Paper divisions, News Limited Community Newspapers' (NLCN) supports a critical business database which required improved performance under its substantial user load. The existing storage infrastructure (FC SAN) has been supplemented with a high performance RamSan solid state disk to accelerate this application.

The Challenge: Unlock User Concurrency and Drastically Decrease Reporting Times

Some reports were taking their business reporting application up to 25 minutes to generate, and with growth in reporting and users, NLCN contacted their integrator, XSI Data Solutions, who then recommended the RamSan solid state disk to accelerate the application alongside their own Viper RAID device.

“NLCN, like many of our customers, demands that high performance be matched with reliability and an acceptable price point,” says Fergus Gartlan of XSI. “XSI's solution included the RamSan solid state disk because it offers all these things.”

XSI's final recommendation was a single RamSan-320 directly connected to the application server via Emulex Fibre Channel host bus adapters. The application's database totaled 230 GB with over 150 tables. The RamSan is used to store critical data that has high transaction volumes, while the Viper RAID supports tables with a lower transaction rate.

The Result: Up to 56x Faster Reporting and 100 Concurrent Users

The NLCN supports between 60 to 100 concurrent users, all of whom saw an immediate improvement in performance with the RamSan-320 solid state disk.

Most impressively, reporting time was drastically reduced by placing hot data on the World's Fastest Storage:

-A report that took up to 12 minutes now takes only 20 seconds.

-A report that took up to 25 minutes now takes only 40 seconds.

-A report that took up to 15 minutes now takes only 16 seconds.

That last report represents more than 56x improvement with solid state disk!

"The RamSan-320 is consistently achieving I/O throughput of 200MB/s, far exceeding conventional FC disk array due to an effective total elimination of both disk seek and latency." said Shane Rodoreda, Group IT&T Manager at News Limited Community Newspapers. "The RamSan-320 has been so successful in providing users with the performance they demand that an upgrade to 64GB is planned."

For more information, visit www.superSSD.com or contact us at sales@superSSD.com.

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About Texas Memory Systems

Since 1978, Texas Memory Systems (TMS) has specialized in high bandwidth, low latency, I/O-intensive storage systems. While the primary feature of our products has always been high performance, we achieve this performance without resorting to overly complex circuitry or unwieldy protocols. This emphasis on simplicity allows TMS to deliver outstanding performance using mature technologies and readily available off-the-shelf components. Our record of success, however, is as much a function of close customer relationships as it is a function of our technology. As we continue to grow, we will strive to maintain these close customer relationships and we will continue to provide outstanding customer support.

TMS products were originally designed to meet the needs of the US defense industry, a primary TMS customer throughout our history. This market has always demanded the ultimate in performance and TMS has always delivered it. Texas Memory Systems now brings its expertise to the commercial SAN market. The RamSan, TMS' seventh generation SSD product, delivers a level of performance previously unavailable in a commercial storage product.

Texas Memory Systems
11200 Westheimer Suite 1000
Houston, Texas 77042

713-266-3200 Phone
713-266-0332 Fax
www.superSSD.com