

The Best of the New Data Center

Over the last three years, the New Data Center concept has reached star status — and deservedly so. The flexibility, reliability and resiliency enabled by foundational New Data Center technologies such as automation and virtualization have let enterprises usher in big cost savings, much-improved productivity and cool business differentiators.

In this first of our six-part, fourth annual New Data Center series, we take a stroll down the concept's walk of fame. It all starts with technological innovation, which we highlight at the right, with a look at 10 of the best products to fall under the New Data Center marquee.

Of course, the walk of fame features stellar examples of enterprise best practices and more. You'll find:

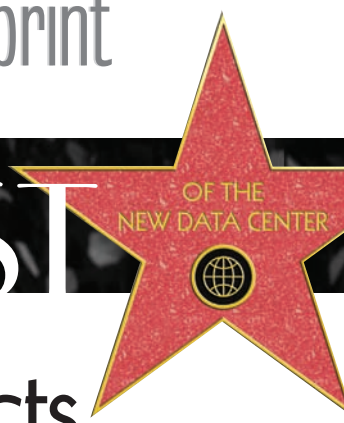
- Best practices for building a Linux grid.
- Top tips for implementing an enterprise service-oriented architecture.
- A heads-up on a great New Data Center career opportunity.
- A status report on how automated IT is today.

Even more on the New Data Center is available online at www.nww.com/supp/2007/ndc1. At this special site, you can participate in forums, get the latest expert insight, use our extensive archive to search New Data Center topics and more.

As 2007 unfolds, we'll be highlighting more great New Data Center technologies, case studies and expert advice. Stay tuned for our look at the latest in security technologies and trends, including the growing specter of the insider threat, coming in the March 19 New Data Center issue.

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BEST



10 best products storage virtualization

Innovative and enterprise-shifting, these New Data Center wares are tops

BY JOANNE CUMMINGS



Storage virtualization became a lot more interesting last September, when Incipient launched its iNSP software. Running on a storage blade within a Cisco director-level switch, the software offers data migration between heterogeneous and tiered storage environments, all while the arrays are online.

Although storage vendors have been offering similar wares, until now they worked only within their own switches and arrays. By moving the storage intelligence off the array and onto the network in a vendor-agnostic way, and by allowing live data migration, Incipient opens many options for its customers.

Bart McDonough, director of systems architecture at a hedge fund in Stamford, Conn., has been beta-testing iNSP. "Incipient allows us, behind the scenes and in real time, to migrate data over to another array. We can get all the storage off Array A, do maintenance, power it down, do firmware, test it and make sure it's good, all before we start moving the systems back to it. And the production applications aren't affected. It's great," he says.

As much as he likes the high availability, which makes no array a single point of failure, the productivity factor is what sold him, McDonough says. "Bringing down one of our big arrays for maintenance . . . requires a lot of coordination, and a lot of weekend work for my staff. With Incipient, all of this could be done during the workday. That's a huge productivity hit we could avoid."

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