



ProStor InfiniVault[®]

Frequently Asked Questions

General questions and answers

Q: What is the ProStor InfiniVault[®]?

A: ProStor InfiniVault is the most cost-effective storage system for the long-term retention of data and images. ProStor InfiniVault integrates information management software, online disk, and RDX[®] removable disk to simplify retention management, while automating compliance and disaster protection. It is being implemented in healthcare, document imaging, financial services, digital video archive, service provider, and government applications.

Q: How is the ProStor InfiniVault system packaged?

A: The ProStor InfiniVault storage system is packaged as an integrated network storage system. It includes all the hardware components with the information management operating system software fully installed and quickly plugs into any IT environment.

Q: How many ProStor InfiniVault systems have you shipped?

A: Shipments of the ProStor InfiniVault began in early 2008. As of August 2009, shipments have been sent to a broad range of customers including healthcare organizations, document imaging, financial services, digital video archives, service providers, and government entities.

Q: I already have archiving software, why do I need ProStor InfiniVault?

A: ProStor InfiniVault makes a perfect storage target for all archiving, HSM, and ECM applications. On economics alone, using a ProStor InfiniVault with archiving software will save money over either disk, optical, or tape as a storage repository for your archived data. If end users have compliance needs for their archived data, ProStor InfiniVault provides the hardware enforcement to complete compliance with the regulatory or legal rules. In addition, ProStor InfiniVault automatically creates up to four copies of the data and/or replicates it to another location for onsite and offsite disaster protection.

Q: I already have a virtual tape library (VTL), why do I need a ProStor InfiniVault?

A: A VTL system is designed to alleviate some of the performance problems associated with traditional tape backups. A ProStor InfiniVault can improve the performance of a user's VTL solution by eliminating 2/3 of the data (for a typical customer) that has to be streamed from clients through the network to the backup server. A ProStor InfiniVault will allow the user's VTL to fill slower, need less costly upgrades, and work more efficiently. In addition, the ProStor InfiniVault can be used to store backup copies, further streamlining and automating the backup process.

Q: Is ProStor InfiniVault a backup appliance?

A: Using ProStor InfiniVault to store an end user's static or inactive data can shrink user's backup time by 50% or more optimizing the overall backup process. The system itself is designed specifically for long-term data retention and archiving and can also be used as a target for backup applications in small business and departmental environments.

Q: Is the RDX removable disk technology that ProStor InfiniVault uses widely available?

A: RDX removable disk has become the de facto standard for the rapidly growing market segment of Removable Hard Disk Drives. The product is currently shipping from a number of system and storage vendors including Dell (where it's known as RD1000), Fujitsu, HP, IBM, Hitachi, Tandberg Data, and Imation. With over 70PB shipped, 150,000 customers, and 500,000 cartridges in use worldwide worldwide as of June 2009, RDX has captured well over 90% of the Removable Hard Disk Drive market.

Q: What kind of storage projects can I use a ProStor InfiniVault for?

A: The retention-management capabilities of the ProStor InfiniVault can provide a low-cost and minimal power usage alternative to disk and/or tape for a number of storage projects, including enterprise content management, records management, document imaging, electronic medical records and diagnostic imaging, eDiscovery and other legal needs, backup optimization, regulatory compliance, tiered storage (storage optimization), archiving, and tape and optical replacement projects.

Q: How is a ProStor InfiniVault a green solution?

A: Once the RDX removable disks are removed from the ProStor InfiniVault system, they don't use any power at all. Nothing is greener than zero – zero power and cooling required and they have a very small footprint. In addition, when the RDX disks are not being accessed in the ProStor InfiniVault, they automatically spin-down and consume less power and cooling than traditional disk or optical solutions.

Q: How do you sell ProStor InfiniVault?

A: ProStor InfiniVault is available through ProStor ProAlliance Resellers. These resellers have experience in helping customers with their storage solutions. Visit the Contact Us section of the ProStor Systems Website and to arrange an introduction with a reseller.

Technology questions and answers

Q: Can I use standard RDX cartridges in my ProStor InfiniVault system?

A: Yes, any RDX brand removable disk work in the ProStor InfiniVault system. RDX cartridges from any reseller of any size can be mixed and matched and used in any ProStor InfiniVault configuration.

Q: Is a ProStor InfiniVault a Content Addressable System (CAS)?

A: ProStor InfiniVault uses CAS features to track and verify all the content in the system, ensuring the immutability of the data. As such, it provides the capabilities of traditional (and expensive) CAS systems while providing a much more open NAS interface. Applications that use the CIFS, NFS, or DICOM protocols can store data on a ProStor InfiniVault without changes or programming to a proprietary interface.

Q: Can I also use ProStor InfiniVault as a file server?

A: No, in order to provide the level of security needed for compliance with multiple regulations, the ProStor InfiniVault system is delivered as an integrated system and not a general file server.

Q: Is my data protected once it's removed from the ProStor InfiniVault system?

A: ProStor InfiniVault can encrypt files as they are written to the RDX removable disk cartridges. In addition, a ProStor InfiniVault tracks and manages all the encryption keys, freeing customers from that task. A cartridge that is removed from the system and sent to an offsite location is completely protected until it's returned to the ProStor InfiniVault system that created it.

Q: Why do you talk about native and compressed capacities with ProStor InfiniVault?

A: The native capacities are the minimal amount of data ProStor InfiniVault will store. ProStor InfiniVault includes several techniques to increase the amount of data stored on removable disk. First, a ProStor InfiniVault provides single-instancing of files within each data repository, saving only the first copy it receives. Secondly, a ProStor InfiniVault can compress data (typically 2:1) as it is being written to the RDX removable disk cartridges. Both of these techniques work to reduce the amount of removable storage that needs to be purchased, saving the end user's money.

Q: How does ProStor InfiniVault represent itself on my network?

A: ProStor InfiniVault is an intelligent system that connects to the data network via the CIFS or NFS protocols, similar to a network-attached storage (NAS) system. Appearing as a Windows® drive letter or NFS mount point on corporate LANS, users can preserve and access information, based on their standard network permissions.

Q: What applications can I use with a ProStor InfiniVault?

A: ProStor InfiniVault has been tested with several dozen archiving and content management applications, including email archiving, ECM, and HSM applications, as well as scripts and system utilities like Windows Explorer. The list of tested applications grows on a regular basis, please visit prostorsystems.com for a complete list.

Competitive questions and answers

Q: Why is a ProStor InfiniVault better than tape, disk, or optical for long-term data storage?

A: A ProStor InfiniVault offers the best of fixed-disk solutions (high-performance, random access), and the best of removable solutions like tape or optical (offsite data protection, low power usage, infinite capacity). Retention management is simplified by ProStor InfiniVault, while compliance and disaster protection are automated. To achieve these same benefits with other technologies, additional software and hardware purchases are required. The integrated, information management software that is accessed through a simple GUI enables CAS, eDiscovery, audit tracking, and data management features and automatically makes one to four copies and/or replicates data for disaster protection.

Q: But why do you think a ProStor InfiniVault is better than SATA disk?

A: The main reason a ProStor InfiniVault is better than fixed disk is because fixed disk is not a complete long-term retention management system – there is no built-in protection for the data. Customers either have to buy two complete SATA-based systems, with expensive replication software or a removable solution (tape or optical), with its accompanying software, to make backups. In addition, fixed-disk archive systems do not scale as well – once the user’s system fills up, the end user has to purchase another system. With a ProStor InfiniVault, all users have to do is add removable disk cartridges to the system.

Q: Why is ProStor InfiniVault better than tape?

A: The main reason why a ProStor InfiniVault is better than using tape for retention management is that the sequential nature of tape does not allow for fast searching and rapid retrieval of information. In addition, tape requires data migration and drive replacement to manage forward- and backward-compatibility from generation to generation, as well as a host of other operational limitations.

Q: How about optical solutions, why is ProStor InfiniVault better?

A: All key vendors have exited the market – HP and IBM have announced end-of-life for their products. And Plasmon is no longer manufacturing. Consequently, drives and media are in short supply, and costs are skyrocketing. Furthermore, service and maintenance are only available thru 3rd parties and are very expensive. Finally, Blu-ray is a consumer-grade technology, and is not suitable for enterprise-level demands (50GB media limit). Optical storage users must make a decision about where to place their data before they run out of capacity or can no longer maintain their systems. A ProStor InfiniVault is the ideal optical storage replacement

ProStor Systems provides industry-leading solutions for the cost-effective, long-term storage of digital information. ProStor System’s RDX removable disk technology is sold by leading server manufacturers Dell, HP, IBM, and others who combined have shipped over 70 petabytes to 150,000 customers worldwide.



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