

# Re: Fibre Channel vs iSCSI

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  - *Date:* Fri, 22 Feb 2008 04:10:42 GMT
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"Suk" <[sukesh@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:sukesh@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:4eee5572-fcb4-4799-ad40-9277e1d9abaa@xx](mailto:news:4eee5572-fcb4-4799-ad40-9277e1d9abaa@xx)

Hi

I am thinking about investing in a SAN for my company & am not sure whether to go with Fibre Channel or iSCSI

In opensuse 10.3 which would be more favourable in terms of support for hardware , ease of configuration, manageability / maintainability etc?

Any opinions / experiences would be appreciated.

The simple answer is... there isn't one if you are looking for long term solutions.

Storage Area Networks are implemented for several reasons, but today the most popular seem to be as part of a virtualization effort and during storage consolidation projects. If you approach it from either point however you must understand your performance requirements – how much data, how fast, how far (remote replication?), how secure (encryption of data at rest or just the tapes leaving the site), etc.

Hardware and software support isn't really a concern if you stick with popular releases and experienced manufacturers. Configuration has become point and click in both protocols and even if you refuse to lose the CLI, neither is difficult to figure out. I notice you didn't mention stability or availability. You're going to pay hell trying to get redundant LANs everywhere since the LAN is typically the realm of the network cops and not the system or storage administrator. SANs however are avoided by the network guys and gals like the plague so there is typically less "coordination" that has to be done.

Neither did you mention cost, however iSCSI is much cheaper to implement since you probably already have an Ethernet infrastructure. Of course, if it is already heavily loaded you will probably strain it to the breaking point unless you put in a "data only" set of wires. If you have to do that then why not put in fabric?

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The new FCoE protocol seems promising, but it will require an entirely new infrastructure if you ever want to see the super high speeds promised. Then it will also probably be the most expensive because it will be the newest too.

If you are doing this as a learning experience then you can afford to try it yourself and make a few mistakes, but if you are doing this with the company's mission critical data talk to some of the SAN experts with the major storage vendors.

Of course like every other opinion you get from Usenet – your mileage may vary...

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Jim Carter  
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