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Vicom Systems Develops Industry's First Stand-alone Instant Tape Back-up and Restore

Net2Phone Becomes First Customer to Take Delivery of Cutting-Edge Data Storage Solution

Mountain View, Calif. – Vicom Systems, working with Net2Phone (NASDAQ: NTOP), announces the development and installation of the industry's first Fibre Channel stand-alone instant tape back-up and restore system (SAIB/R). The high availability, highly reliable storage system is designed to handle databases for e-commerce websites that must run continuously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can't afford shutdown time for tape back-ups or maintenance.

Vicom's hardware and software solution, chosen over industry giant EMC (NYSE: EMC), allows instantaneous tape back-up, and provides scalability, ease of use and ease of maintenance, all at a more attractive price point.

The new technology that makes possible this instant tape back-up capability is Vicom's SLIC programmable, high-speed storage routers, which enable connecting SCSI servers with SCSI or serial storage over Fibre Channel links. The SLIC (Serial Loop IntraConnect) router technology is Vicom's internal implementation of FC-AL (Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop), SSA, SCSI, and ANSI standards.

"Vicom is committed to providing next-generation storage solutions to dot coms who can't afford database downtimes," Sam Tam, CEO, Vicom Systems, said. "We want to change the way data is managed, from large monolithic storage systems to SANs," added Tam.

The Net2Phone hardware system consists of two Sun E6500 hosts, each with four JNI fibre channel adapters connected to two loops of 32 18Gbyte SSA drives via Vicom's SLIC Router FC-SL hardware. The Sun hosts are connected to a single 4Gbyte RAM drive which also helps performance. Each disk loop is configured as eight mirror drives and 16 "Instant Copy" drives for a total of 24 logical drives per loop. Each loop is presented to the hosts through two identical channels.

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Veritas Volume Manager with DMP provides channel failover handling and multi path performance. Veritas Cluster Server provides host failover. The tape backup is performed on a third host that is connected through Gigabit Ethernet and is controlled with Veritas NetBackup.

The software in this process, Vicom's Instant Copy Script, is integrated with the Solaris, Veritas, and Oracle software to coordinate an automatic tape back-up process that is run once per day. The 16 Instant Copy drives on each SSA loop are used as two different sets of backup copies of the eight mirror drives.

On day one, Instant Copy Set 1 is synchronized with the online mirror drives. When the rebuild is complete, Set 1 is broken from the mirror drives and mounted on the second host to be used for backup. Instant Copy Set 2 is now added to the eight online mirror sets to synchronize. On day two, Set 2 is broken from the mirror drives and mounted on the second host to be used for backup. Instant Copy Set 1 is now added to the 8 online mirror sets to synchronize. This sequence is repeated forever in a "round robin" process.

If one of the hosts fails, no backups are done until the failed host is repaired or brought back online. The Vicom Script will run on either host. All SSA drives are accessible as long as 1 host and 1 SLIC Router FC-SL are available per loop, enhancing reliability.

For more information about Vicom's SAIB/R system, call Heather McCoy at 650-964-6200, ext. 310 or email, hmccoy@vicom.com.

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About Vicom Systems

Vicom Systems, located in Mountain View, CA, is the leading supplier of storage area networks with more than 3,000 systems installed worldwide. Vicom has a distributor agreement with IBM (NYSE: IBM) and is a supplier of fibre channel storage routers to HP (NYSE: HWP). Vicom's storage routers are compatible with all Unix and Windows NT platforms, and all storage protocols. For more information on Vicom Systems and its products log on to Vicom's web site, <http://www.vicom.com>