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### **STORAGE PERFORMANCE COUNCIL'S SPC BENCHMARK-2™ PROVIDES OBJECTIVE COMPARISONS OF ENTERPRISE STORAGE SYSTEMS**

**Reno, Nev. – Computer Measurement Group (CMG) Conference – December 6, 2006** – The Storage Performance Council (SPC) today announced the public availability of SPC Benchmark-2™ (SPC-2), the second industry-standard benchmark for storage systems. SPC-2 gives storage end-users, resellers and integrators a clearly applicable, vendor-neutral process to accurately compare direct attach storage, network storage, and storage virtualization technologies. Details of this latest storage standard development will be discussed in a panel presentation at [CMG 2006](#), on Friday, December 8, 2006 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the Reno Ballroom of the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada.

"Customers frequently request objective, verifiable storage performance information as part of the evaluation and purchasing process," said Barry Rudolph, senior vice president and group executive for Storage Systems at IBM Corporation. "IBM is a consistent supporter of open and objective storage performance information and as a founding member of the SPC, IBM supports the use of SPC Results to provide that information. IBM's SPC-2, as well as SPC-1 Results, demonstrate 'world class' performance across a wide range of IBM products, from enterprise class storage arrays to midrange systems as well as virtualization solutions, and provide a positive response to the information requirements that our customers have expressed."

SPC-2 consists of three distinct workloads designed to demonstrate the performance of a storage configuration during the execution of business critical applications that require large-scale, sequential movement of data. Those applications are characterized predominately by large I/O Requests, which are organized into one or more concurrent sequential patterns. A description of each of the three SPC-2 workloads and additional information describing SPC Results is available at <http://www.storageperformance.org/results>.

The SPC has developed a complete multi-platform toolkit for SPC-2 that allows evaluation of performance and price/performance for a variety of storage technologies. SPC-2 is designed to:

- Establish a level playing field for SPC-2 Test Sponsors
- Provide value for IT consumers as well as solution integrators and engineers
- Produce official results in an easy-to-run, easy-to-audit/verify, and easy-to-use manner

To ensure authenticity, accuracy and compliance, the SPC requires successful completion of a formal results validation process – including audit certification and peer review – for each SPC-2 Result.

“Objective, verifiable storage performance information provides customers with the tools to cut through the hype and make better buying decisions,” said David Yen, executive vice president, Storage Group, Sun Microsystems, Inc. “SPC-2 Results have enabled us to put our Sun StorageTek arrays through their paces, demonstrating impressive large-block, sequential I/O performance and compelling price/performance. We’re also using SPC-2, as well as SPC-1 Results, to provide performance comparisons between various data protection mechanisms, such as mirroring and RAID-5. As a founding member of the SPC, we recognize the importance of independent storage performance information and continue to be an advocate for the use of SPC Results.”

The SPC-2 Toolkit is currently available for AIX, the Solaris™ Operating System (OS), and Windows Server 2003 (32-bit and EPIC 64-bit). Beginning January 8, 2007, the toolkit may be purchased online at <http://www.storageperformance.org>.

### **SPC Component-Level Benchmarks**

In a related significant development, an SPC-C Subcommittee has been formed to create two component-level benchmark specifications, SPC-1C and SPC-2C, which will be based on the corresponding SPC-1 and SPC-2 workloads. The addition of these component-level storage benchmarks takes performance evaluation and comparison to new levels by providing storage end-users, resellers and integrators the ability to specifically focus on individual products such as disk drives, host bus adapters (HBAs), intelligent enclosures, and storage software such as Logical Volume Managers.

"The development of SPC component-level benchmarks will allow Seagate to clearly present the performance and price-performance of its disk products," said Sherman Black, senior vice president and general manager, Seagate Enterprise Compute Business. "While SPC-1 and SPC-2 Results demonstrate disk drive performance in the context of large, complex storage configurations, there is currently no industry-standard benchmark specifically focused on the performance of individual disk drives. SPC-1C and SPC-2C will provide objective, verifiable performance information for these types of components. The two new benchmarks will enable Seagate to provide detailed performance information for its disk products, without using a large, complex storage configuration, which will allow performance comparison and positioning of various features such as rotation speed, recording technology, and industry standard interfaces such as Fibre Channel, SAS and SATA."

Both the SPC-1C and SPC-2C benchmark specifications will define a limited number of relevant storage configurations, which will be used to produce results. The defined configurations will be limited in size to ensure focus on a specific storage component, selected by the Test Sponsor, rather than the entire storage configuration.

A presentation with the details describing SPC-1C and SPC-2C is available at on the SPC website at [http://www.storageperformance.org/specs/SPC-1C\\_SPC-2C\\_Overview.ppt](http://www.storageperformance.org/specs/SPC-1C_SPC-2C_Overview.ppt). An SPC mailing list is available for interested parties to be notified when the two specifications are available for public review and comment prior to final approval. Registration for that mailing list is available at <http://www.storageperformance.org/specs/registration>. The SPC anticipates completion and approval of the SPC-1C and SPC-2C benchmark specifications no later than March 2007, with initial results to be announced at the same time.

### **About the SPC**

The SPC is a non-profit corporation founded to define, standardize and promote storage benchmarks and to disseminate objective, verifiable storage performance data to the computer industry and its customers. The organization's strategic objectives are to empower storage vendors to build better products as well as to stimulate the IT community to more rapidly trust and deploy multi-vendor storage technology.

The SPC membership consists of a broad cross-section of the storage industry. A complete SPC membership roster is available at <http://www.storageperformance.org/about/roster/>.

For more information, call 650.556.9384 or visit <http://www.storageperformance.org>.

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