

Demartek Lab Notes - April 2010

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Real-world, Hands-on
Research & Analysis

Lab Notes

April 2010

Welcome



Welcome to the **Demartek Lab Notes**, our monthly newsletter. This newsletter contains a few links to our recent lab evaluations, articles and upcoming speaking engagements. I look forward to continued discussions with you about these or other topics! We have recently updated the [Storage Networking Interface Comparison page](#). Have a look!

In This Issue

[Public Evaluations](#)
[Recent Articles](#)
[Upcoming Speaking Engagements](#)
[Quarch Equipment](#)

Quick Links

[Mailing List](#)
[All News & Reports](#)
[Demartek RSS Feed](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Public Evaluations

[Demartek Evaluation of Quarch Torridon Test Equipment](#)

Demartek evaluated the Torridon disk storage test equipment from Quarch Technology, Ltd. in the Demartek lab. This equipment provides automated testing functions for storage arrays by managing and manipulating the individual control lines between disk controllers and individual disk drives. The Torridon system allows for full automation of insertion and removal of disk drives from a storage enclosure without physically having to remove or insert the drives. The Torridon system also allows virtually any error condition to be programmatically created and repeated, with precise timings for each of the signals on the interface.



Recent Articles

[Demartek Article on SAN Consolidation With Director-Class Switches](#)

Dennis Martin has written an article describing Fibre Channel Director-Class Switches. A single director-class switch can replace multiple smaller switches while offering growth flexibility, high availability and a bevy of advanced features. The complete article is available at SearchStorage.com.



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[Demartek Commentary: Do We Really Need a 50-page Disaster Recovery Plan?](#)

On the March 2, 2010 Wikibon Peer Incite public call, we discussed how virtualization and cloud computing are influencing business continuity (BC) and disaster recovery (DR). One of the themes that emerged during the call was the notion that virtualization and cloud computing, either together or separately, might allow us to streamline some or all of our DR processes and procedures.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Storage Decisions Conference - June 9-10, 2010

Dennis Martin will present two sessions at the Storage Decisions Conference in Chicago, Illinois. These sessions are:



- Wednesday, June 9, 9:15 a.m.: [A Practical Guide to Fibre Channel over Ethernet](#)
- Thursday, June 10, 2:25 p.m.: [Deep Dive on SSD](#)

Drop me a line if you are going to be at Storage Decisions in Chicago!

Quarch Torridon System Available for Testing

Demartek expands its test capabilities into disk controller and interface testing using the newly acquired Quarch Torridon automated testing system. This system can be used to programmatically plug and unplug disk devices, alter individual signals on the interface and more.



The Torridon system provides test modules for 3.5-inch and 2.5-inch SAS and SATA disk drives, SBB cannisters, PSUs and data cables. It is suitable for complete system test automation, as well as fault injection and debugging down to the individual signal level.

Please contact us if you are interested in testing disk controllers or disk interfaces!

Dennis Martin
Demartek