

Demartek Lab Notes – February 2012



Welcome



Welcome to the **Demartek Lab Notes**, our monthly newsletter.

February - can't you just hear Sinatra singing, "I've got my love to keep me warm"? Well, we have no need to heat our offices at Demartek because our servers put off plenty of heat to keep us warm! And they're busy right now with plenty of lab validation tests.

Newsletter Sign-Up

If you received this email as a forward, it's easy to sign up for your own free copy of **Demartek Lab Notes**. Visit Demartek.com/Newsletter or text DEMARTEKLABNOTES to 22828 to join!

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Demartek News

[Demartek EMC VFCache Evaluation](#)

IT professionals are seeking ways to increase the performance of mission-critical applications and are looking to solid state storage as a way to make this happen. However, it is not economically feasible to replace large quantities of spinning hard disk storage with solid state storage. Are there ways to achieve significant performance gains with a small amount of solid state storage that are simple to manage?



[Demartek Shares Benchmark Output File Formats](#)

We run a variety of benchmark tools in the course of our lab validation tests. We were curious about the actual data that these tools write in their respective data files, so we decided to look inside these files, and share that data. Having knowledge of the data written by these benchmark tools can help decide which tool to use for certain types of tests.

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Demartek Expert Q&A: Five Questions on SSDs

Everyone wants better storage performance and solid state drive (SSD) devices can deliver data at phenomenal speeds while also saving energy. But can your data center's network handle the data equivalent of switching from a water bubbler to a fire hose before making such a costly investment? In this Q&A, storage expert Dennis Martin, founder and president of Demartek, a computer industry analyst organization, shares his insights on SSD technology and addresses the concerns every potential SSD adopter should consider.

Demartek SSD Giveaway

Demartek is giving away a second SSD - a [SMART Modular XceedIOPS 100GB SATA SSD](#), which features enterprise MLC (eMLC) flash. We will randomly draw a name from our newsletter subscribers for a new SSD giveaway on March 29, 2012. (This drawing has been delayed from its originally published date of February 29.)

Please watch [our website](#) for additional details.

This drawing is open to residents of the United States only. Employees of Demartek, their immediate family members, and any previous drawing winners are not eligible for this drawing.

SSD Deployment Guide to be Published at the end of February



The **Demartek SSD Deployment Guide** will be published at the end of February. This is the second in our series of **Demartek Deployment Guides**, the first being the [Demartek iSCSI Deployment Guide](#), which was published in 2011.

For participating vendors there will be a special, vendor-specific section of this guide that will provide in-depth content such as management, performance, ease of use, and other topics.

The video of the **Demartek SSD Deployment Guide** will be released on the [Demartek YouTube Channel](#) in early March.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Demartek to Present at SNW USA in April 2012

Dennis Martin, President of Demartek, will present three sessions and moderate in a panel session at the [Storage Networking World Conference \(SNW\)](#) on April 2-5, in Dallas, Texas. These sessions are:



- **Analyst Perspective and Test Lab Report:** Using File Server Protocols for Block-Based Storage Workloads
- **Analyst Perspective and Test Lab Report:** 16Gb Fibre Channel Performance and Recommendations
- **Analyst Perspective:** Fibre Channel and Fibre Channel over Ethernet Solutions for today and tomorrow - A Panel Discussion
- **I/O Virtualization - The Next Virtualization Frontier**

Demartek Presents Solid State Storage Half-day Seminars

In a relatively short time, solid-state storage has become a viable alternative for enterprise storage applications. It offers far superior performance over magnetic media while using much less power and creating little heat. Solid-state storage is, however, still considerably more expensive than spinning disk, so a cost-effective approach to

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implementation is required. In this free, multi-city, half-day seminar, Dennis Martin, President of Demartek, will cover the key solid-state technologies and the specs that users need to know, along with the various implementation alternatives.

Cities and Dates for these 2012 Half-day Seminars are:

- Tue. Mar. 6 - Los Angeles, CA
- Thu. Mar. 8 - Minneapolis, MN
- Thu. Apr. 5 - Toronto, ON
- Tue. Apr. 17 - Denver, CO
- Thu. Sep. 13 - San Diego, CA
- Thu. Sep. 20 - London, UK
- Tue. Oct. 16 - Washington, DC

Click the link to get the complete agenda and registration information for these [free, half-day TechTarget Solid State Storage Seminars](#). Stay current with the latest news for this seminar by following the Twitter hashtag [#SSDseminar](#).

Top Ten Most Popular Demartek Pages and Reports

We have a feature on our website that lists the top ten most popular pages and reports for the last four weeks, updating every Monday morning. Here's how it looked on February 6:



1. [Demartek Storage Networking Interface Comparison](#)
2. [Demartek Low Latency Evaluation of Fibre Channel, iSCSI and SAS Host Interfaces](#)
3. [Demartek Presents Robocopy at March 2011 RMWTUG Meeting](#)
4. [Demartek NetApp Multi-Protocol Storage Evaluation](#)
5. [Demartek Publishes Exchange Server 2003 vs 2007 vs 2010 I/O Comparison Summary](#)
6. [Demartek iSCSI Deployment Guide 2011](#)
7. [Demartek Publishes Evaluation of LSI WarpDrive Performance](#)
8. [Demartek Comments on the Consumer Electronics Show \(CES\) 2012](#)
9. [Demartek SSD Zone](#)
10. [Demartek News](#)

Be sure to check back every Monday to see which reports have been the most popular!

Demartek Videos Posted on YouTube

One unique feature we offer at Demartek is the option to have a video made of the results of lab validation tests we conduct. We uploaded our latest video on [EMC VFCache Evaluation](#) to our [Demartek YouTube Channel](#) this week. Our staff is busily working to publish some additional videos over the next couple of weeks, so keep checking back to see what's new.

I'm hoping to see many of you at the [SSD Seminars](#) or other upcoming industry events!

Dennis