



xangati

Xangati™ Removes Virtual Storage Blind Spots

The Virtual Storage Challenge

The migration to a virtual environment typically involves a comprehensive array of changes going far beyond just virtualization of physical servers. One of these changes is a shift from fiber channel based storage to IP based network-attached storage (NAS) using IP based storage protocols such as iSCSI or NFS. The move to IP based storage architectures is typically driven by the flexibility to have storage arrays accessible from anywhere across the network infrastructure. The challenge with this shift is organizations can lose the visibility they once enjoyed into their storage area network (SAN) traffic and performance – creating blind spots for the storage team. These blind spots appear because the comprehensive storage monitoring infrastructure previously in place no longer applies to this new IP based storage. Additionally, because IP based storage data can be accessed from any part of the IP infrastructure, the network team needs to get involved to ensure shared network resources are not adversely impacted by the new traffic which previously was managed by the storage team.

Configuration issues can adversely affect the performance of the new storage and also the performance of other applications. One of the most common examples is the mis-configuration of VLANs. While the intent is often to have a dedicated storage VLAN(s) to keep storage traffic separate from application and other traffic, too often configurations are set improperly, causing storage and application traffic to clash for resources. This leads to intermittent performance issues that are not detected or tracked by traditional monitoring solutions. Another common problem, especially with the advent of virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI), is a lack of solutions to help teams plan network capacity. Network capacity must account for the peak surges that occur when end-users are accessing their files across the network, traffic that likely never crossed the network before. This lack of insight into real usage surges and capacity constraints can adversely affect end-user experiences as they wait and wait and wait for their request to be completed.

The issue with existing monitoring solutions is they typically look at averages over time. With VDI and IP based storage it is essential to understand there will be surges during the day not captured by solutions using averages – like polling based solutions. For instance at the beginning of the day when users are logging into their desktops and starting up many applications and accessing many files – network requirements will be significantly higher than during mid-morning when activity moves to more steady state.

Xangati Eliminates Blind Spots for NAS in a Virtual World

Virtual Management for a Virtual World

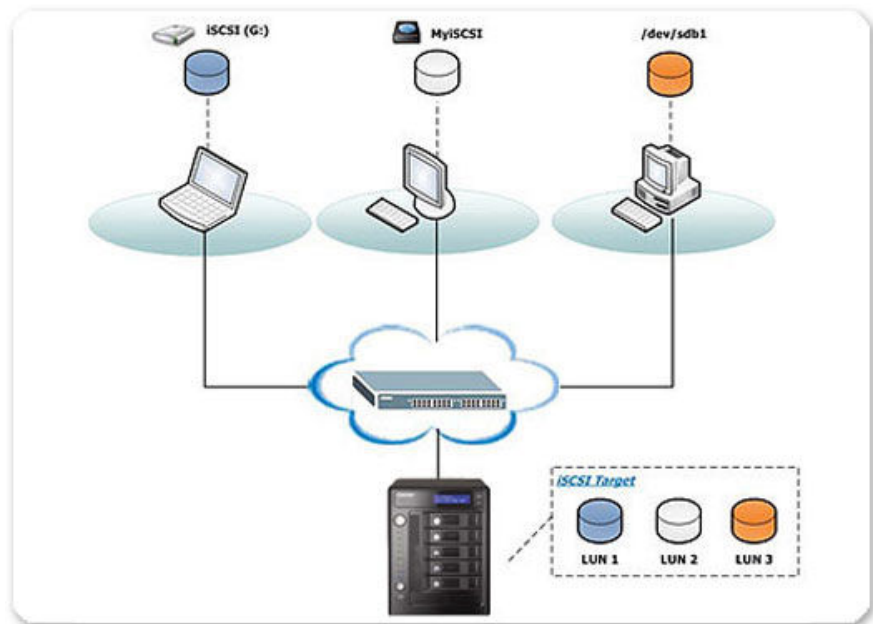
Xangati provides virtual management for a virtual world without agents or probes. It provides live, video-like visibility into the performance of each and every application, server, end-user device and network across an enterprise. This live visibility applies to IP-storage communications coming from both virtual and physical worlds. This live visibility eliminates the blind spots which have cost organizations like yours dearly implementing virtualization. In a virtual world with NAS, Xangati provides comprehensive visibility into storage traffic across the entire IP infrastructure. Storage teams have the ability to zoom into storage communications on any part of their network from a specific geographic location, subnet or VLAN to a specific device whether it is a hypervisor or the storage target. Within minutes of deploying Xangati you will have unparalleled live visibility into your NAS communications – and the confidence that your blind spots have been eliminated so your end users can work instead of calling to report problems.



Accelerating Virtual Storage Implementations

Xangati ensures that previously unseen configuration issues can be readily addressed. For instance each and every VLAN on the network can be monitored to in effect provide an audit on what traffic is traversing it. Through both live video-like visibility and the ability to generate extended reports the Xangati solution assures IT that no mis-configurations are present. Xangati can confirm iSCSI traffic is the only traffic traversing the specific VLANs that have been set up for storage traffic, and that no application traffic is traversing storage dedicated infrastructure. This ensures the integrity of the storage data and the performance of both the storage and the application infrastructure.

Xangati can track surges occurring within the storage infrastructure. Seeing and understanding these peaks means the network team can make sure the network capacity allocated is adequate for any given moment in time. With live, to-the-second visibility, IT can avoid the mistake of planning on averages which leads to unintended bottlenecks. By planning for peaks, like when all users are logging into their virtual desktops, the network will be fully available without any performance hiccups.



Xangati also provides a new level of just-in-time proactive alerting for your storage infrastructure. The Xangati solution will automatically track the profile (high watermark and low watermark) of each and every hypervisor, storage target, VLAN etc. and continuously compare the live information against the profiles. When a significant change in activity occurs, the system immediately begins a DVR-recording of the activity and also sends out an alert. For example, when a NAS-specific VLAN has less traffic than it should during a back-up cycle, the Xangati system will let the storage administrator be aware of the issue right away. With Just-in time proactive alerting your IT team will be aware of issues before they have an adverse affect on the end-user.

About Xangati

Xangati develops virtual management software for today's virtual world. Xangati provides live, video-like visibility into the performance of each and every application, server, network, and end-user device without agents or probes. This live visibility eliminates blind spots left by existing management tools and accelerates savings from virtualization initiatives. For more information, visit www.xangati.com.