



# All Flash Array Market Segmentation

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# AFA Market Can Appear Chaotic...

GIGAOM RESEARCH

## EMC goes all-flash, buys XtremIO for \$430M

by Derrick Harris May 10, 2012 - 8:00 AM PDT

nigelpoulton.com

A former big-iron guy now containerized and re-written in Go!

## XtremIO Craps on EMC Badge

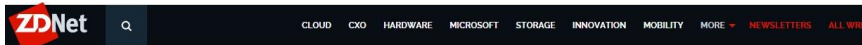
By Nigel Poulton | September 18, 2014



Josh Goldstein

## XtremIO Makes History with a Blowout Q4

Posted February 10, 2015 · Add Comment



## Cisco buys Whiptail for \$415 million amid solid-state storage run

By Larry Dignan for Between the Lines | September 10, 2013 -- 13:13 GMT (06:13 PDT) | Topic: Storage

CRN  
CHANNELWEB.CO.UK

## Pure Storage suffering UK growing pains?

Flash storage player fell well short of its sales targets in its Q1, according to multiple industry sources

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By Jack Gilbert

20 Jul 2015

The Register®  
Biting the hand that feeds IT

## Storage unicorns and their hyped-up horns

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.  
Cisco Drops Data-Storage Hardware Line

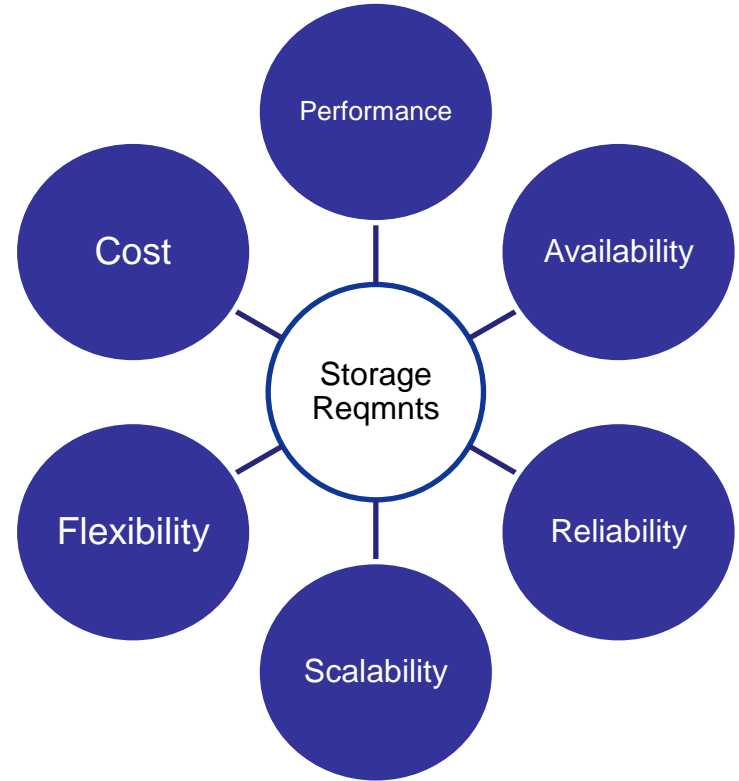
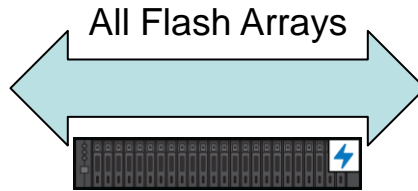
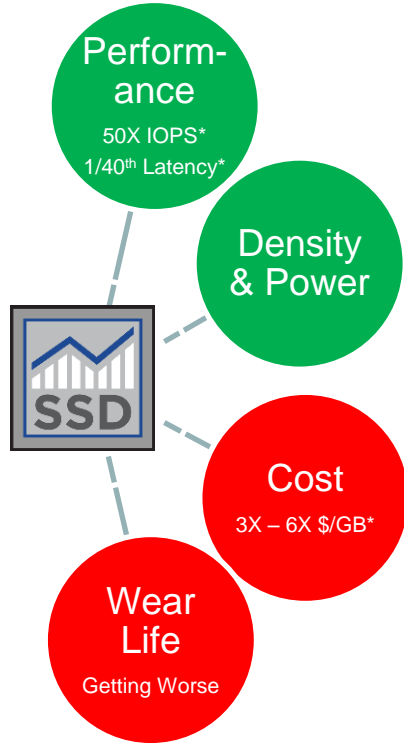
By DON CLARK  
July 24, 2015 4:52 p.m.

### Other Notable Events:

- Violin Memory went from ~40% share to <5%
- HGST buys Skyera
- Nimbus Data went from ~15% share to <5%

This is typical of new technologies

# Opportunity and Challenge of Flash



# Storage Requirements

Requirement	Details
Performance	Latency, IOPS, and throughput (GB/s)
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain data access through HW and SW failures (HA features)</li> <li>• Non-disruptive HW and SW upgrades</li> <li>• Non-disruptive operations (e.g. capacity &amp; performance balancing)</li> </ul>
Resiliency	Ability to protect data against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System failures – SSDs (e.g. RAID, RAIN), controller (multiple local copies)</li> <li>• Site failures: Async or sync replication for disaster recovery</li> <li>• User errors, corruptions: Snapshots, backup/recovery (to HDDs/cloud)</li> </ul>
Scalability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start small, then pay as your needs grow</li> <li>• Seamless scaling of performance and capability</li> </ul>
Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to choose storage services – SAN, NFS, SMB/CIFS</li> <li>• Ability to share storage for multiple applications and tenants – secure access, quality of service to manage service level objectives</li> <li>• Test and development copies – clones</li> </ul>

Lowest Cost Possible

## Storage Attributes

### High Performance

Low latency and high IOPS

### Availability

HA, non-disruption upgrade & operations

### Resiliency

Snapshots, replication, backup/recovery

### Scalability

Performance and capacity

### Flexibility

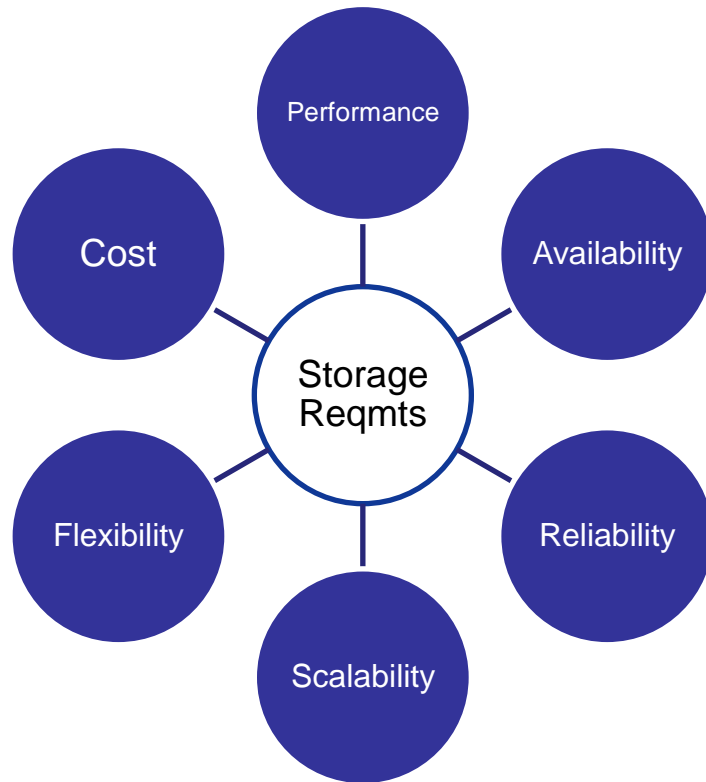
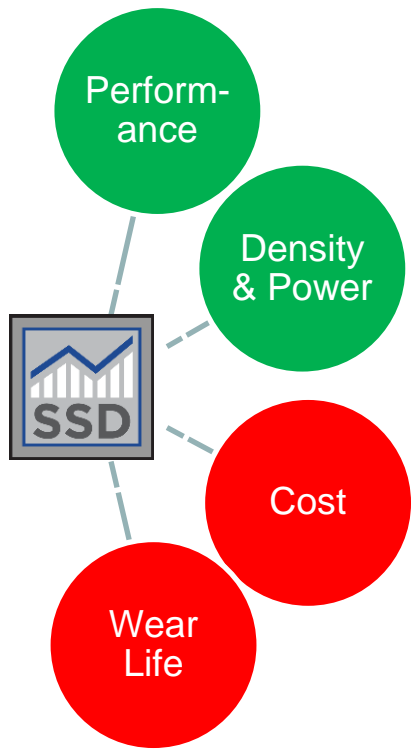
SAN & NAS, Multi-workload, multi-tenancy

### Cost

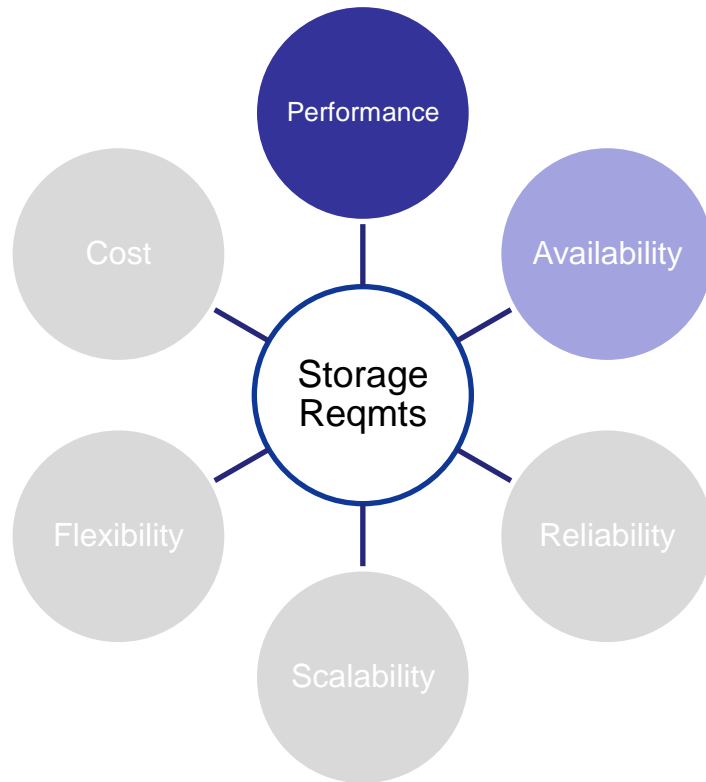
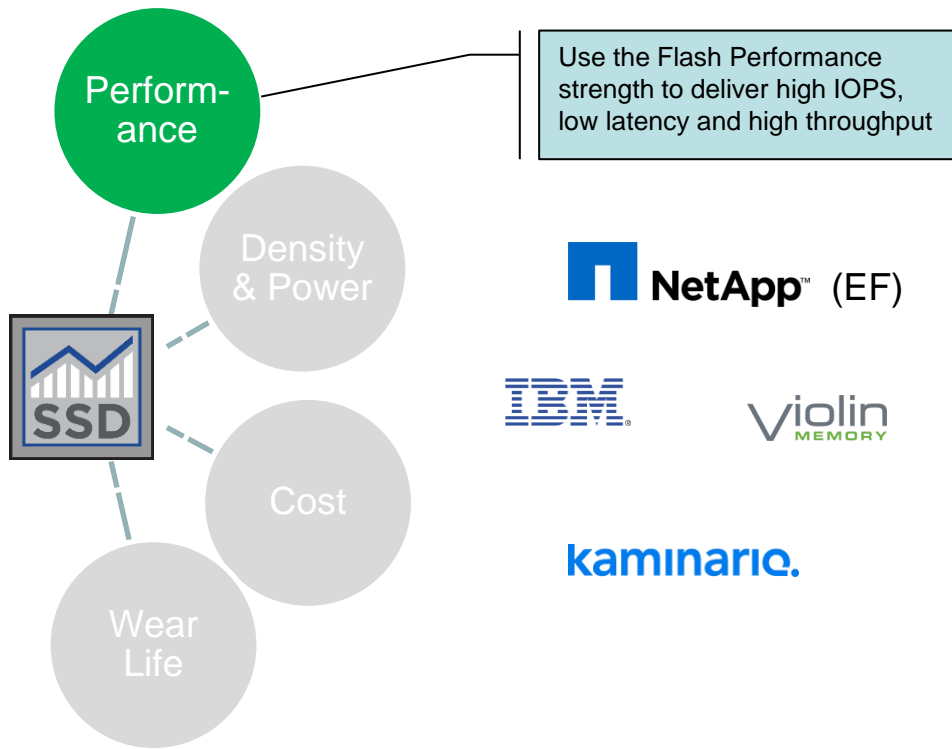
Total solution cost, cost/TB, cost/IOPS

- Common for all storage solutions
- Elevates the discussion to customer value

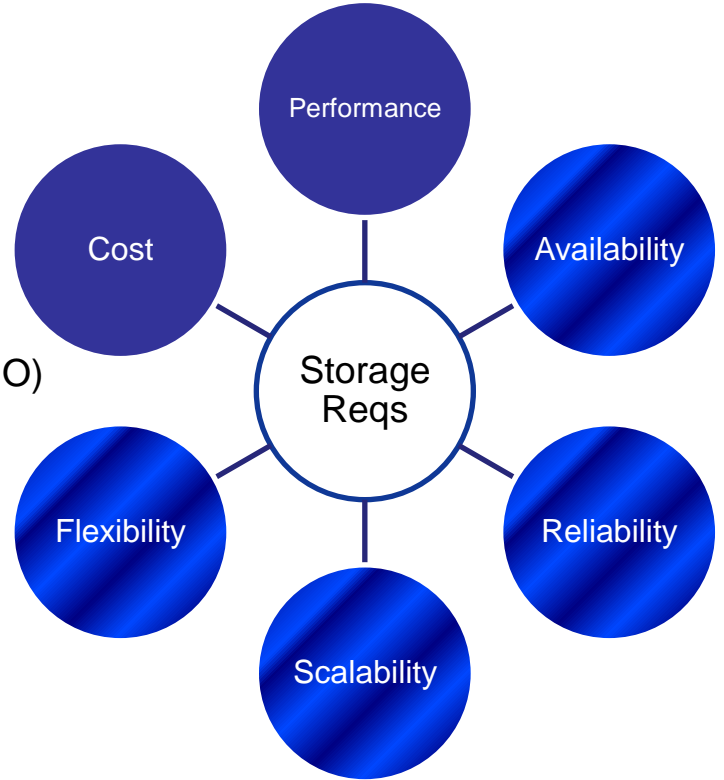
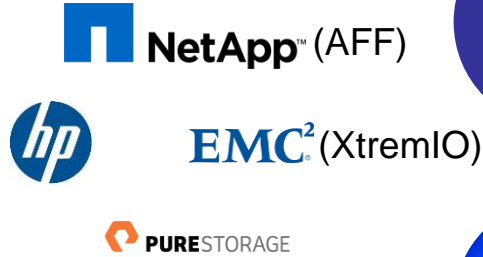
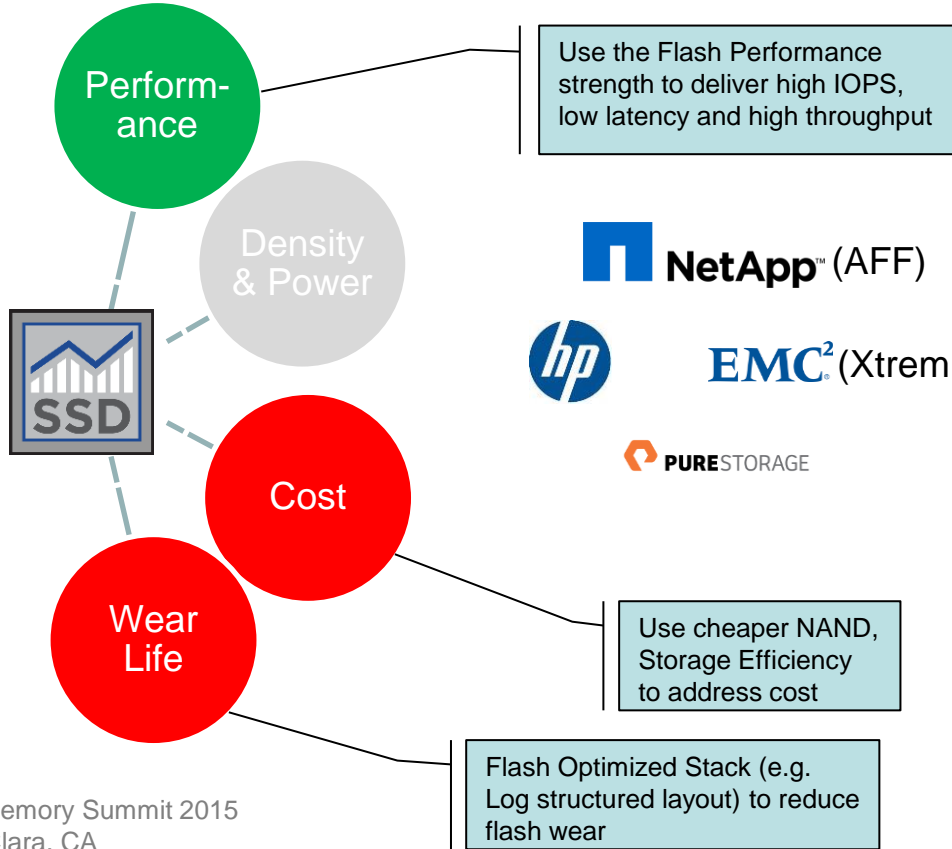
# Comparison of Architectures



# Performance Optimized Architectures



# Shared Storage Architectures





# Framework for Evaluating Storage Architectures

## Storage Attributes

**High Performance**  
Low latency and high IOPS

**Availability**  
HA, non-disruption upgrade & operations

**Resiliency**  
Snapshots, replication, backup/recovery

**Scalability**  
Performance and capacity

**Flexibility**  
SAN & NAS, Multi-workload, multi-tenancy

**Cost**  
Total solution cost, cost/TB, cost/IOPS

## Performance Optimized



No native capability or  
high perf impact

Capacity Scaling  
Only

Limited

\$/IOPS, \$/GB raw

## Shared Storage Architectures



Focus area but  
capabilities vary today

**Scale Out / Scale Up**

Focus area but  
capabilities vary today

\$/GB effective

# AFA Segments

	<b>Performance Optimized</b>	<b>Feature Rich Shared Storage</b>
<b>Deployment</b>	Small number of performance sensitive applications	Large number of applications sharing the storage services
<b>Data Management</b>	Done at the application layer	Consolidated at storage layer
<b>Scaling</b>	Scale Up	Scale Up or Scale Out
<b>Performance</b>	500K – 1M IOPS @ 0.5ms or lower	200 – 500K IOPS @ < 1ms
<b>\$/GB Range</b>	\$2 - \$4/GB (raw)	\$6 - \$8/GB (raw)
<b>Density</b>	1 - 2RU for 20TB	5-6RU for 20TB
<b>Storage Eff</b>	Generally no native storage efficiency	Dedupe, compression, thin provisioning
<b>Features</b>	low data mgmt features or have perf impact	Storage level snapshot, clones, replication, backup, etc

# Need for Scale Out

- AFAs deliver high performance density (IOPS/GB)
  - Given dual socket server can power limited capacity
  - Scaling up CPUs is not attractive from a cost & thermal envelope point of view
  - Avoid array sprawl
- Without scale out the solution is either:
  - Overpowered (i.e. higher cost) for lower capacity points, OR
  - Underperforming for higher capacity points
- Capacity and performance scaling
  - Expect linear scaling for virtualized environments, structured workloads
  - Often times non-linear scaling (capacity grows faster than performance needs) is a result of lack of data migration or tiering on primary

# Road Ahead

- Growing AFA adoption (at the expense of SAS HDDs) for primary data
- Feature-rich shared storage arrays
  - Adopt PCIe connected 3D/TLC NAND to reduce costs and improve perf
  - Scale out will become the differentiating capability
- Performance-only AFAs:
  - Continued pressure
    - Feature rich arrays on cost / value
    - Host forms of flash for performance
  - Integration with Protocol “Gateways” and storage efficiency appliances
- Flash solutions exploiting high density, low power advantage of flash



# Thank You!