

VIFX Storage Automation Quickstart

Things to remember

- Size and complexity of the environment
- Degree of change
- Outsourced functions

Did you know?

- To achieve near-term success, the storage automation effort should be limited to something that's realistically deployable and shows immediate payback within three to six months
- VIFX Professional Services help companies of all sizes simplify the tool selection process, accelerating the project and allowing completion in a significantly shorter timeframe



Service Description

Storage networks are among the most critical networks in any enterprise, yet they can often be quite complex to understand and manage. Often, they contain numerous physical and virtual storage devices, servers and switches, require multiple protocols, and can span multiple sites. Storage and network operations teams often struggle with achieving adequate visibility into the networked storage environment, resulting in a challenging management dilemma.

Companies are finding ways to automate processes that used to be painstaking, tedious and expensive to handle. For example, storage tiering and change management priorities can now be dialed up from anywhere in the world on central, Web-based consoles supplied by a rapidly growing number of vendors.

Underpinning all cloud [storage and computing] delivery is automation.

VIFX's storage automation quickstart enables companies to get a definitive overview of the tools and together with VIFX, design the processes required to deliver a dynamic infrastructure to internal or external clients

Outcomes and Benefits

- Comprehensive understanding of the tools available on the market (best-of breed or platform specific)
- Rigorous selection/evaluation rounds in combination with hands-on demonstration days ensure client comfort with specific tools and associated functionality within a testing or client environment if possible.
- Automation process blueprinting ensure tools are utilized in the most effective manner possible

Methodology

Discovery and Assessment

Using automated tools to gather information about the virtual and physical hosts and the storage infrastructures, VIFX professional services gain insight into the client infrastructure which allow them to build out a comprehensive list of tools suited to automate the client environment.

Evaluation / Selection

VIFX's Professional Services Team assist in standardizing and simplifying the typically protracted evaluation process that could potentially encompass hundreds of similar products. Certified consultants across multiple platforms (Netapp, EMC, HP, IBM) do a first round screening to evaluate functionality according to client environment, staff background and other pre-defined criteria. The client shortlist makes the second round, where VIFX certified consultants design demonstration/hands-on days where the IT staff evaluate each product within a test environment. Wherever possible this stage should be done within the client environment.

Blueprinting and Implementation

During the blueprinting and implementation phase, all automation processes are designed to ensure operational readiness and immediate tool utilization. VIFX specialists work together with the client to map and validate all change processes necessary and ensure IT staff is skilled in the day to day management aspect of the toolset.

Documentation and Acceptance / Skills Transfer

Confirming that your expectations are met is an important step. VIFX reviews the implementation results, delivers documentation, and completes any necessary product orientation before considering the project complete. Although skills transfer occurs during the project, VIFX acknowledges that additional training days may be required to fully complete technical capabilities.

VIFX Professional Services

VIFX professional services combine exceptional strategic guidance together with unparalleled technology expertise to provide organizations the necessary ability to address business information and technological challenges and derive the greatest level of value from existing and/or newly purchased information assets and investments. Our entire organization is fully committed and dedicated to exceeding customer expectations, on every single engagement.