BROCADE NETWORK ADVISOR AND VMWARE VCENTER SOLUTIONS

NETWORK MANAGEMENT

Delivering VM Administrators Visibility into SAN Infrastructure Health

HIGHLIGHTS

- Bridges operational gaps across VM, server, network, and storage administrators with end-to-end network visibility
- Enables visibility into the health and performance of SAN infrastructure as it relates to VMs
- Displays VM SAN connectivity in the vSphere client
- Empowers VM administrators with network bottleneck identification for faster problem resolution

KEY MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Managing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in today's dynamic network environment requires seamless coordination across a wide range of elements. Often, organizations end up working with numerous network management tools in order to provide uninterrupted services for virtual, physical, and cloud data center infrastructures. Server virtualization results in the increased sharing of storage resources via Storage Area Networks (SANs). Any connectivity degradation between VMware® ESX/ESXi servers and its shared storage resources can have an adverse impact on one or more Virtual Machines (VMs). This poses a new management challenge, that is, to correlate the impact on storage networking resources to VMs. Often, this is a non-trivial operation and customers spend hours or days trying to isolate whether performance issues were due to server, network, storage, or application issues, or a combination of them. Adding further complexity to this equation, VM mobility calls for a management solution that not only monitors and relates health of the SAN to IT administrators but also tracks the dynamic mobility of these VMs and the persistence of the networking policies associated with them.

Meeting the challenges of a complex, dynamic, and virtualized data center environment requires an integrated management solution that provides both end-to-end network visibility and a scalable, standards-based architecture that seamlessly integrates with existing management platforms. As a trusted data center infrastructure partner, Brocade® brings experience to organizations relying on VMware vCenter for the management of their systems infrastructure. With Brocade Network Advisor, Brocade delivers a unified network management solution across data, storage, and converged networks, as well as seamless integration with VMware vCenter.

Brocade Network Advisor is the industry's first and only unified network management solution for data, storage, application, and converged networks. It supports Fibre Channel (FC) SANs, Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE), IP switching and routing, wireless, and Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) networks—providing both end-to-end network visibility and comprehensive lifecycle management capabilities across these different network types in a single application via a seamless and unified end-user experience.

vmware® BROCADE

With the seamless integration between Brocade Network Advisor and VMware vCenter via the Management Plug-in, VM administrators are better able to meet performance and availability requirements for applications and address issues before they impact the ability to meet SLAs.

BROCADE NETWORK ADVISOR MANAGEMENT PLUG-IN FOR VMWARE VCENTER

Brocade Network Advisor uses open, standards-based interfaces to seamlessly integrate with VMware vCenter and to help bridge operational gaps across VM, server, network, and storage administrators. The Brocade Network Advisor Management Plug-in for VMware vCenter offers workload-aware resource optimization that is extensible through VMware Infrastructure.

Brocade Network Advisor populates VMware vCenter with SAN connectivity information as it pertains to the VMs—fabric details, switch details, performance statistics, event messages, and intelligent recommendations that IT administrators can implement. This provides VM administrators with a single pane of glass view across VMs, its connections through the SAN, and its connectivity to its storage LUNs (see Figure 1).

Additionally, link details of important traffic flows (configured within the fabric as end-to-end monitors) are displayed and tracked by the Management Plug-in (see Figure 2). With this information, Brocade Network Advisor helps VMware administrators to quickly identify network bottlenecks in the environment, including the ability to view performance statistics or errors that could be causing poor application performance. This improves coordination across administrative silos and dramatically improves Mean Time to Resolution (MTTR).

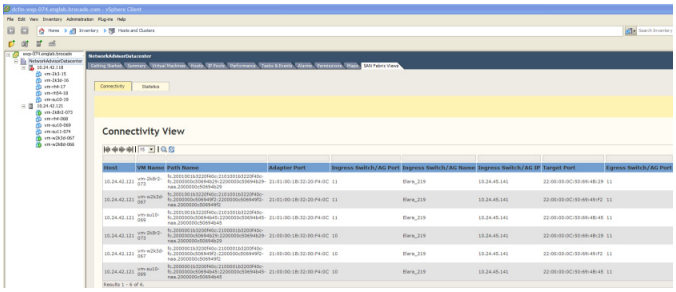

Figure 1. Provides SAN fabric and switch details to VMware vCenter

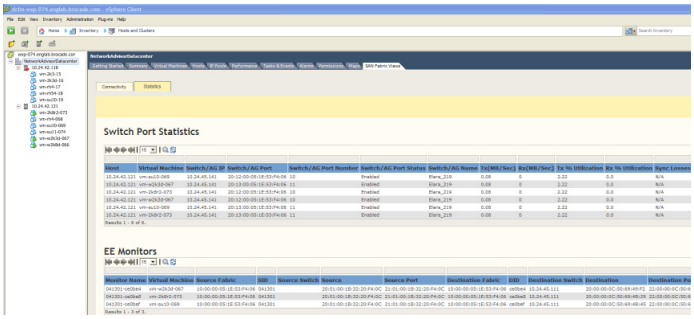

Figure 2. Provides end-to-end fabric visibility and performance statistics.

The Brocade Network Advisor integration with VMware vCenter helps ensure that customers maintain SLAs and required performance for improved server and application availability in virtualized data centers.

Brocade Management Plug-in System Requirements

- Brocade Network Advisor 11.0 or later Professional Plus or Enterprise managing Brocade-based SAN Fabrics
- VMware vCenter Server 4.0 or later

LEARN MORE

Brocade partners with companies of all sizes to deliver innovative solutions that help organizations maximize the value of their most critical information. To learn more about Brocade validated solutions with VMware technologies visit www.brocade.com/vmware.

ABOUT VMWARE

VMware accelerates an organization's transition to cloud computing, while preserving existing IT investments and enabling more efficient, agile service delivery without compromising control. With more than 190,000 customers and 25,000 partners, VMware helps organizations of all sizes lower costs, preserve freedom of choice and energize business through IT while saving energy—financial, human, and the Earth's.

VMware, Inc.
World Headquarters
3401 Hillview Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94304 USA
www.vmware.com

ABOUT BROCADE

Brocade networking solutions help the world's leading organizations transition smoothly to a virtualized world where applications and information reside anywhere. This approach is based on the Brocade One™ unified network strategy, which enables a wide range of consolidation, convergence, virtualization, and cloud computing initiatives.

Brocade helps organizations achieve their most critical business objectives through unmatched simplicity, non-stop networking, application optimization, and investment protection. Learn more at www.brocade.com.

Corporate Headquarters
San Jose, CA USA
T: +1-408-333-8000
info@brocade.com

European Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
T: +41-22-799-56-40
emea-info@brocade.com

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Singapore
T: +65-6538-4700
apac-info@brocade.com

© 2010 Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 11/10 GA-SB-1540-00

Brocade, the B-wing symbol, BigIron, DCFM, DCX, Fabric OS, FastIron, IronView, NetIron, SAN Health, ServerIron, TurboIron, and Wingspan are registered trademarks, and Brocade Assurance, Brocade NET Health, Brocade One, Extraordinary Networks, MyBrocade, and VCS are trademarks of Brocade Communications Systems, Inc., in the United States and/or in other countries. Other brands, products, or service names mentioned are or may be trademarks or service marks of their respective owners.

Notice: This document is for informational purposes only and does not set forth any warranty, expressed or implied, concerning any equipment, equipment feature, or service offered or to be offered by Brocade. Brocade reserves the right to make changes to this document at any time, without notice, and assumes no responsibility for its use. This informational document describes features that may not be currently available. Contact a Brocade sales office for information on feature and product availability. Export of technical data contained in this document may require an export license from the United States government.

BROCADE