

Re: 2003 Cluster + SAN – do I need multipath software?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.clustering/2007-10/msg00311.html>

- *From:* "Ryan Sokolowski [MVP]" <ryan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 26 Oct 2007 13:02:35 –0700
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Yes, do NOT use the basic HBA drivers out of the box; move to the latest supported STORPort drivers.

Again, to clarify the distinction: this does NOT solve the multi-path issue. You will STILL need to install / configure multipathing software from your SAN vendor (i.e. – EMC: PowerPath; HP – SecurePath).

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Ryan Sokolowski
MVP – Windows Server – Clustering
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Yup, two HBAs going to two different SAN switches.

I guess the built in driver from the server OS isn't the same (even though it reads the same version – 9.1.4.15) as the one on the Qlogic website, because I see duplicates when I rescanned with Disk Management. I even went about updating it using the SAN Surfer Driver Update Wizard, but stopped because the versions matched.

I'll give that one on the website (which describes itself as a STOR miniport driver) a try even though the versions are the same.

Thanks,
Bruce

"Ryan Sokolowski [MVP]" <ryan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:%23wXf6FAGIHA.5272@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

If you use 2 HBAs or have 2 SAN Switches or otherwise have 2 or more paths to the storage, you should use multipath software (from your SAN vendor) AND always use a certified STORPort HBA driver.

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"Bruce Lautenschlager" <brucel.spamless@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:eG0Fv\$\$FIHA.1184@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I've created several clusters before, but always using direct attached storage. Now I'm creating a new Windows Server 2003 cluster for a file server using 2 nodes, both IBM X346 series servers with two IBM FAStT FC2-133 HBAs (essentially a rebranded Qlogic QLA2340) in each server connected to an IBM DS6800 SAN.

I'm reading everything I can about clustering and SANs...

From this link:

<http://technet2.microsoft.com/windowsserver/en/library/0997f844-730c-47e2-bb2c-41123e>

I read that I need to install multi-path driver software...but it looks like that's only for Windows 2000, because inserted in that paragraph is:

"Windows Server 2003 will detect the fact that the same volume is being exposed twice. If such a situation arise Windows Server 2003 will not mount the volumes exposed by controller 2 that have were already exposed by the controller 1."

So am I correct to assume that Windows Server 2003 is good to go with 2 HBAs in each node and won't get confused and need the multi-path driver that a Windows 2000 based cluster would?

Thanks in advance,
Bruce Lautenschlager

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