

NEW PRODUCT



GATEWAY²

Cross-Platform File Mover

- Channel speed file movement - dramatically faster
- NonStop to Mainframe or Mainframe to NonStop
- Minimizes "sneakernet" operations tasks
- Eliminates use of physical tapes
- More reliable - no more tape media errors
- Appears as native tape drives on NonStop systems and mainframes
- No applications changes required
- Particularly suited to BASE24 users

Purpose

Many NonStop systems exchange data with mainframes on a regular basis, such as handing off end-of-day account data and receiving start-of-day data. This is common among BASE24 installations. The usual method of accomplishing this is to write data on physical tape media on one system and read it on the other system. But this approach has a number of problems:

- It is relatively slow
- It frequently involves operations personnel actions
- Tape media is prone to errors
- Many NonStop tape drives are near end-of-life

Approach

Gateway² uses the proven technology of ETI-NET's BackBox virtual tape product to permit NonStop applications to write and read virtual tapes on an intermediate staging storage area. A similar technique is used to permit Mainframe applications to write and read virtual tapes in that staging area. By means of scripting in the Gateway² subsystem, applications in the target system can be made aware of virtual tapes that have completed staging from the source system and are available to be read.

Background

Gateway² builds on ETI-NET's experience with its high-performance EZX/Gateway product, which was implemented using shared StorageWorks XP arrays. Not only has the need for an XP array been eliminated, but the operational coordination between the NonStop system and the mainframe has been significantly simplified. Intermediate staging for virtual tapes in transit can be on the customer's choice of storage subsystem.

NonStop System Connection

Gateway² attaches to NonStop S-series systems via SCSI and to NS Integrity systems via Fibre Channel. It transparently emulates multiple native tape devices and is managed by SCF and Mediacom, like physical drives. Virtual tape volumes are managed using Guardian media manager software such as DSM/TC or TMFCOM, and tapes are automatically cataloged when created. Gateway² also automatically mounts the virtual volumes requested by tape applications and provides scratch tape storage management.

Mainframe Connection

Gateway² attaches to Mainframe systems via ESCON or FICON. It transparently emulates multiple native mainframe tape drives.

Fault-tolerance and Linear Expandability

Gateway² embodies the NonStop principles of fault-tolerance and linear expandability. Its management software, catalogs and metadata are resident on the NonStop system, enabling protection via TMF.

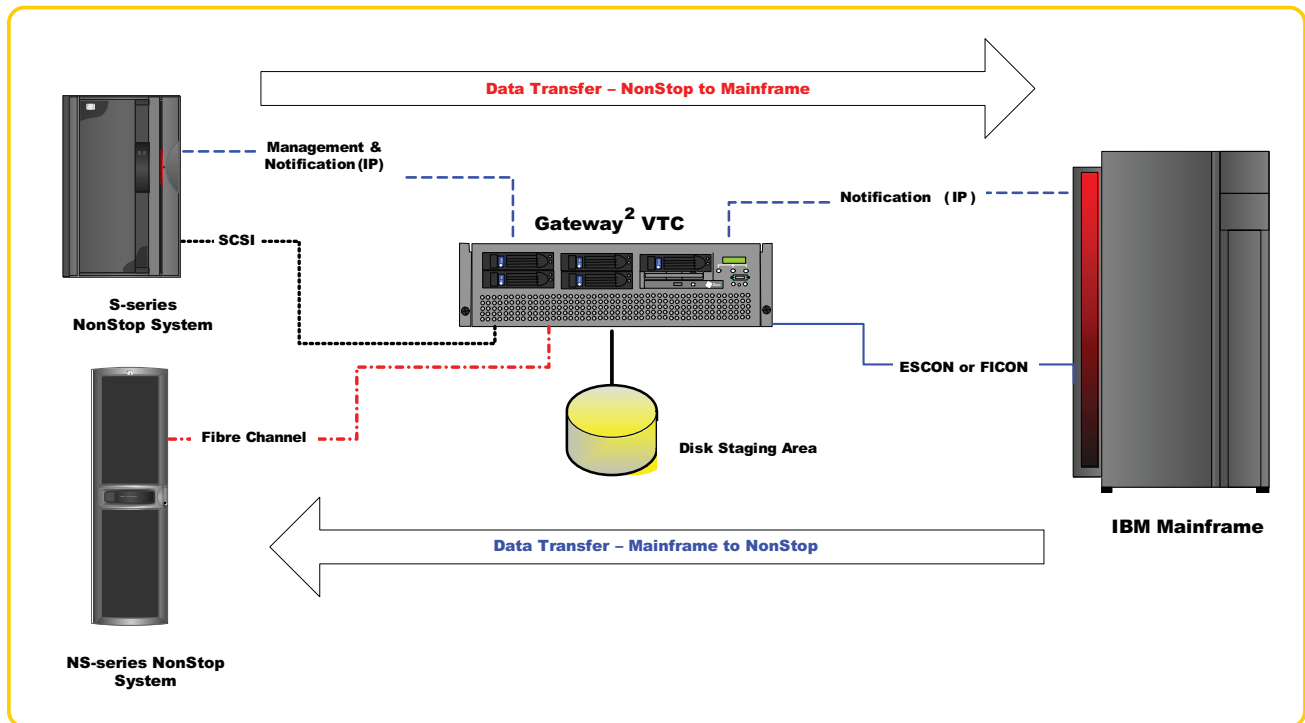
The external platform for Gateway², the Virtual Tape Controller (VTC), is context free so that failures do not endanger storage or retrievability of data held on virtual tapes.

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Share Use for NonStop Backups

The same VTC platforms used for Gateway² can be used to implement ETI-NET's BackBox virtual tape product, enabling their use for NonStop backups and restores. Storage of virtual tapes created by applications such as Backup, BRCOM or TMF, can be on the customer's choice of storage subsystems, or can be integrated into an Enterprise Storage Management system, such as Tivoli Storage Manager.

Performance

A Gateway² VTC can handle simultaneous tape I/O streams for multiple devices on multiple SCSI busses or Fibre Channel ports. Perhaps most importantly, multiple VTCs can be used independently to linearly increase throughput.

And in multiple VTC configurations, failure of a VTC can be accommodated by automatic re-routing of data transfers or backups via the remaining VTCs.

Summary

- Transfers growing amounts of data in shrinking transfer windows
- Channel speed transfers on each platform
- Configurations of multiple VTCs can handle massive transfers
- Configurable for fault tolerance - no more transfer failures caused by equipment malfunction
- Takes advantage of the customer's choice of storage subsystems
- Frees up operations administrator time for more valuable tasks
- Simple to implement - no application changes needed
- Can combine with BackBox - the most reliable and cost-effective virtual tape solution for NonStop