

# Lefthand Network's VSA?

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[Josh](#) 3 posts since

Sep 22, 2007

What do you think about Lefthand's new Virtual SAN appliance? Is that a neat idea or what? The ability to make any server a SAN array as long as it has ESX. Has anyone tried this yet? What do you think of the idea of using this for DR? I'm a little leary about using in production environment, but if you're a SMB with ESX, seems like a nice alternative to NAS or DAS. There is a 2TB limitation, do you think this is due to VMFS file size limitation? I guess if you have multiple VSA's, you can cluster them and increase you storage size.



[saqibj](#) 1 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 1. **Re: Lefthand Network's VSA?** Sep 27, 2007 6:00 PM

I was wondering what would be the specific advantages of

using the VSA to NAS for ESX in SMB environments?



[Richard Powers](#) 1 posts since

Sep 20, 2007 2. **Re: Lefthand Network's VSA?** Sep 29, 2007 7:48 AM

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I think that it's a cool idea for Small sites that don't have much technical support or knowledge of ESX and it could be package all together. The only thing missing is the Network. It does have the option to mirror that 2 TB of Data across at least 2 ESX servers to support redundancy. One thing that was mentioned in the session if you have some other Lefthand product, you can do block level copies of the storage back to a Data Center. I'm seriously consider evaluating it to see how well it works and if it would be a fit for those backwater datacenters that don't have either NAS, ISCSI or SAN available. But of course it depends on the price as well.

-RichPo



[Scott Flinders](#) 1 posts since

Aug 8, 2008 3. **Re: Lefthand Network's VSA?** Sep 23, 2008 9:23 AM

 in response to: [Richard Powers](#)

This would actually be a very decent addition to any remote offices/sites. Currently, we have many sites (over 100), with many hosting twenty or less people - they are part of the closest large (100+) sites. The large sites have their own domain controller, SMS distribution point, etc.

The advantage of having the VSA, IMHO, is to create a SAN with replication between two ESX servers - HA through scripting would work - you would have true redundancy, and the option to replciate to an off-site SAN asynch (off hours) would allow DR to be readied immediately.

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This is really not a SMB solution - it is really targeted toward enterprises with multiple sites that need data replicated between each site and their central DC or their DR Site. I have looked at Lefthand Networks in the past, but have never really been interested, since their products duplicate our existing SAN environment, but being able to put it in ESX and point back home to replicate, that is awesome. I am going to be trying out the VSA soon.

My only downside on this is that it does not handle true data deduplication, which would make it a true killer app if it did. I spoke at length with their technical manager and explained my vision for real time data deduplication, etc., which he said he'd bring back home to the engineers.