Foreword

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the great American essayist, philosopher, and poet, once said that the invariable mark of wisdom is seeing the miraculous in the common. Today, common miracles surround us, and it is virtually impossible *not* to see them. Most of us have modern gadgetry such as digital cameras, video camcorders, cell phones, fast computers that can access millions of websites, instant messaging, social networking sites, search engines, music downloads … the list goes on. All of these examples have one thing in common: they generate huge volumes of data. Not only are we in an information age, we're in an age where information is exploding into a digital universe that requires enhanced technology and a new generation of professionals who are able to manage, leverage, and optimize *storage and information management* solutions.

Just to give you an idea of the challenges we face today, in one year the amount of digital information created, captured, and replicated is millions of times the amount of information in all the books ever written. Information is the most important asset of a business. To realize the inherent power of information, it must be intelligently and efficiently stored, protected, and managed—so that it can be made accessible, searchable, shareable, and, ultimately, actionable.

We are currently in the perfect storm. Everything is increasing: the information, the costs, and the skilled professionals needed to store and manage it—professionals who are not available in sufficient numbers to meet the growing need. The IT manager's number one concern is how to manage this storage growth. Enterprises simply cannot purchase bigger and better "boxes" to store their data. IT managers must not only worry about budgets for storage technology, but also be concerned with energy-efficient, footprint-reducing technology that is easy to install, manage, and use. Although many IT managers intend to

hire more trained staff, they are facing a shortage of skilled, storage-educated professionals who can take control of managing and optimizing the data.

I was unable to find a comprehensive book in the marketplace that provided insight into the various technologies deployed to store and manage information. As an industry leader, we have the subject-matter expertise and practical experience to help fill this gap; and now this book can give you a behind-the-scenes view of the technologies used in information storage and management. You will learn where data goes, how it is managed, and how you can contribute to your company's profitability.

If you've chosen storage and information infrastructure management as your career, you are a pioneer in a profession that is undergoing constant change, but one in which the challenges lead to great rewards.

Regardless of your current role in IT, this book should be a key part of your IT library and professional development.

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