

Concerned About the StorageX / NetApp VFM End-of-Life?

Introducing the StorageX Swap-Out

Brocade (NuView) StorageX and NetApp VFM are Winding Down

On May 1st 2009, Brocade initiated the End-Of-Life (EOL) process for the StorageX, File Lifecycle Manager (FLM), MyView and File Management Engine (FME) products. According to a notice on the company's website, these products are no longer sold as of November 2009, with all support to be discontinued by 2012. Several products from other vendors are also affected due to reseller relationships, including the NetApp VFM product suite, IBM System Storage N series Virtual File Manager[®] (VFM[®]), and Hitachi StorageX.

Read Brocade's full letter to customers at:

http://www.brocade.com/downloads/documents/end_of_availability_notice/Brocade%20EOL%20Letter%20Files%20-%20direct.doc

How This EOL Announcement Will Impact You

Brocade states that StorageX will continue to be supported until 2012; however maintenance costs for StorageX will increase by 10% each year. There will also be no further modifications, enhancements of upgrades for StorageX or associated platforms.

In a world where new demands are being placed on storage administrators every day, a lack of innovation in a platform can be crippling. Users rely on their vendors to deliver products that will evolve and support them into the future – and that's why StorageX customers are looking for an immediate replacement.

Let AutoVirt Be Your White Knight

AutoVirt has a solution for StorageX and VFM customers. AutoVirt's file virtualization and data management product is a software-only solution that serves as a drop-in replacement for StorageX or VFM and can be installed in a matter of minutes.

Software that works. AutoVirt overcomes limitations of Microsoft DFS's global namespace architecture, upon which StorageX and VFM were built. AutoVirt can get your stalled project moving again.

No budget surprises. We understand that you have committed capital and operating budget for a product that no longer exists. AutoVirt's flexible licensing models can be tailored to fit your particular needs, so you have no surprises to your budget.

*AutoVirt rescued my project!
I started out using Brocade
StorageX, but the product did
not perform as advertised. Then
it was suddenly discontinued.
AutoVirt got me back up and
running in no time, and the tran-
sition was quick and painless."*

— Bruce Jamieson
A&W Food Services of Canada Inc.

Transitioning From StorageX to AutoVirt

If you are a StorageX user, you'll be amazed how easy the transition to AutoVirt is – both from a functional standpoint and an operational one.

Functional Comparison

AutoVirt provides a global namespace that directly replaces the DFS Namespace Server that is part of the StorageX solution, without any loss of functionality. The AutoVirt solution supports high availability and unlimited scalability without relying on AD distribution or Microsoft Cluster.

See the table to the right for a detailed comparison of the two solutions.

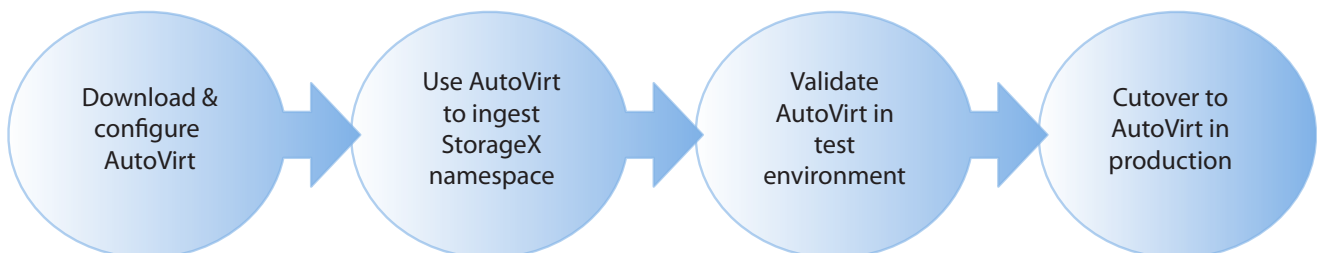
CAPABILITY	StorageX	AutoVirt
Global Namespace Management	✓	✓
Embedded Distributed File System		✓
File Server Import	✓	✓
In-Place Virtualized UNC		✓
Migration	✓	✓
Replication	✓	✓
Consolidation	✓	✓
Tiering	✓	✓
Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity	✓	✓
Folder-Level Archiving	✓	✓
File-Level Archiving		✓
DFS-R	✓	✓
Reporting	✓	✓

AutoVirt provides policies equivalent to those found in StorageX, but also contains some key differences. Among them:

- Embedded Global Namespace:** While StorageX is implemented on top of a Microsoft DFS namespace infrastructure, AutoVirt functions as its own global namespace, eliminating any dependencies on Microsoft DFS. However, AutoVirt is still fully compatible with all the elements of Microsoft DFS and Microsoft DFS-R.
- In-place UNC Preservation:** AutoVirt's Global Namespace design allows you to virtualize your existing UNC names in-place across clients, so that embedded links, shortcuts and references to Windows shares across client systems do not need to be updated as part of the transition or anytime afterwards – even if the physical hardware changes.
- File-Level Archiving:** Archive policies can be specified for individual files, as opposed to complete folders. This gives you more control over storage management.

Non-Disruptive Cutover

Installing AutoVirt and cutting over to it is a simple process that can be done in a few simple stages, minimizing risk to your environment and ensuring that client systems are not disrupted while the cutover takes place.



The cutover happens in four steps:

1. Download and configure the AutoVirt software in as little as 30 minutes.
2. Use AutoVirt's import filer to load StorageX's namespace information.
3. Validate the configuration in a test environment.
4. Click AutoVirt's cutover button to switch clients to AutoVirt's namespace. The change will only take a second, and after redirection is suspended in StorageX and started in AutoVirt, clients will begin using AutoVirt's global namespace transparently.

End-users will notice no change after AutoVirt has been activated. Meanwhile, the StorageX system can remain running for emergency backup purposes for a period of time.

Take the Next Step

We are excited to bring you the StorageX Swap-Out Program, and we are confident that you will see how easy it is to upgrade from a StorageX/VFM environment to AutoVirt. To learn more about our solutions or get started building your AutoVirt file virtualization and management infrastructure, please call 603-546-2900, e-mail info@autovirt.com, or visit <http://www.autovirt.com/Product/autovirt-instead-of-storagex.cfm>.

About AutoVirt

AutoVirt's file virtualization solution eliminates the biggest obstacle to any file management project: user disruption. By virtualizing access to files, AutoVirt allows IT administrators to build a file environment where data can be migrated, consolidated, replicated, or tiered across any number of physical devices without ever affecting users or changing applications. This means that, for the first time, IT departments can move data around while it is in use, dynamically route users to disaster recovery (DR) sites, and tier data transparently to cost-effective platforms, driving significant savings in storage hardware and management. AutoVirt's software-only platform installs easily and requires no changes to existing infrastructure. For further information, please call 603-546-2900, e-mail info@autovirt.com, or visit www.autovirt.com.



File Virtualization | Data Migration