

# Arkivio & Nexsan Technologies Reduce TCO Through Tiered-Storage Automation

## IT Challenges

Organizations today continue to experience an explosion in the growth of on-line data and the demand for higher storage capacity. In response, IT Departments are building out their storage infrastructure to meet these critical needs. However, meeting the demand for increased storage capacity is only one aspect of the problem and does not address the costly administration burdens of storage. In a period of budget-conscious decision making, IT Departments are under the same intense pressures as other lines of business to reduce costs and tighten operational efficiency.

Tiered-storage, if implemented properly, can optimize the placement of data on the most appropriate storage class in order to reduce costs and improve productivity levels. However, the key challenges for IT are the identification of which data to migrate from one storage class to another and the automation of the data migration process. Imagine how inefficient and time consuming it would be if Administrators had to personally examine each file, move the files using custom scripts from one storage tier to the next, and go to end users' client systems to change file access paths.

## The Solution

Fortunately, the unique combination of Arkivio, Inc. and Nexsan Technologies allows IT managers to automate tiered-storage implementation in order to reduce storage costs and automate administration tasks, which together significantly reduce the TCO of your storage assets. Cost correct enterprise and departmental storage solutions, such as Nexsan's ATAboy2™, ATAbaby™, and ATABeast™ disk-based RAID systems drive down the cost per Megabyte to well under 1 cent. IT managers can not only buy significantly more storage for less, they can also migrate data residing on their high-cost legacy storage to the high capacity Nexsan systems in order to reduce their overall cost per terabyte and extend the useful life of their legacy systems.

**Step One: Data Storage Assessment** - as a starting point, implement a data storage assessment in order to develop an accurate picture of your storage resource availability and the value of your data.

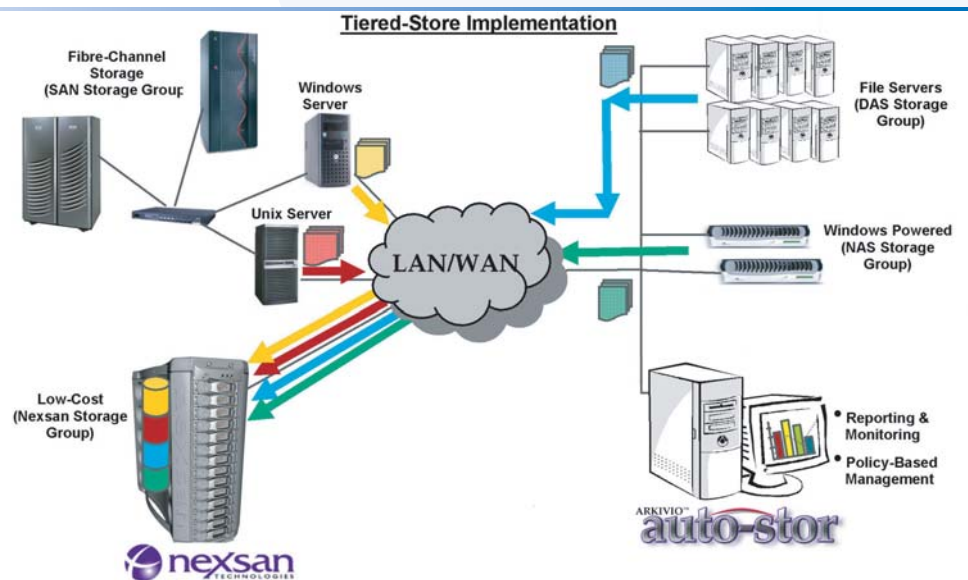
- 1 Install the ARKIVIO™ auto-stor software onto a standard Windows 2000 server connected to the local area network.
- 2 The ARKIVIO™ auto-stor software automatically discovers all the storage volumes on the network and their contents without requiring installation of remote server agents.
- 3 The IT manager can quickly generate reports on total capacity (available and used) and data usage patterns. (i.e. # files, directories, most active files, stale data, file types, size etc.)

**Step Two: Global Administration** - the next step is to organize, classify, and prioritize all the information assets - across multiple storage volumes - into global File Groups and Storage Groups.

- 1 The ARKIVIO™ auto-stor software allows the Administrator to create custom File Groups using attributes such as file type, extension, age, size, last modified/accessed, owners, or priority. (i.e. CAD/CAM files larger than 1 megabyte not access within 180 days)
- 2 Similarly, create Storage Groups that logically organize volumes using attributes such as storage type, cost, capacity, and make/model. (i.e. high-cost SAN storage and low-cost Nexsan storage)

**Step Three: Policy-Based Automation** - the final step is to configure the ARKIVIO™ auto-stor policy migration engine that will evaluate the value of the data in order to optimize its placement on the most appropriate class or tier of storage.

- 1 Select the File Groups and Storage Groups that will participate in the migration policy. As illustrated below, the SAN/DAS/NAS storage groups become the source of migration and the low-cost Nexsan storage group become the target.
- 2 Set a migration threshold (i.e. 70%) and if any volume within the source storage groups exceed this threshold, the data in the File Group (i.e. CAD/CAM files greater than one megabyte and not accessed within 180 days) migrate to the high capacity Nexsan systems.
- 3 Data Migration is completely transparent to users and applications. If the users need to access the migrated files again, they are automatically and immediately recalled to their original location.



## Customer Benefits

From this point forward the Arkivio/Nexsan tiered-storage solution automatically directs data to the appropriate storage class optimizing the company's cost per managed terabyte of storage. As new storage is added to the network or additional files are created by users, the appropriate resource groups and migration policies are automatically updated.

Additional benefits include:

- Lower cost per terabyte by increasing utilization of Nexsan cost correct storage systems
- Reduce costs by deferring hardware acquisitions on legacy primary storage
- Improve administration efficiency through Nexsan's advanced GUI and Arkivio's policy-based automation of manual tasks
- Improve capacity planning and automated response to storage issues through real-time monitoring and reporting and policy-based administration
- Eliminate downtime due to capacity shortages

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