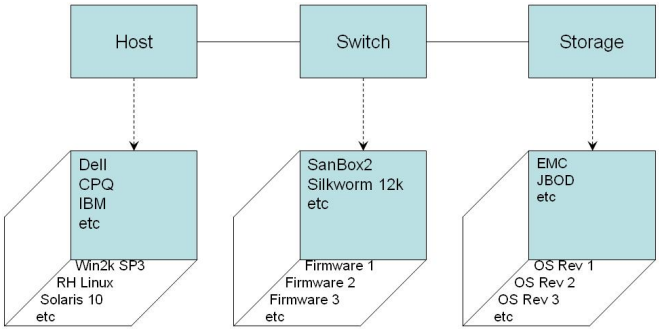
Lab Manager Case Study: Storage Area Networking DVT Lab

QLogic has dramatically improved productivity throughout their DVT and EVT labs. This document provides an overview of the challenges QLogic faced before implementing the Lab Manager solution, and the benefits gained after implementing the solution.

The Challenges:

- **DVT testing requires unique and dynamic configurations, and the existing lab contained static configurations that could not be fully utilized**
- **Automation tools had been in use for a year, but they did not sufficiently allow for real-time user interactions or modifications**
- **Existing automation tools did not provide enough information and control to the engineers**
- **No real-time data was fed back to users**
- **No control over which engineers could use which equipment existed**

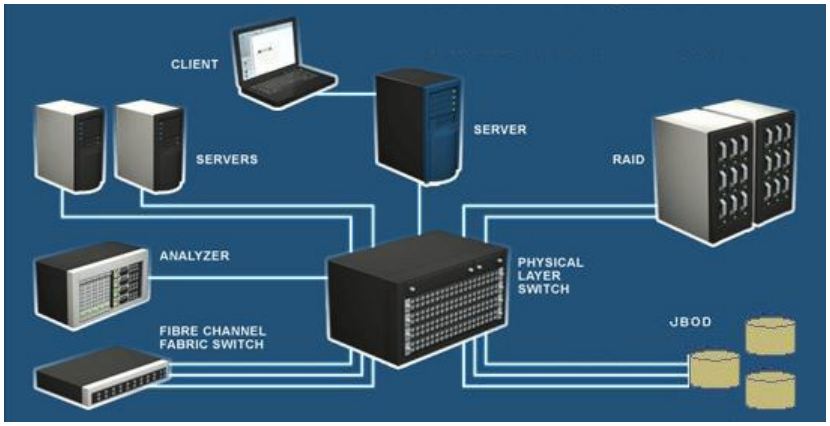


Test Requirements: An array of devices and software/firmware versions need to be tested in different combinations

The Solution

Gale Technologies created a software-controlled architecture made up of:

- Over 7,000 ports of Fibre Channel physical layer switches for interconnecting three classes of devices – Hosts, SAN Switches, and Storage devices – and Analyzers



Result: Clients can change and schedule configurations instantly through physical layer switching infrastructure

- Lab Manager software managing all switching infrastructure and providing user interface for engineers to control automated reconfigurations, multi-user access domains, sharing of all resources, scheduling
- Training for around 100 engineers who are using the Lab Manager system

Key Benefits

QLogic almost immediately reaped the benefits of the Lab Manager solution, which provided all of the features that their previous automation solution couldn't: real-time control by multiple users, readily accessible device and user information, and easily-reconfigured topologies. The solution made more efficient use of their layer one switches, and furthermore, allowed QLogic to purchase switches from multiple manufacturers and mix those switches with their existing infrastructure, completely transparently to the users of the system. The dramatic savings in time and resources led the company to implement Lab Manager solutions in several other labs throughout the company, in multiple departments and geographic locations.

- Fully automated test beds are controlled by an easy-to-use graphical user interface
- Dynamic topologies are easily cycled through any permutations
  - Any Host-SAN Switch-Storage combination can be created instantly
- Where appropriate, devices can be shared by multiple users
  - SAN switches are shared during some types of tests
- Real-time device and usage information are available from an intuitive GUI
- Devices may be exclusively assigned to engineers or available for everyone to use
- Links may be easily made and broken in real time
- A mix of physical layer switches from multiple manufacturers are used

Quantitative Results

- Cost savings are derived from having abandoned an existing automation solution that was costing tens of thousands of dollars monthly
- Cost savings are derived from optimized utilization of devices across multiple test topologies
- Test times are drastically reduced and time to market demands are met
- Similar systems are now installed throughout the organization, providing sharable configurations and improved communications between DVT and EVT labs in both local and remote geographies

Learn More

- The information provided in this document briefly describes some of the capabilities and benefits of Gale Technologies' Lab Manager. Please contact Gale via sales@galetechnologies.com for additional information, or visit us at www.galetechnologies.com.

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