

Pure Storage

Many puts and takes for FY25 guide; Raising PO to \$42

Reiterate Rating: NEUTRAL | PO: 42.00 USD | Price: 39.23 USD

Wide range of outcomes for FY25

PSTG will report its F4Q24 earnings later this month on February 28th, 2024. While the spending backdrop for Enterprise storage is slowly recovering, we see the consensus rev growth projection of +11% in FY25 as discounting a somewhat optimistic scenario. We project a range from 8.5%-15.5% y/y rev growth based on various scenarios of market growth, PSTG outgrowth, and headwinds from transition to Evergreen//One. We model just under 10% assuming higher headwinds from a shift to subscription revs and expect FY guidance to reflect this. Reiterate Neutral on risk/reward balance as higher mix of SaaS revenue and next-generation Flash product is balanced by risk from weaker macro and near-term headwinds from higher ratable revenues.

Storage demand stabilizing in 2024 but remains muted

We forecast the market for external storage to recover from the 10% decline in 2023 and grow +2% y/y in 2024. Assuming consistent market outgrowth relative to history of 10%-15% on an annual basis, we expect the total baseline growth of the company to be from 12% to 17% in FY25. However, when factored in headwind of 3-5pts from Evergreen//One and Telco deal impact tailwind of 1.5pt, we conclude that the total adjusted revenue growth is within the range from 8.5% to 15.5% (See Exhibit 1). Given continued customers' adoptions of Evergreen//One, we model F25 support revenue to grow +20% y/y (vs. our prior estimate of 18%) to \$1.4bn and adjusted our estimate for F25 product revenue to grow +2% y/y (vs. our previous estimate of +4% y/y) to \$1.6bn.

Incremental demand from hyperscalers, META not in ests

Mgmt. expects to see a crossover point for hyperscalers once the company starts shipping 150 terabyte modules in FY25. We have not incorporated any potential upside to revs from Hyperscaler and similarly do not include any upside from META.

Adjusting estimates; PO moves to \$42

Our F25E rev/EPS move to \$3.1bn/\$1.47 vs. our prior estimate of \$3.1bn/\$1.54. Our PO moves to \$42 (from \$36) on 3x (unchanged) C25E EV/Sales. We roll-over to C25E based valuation.

Estimates (Jan) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	0.74	1.42	1.39	1.47	1.81
GAAP EPS	(0.50)	0.23	0.15	0.24	0.45
EPS Change (YoY)	289.5%	91.9%	-2.1%	5.8%	23.1%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			1.36	1.52	1.69
DPS	0	0	0	0	0
Valuation (Jan)					
P/E	53.0x	27.6x	28.2x	26.7x	21.7x
GAAP P/E	NM	170.6x	261.5x	163.5x	87.2x
EV / EBITDA*	34.9x	20.0x	19.4x	18.3x	15.1x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	2.5%	4.9%	3.4%	3.6%	4.4%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method SM measures, see page 6.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 7 to 9. Analyst Certification on page 5. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 5.

Timestamp: 22 February 2024 05:00AM EST

22 February 2024

Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	36.00	42.00
2024E Rev (m)	2,821.5	2,822.8
2025E Rev (m)	3,110.9	3,093.9
2026E Rev (m)	3,437.9	3,604.5
2024E EPS	1.38	1.39
2025E EPS	1.54	1.47
2026E EPS	1.72	1.81

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Stock Data

Price	39.23 USD
Price Objective	42.00 USD
Date Established	22-Feb-2024
Investment Opinion	C-2-9
52-Week Range	22.14 USD - 45.34 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out	12,396 USD / 316.0
(mn)	
Free Float	93.7%
Average Daily Value (mn)	139.45 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	PSTG / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	PSTG US / PSTG.N
ROE (2024E)	40.5%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Jan-2023A)	-107.1%
ESGMeter™	High

ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of BofA Global Research's equity investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating, and price objective for that company. For full details, refer to "BofA ESGMeter Methodology".

iQprofile[™] Pure Storage

IQmethod *** - Bus Performance*					
(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Return on Capital Employed	10.1%	16.0%	11.3%	12.8%	14.6%
Return on Equity	29.6%	52.9%	40.5%	32.1%	29.7%
Operating Margin	10.9%	16.6%	16.0%	15.6%	17.0%
Free Cash Flow	308	609	420	448	542

*i***Q**method SM − **Quality of Earnings***

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash Realization Ratio	1.8x	1.7x	1.3x	1.3x	1.2x
Asset Replacement Ratio	1.2x	1.6x	1.6x	1.4x	1.6x
Tax Rate	NM	20.4%	41.3%	31.2%	23.3%
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	-83.1%	-107.1%	-107.3%	-104.2%	-101.3%
Interest Cover	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Income Statement Data (Jan)

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Sales	2,181	2,753	2,823	3,094	3,605
% Change	29.5%	26.3%	2.5%	9.6%	16.5%
Gross Profit	1,514	1,946	2,060	2,242	2,607
% Change	28.5%	28.5%	5.8%	8.8%	16.3%
EBITDA	320	558	575	611	739
% Change	176.5%	74.2%	3.2%	6.1%	20.9%
Net Interest & Other Income	1	10	36	45	45
Net Income (Adjusted)	223	448	453	491	611
% Change	315.8%	101.3%	1.1%	8.2%	24.6%

Free Cash Flow Data (Jan)

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	(143)	73	50	82	151
Depreciation & Amortization	83	100	123	127	127
Change in Working Capital	138	259	81	33	29
Deferred Taxation Charge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Adjustments, Net	332	335	357	386	436
Capital Expenditure	(102)	(158)	(192)	(180)	(200)
Free Cash Flow	308	609	420	448	542
% Change	232.2%	97.8%	-31.1%	6.7%	21.2%
Share / Issue Repurchase	(115)	(154)	(33)	0	0
Cost of Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	0
Change in Debt	(13)	(277)	(594)	0	0

Balance Sheet Data (Jan)

(US\$ Millions)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash & Equivalents	1,413	1,582	1,492	1,939	2,482
Trade Receivables	542	612	721	806	935
Other Current Assets	237	282	303	341	371
Property, Plant & Equipment	195	272	346	399	473
Other Non-Current Assets	748	796	771	771	771
Total Assets	3,135	3,545	3,634	4,257	5,031
Short-Term Debt	0	575	0	0	0
Other Current Liabilities	952	1,177	1,298	1,383	1,493
Long-Term Debt	787	0	100	100	100
Other Non-Current Liabilities	642	852	939	1,009	1,086
Total Liabilities	2,381	2,604	2,337	2,492	2,680
Total Equity	754	941	1,297	1,765	2,351
Total Equity & Liabilities	3,135	3,545	3,634	4,257	5,031

^{*} For full definitions of $\emph{\textbf{IQ}}\textit{method}^{\text{SM}}$ measures, see page 6.

Company Sector

IT Hardware

Company Description

Pure Storage is a leading vendor in the All-Flash Array market that addresses the larger \$12bn Tier-1 Storage Area Network market as well as the \$6bn NAS market. All-Flash Arrays are disrupting Hard Disk Drives given better performance, better durability, higher reliability, lower power consumption, and a smaller footprint. The company disrupts traditional selling models by allowing customers to use the same hardware for up to ten years, offering free upgrades every 3 years for a service fee.

Investment Rationale

Our Neutral rating is based on risk-reward balance where positives including improving subscription rev, and mix shift to high-margin software/aaS revs is balanced by risk from an economic slowdown, component shortages and higher flash pricing.

Stock Data

Average Daily Volume 3,554,705

Quarterly Earnings Estimates

	2023	2024
Q1	0.25A	0.08A
Q2	0.32A	0.34A
Q3	0.31A	0.50A
Q4	0.53A	0.46E



Exhibit

Exhibit 1: PSTG revenue trajectory

We expect PSTG F25E to grow in the range of 8.5% to 15.5% y/y. We currently model 9.6% y/y F25E rev growth.

	F24E	F25E	F26E
Overall external storage market growth	-10%	2%	7%
PSTG market outgrowth	10 to 15%	10% to 15%	10% to 15%
Total growth baseline	0% to 5%	12% to 17%	17% to 22%
Headwind from Evergreen//One	-3% to -5%	-3% to -5%	-3% to -5%
Growth net of Evergreen//one headwinds	-5% to 2%	7% to14%	12% to 19%
Telco deal impact	-1.5%	1.5%	0.0%
Growth adj for Telco	-6.5% to 0.5%	8.5% to 15.5%	12% to 19%

Source: Company reports, Gartner, BofA Global Research estimates

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Model

Exhibit 2: PSTG Income StatementWe model F25E rev/EPS of \$3.1bn/\$1.47

	FY24E				FY25E			Fiscal Years					
(\$ millions, except per share amounts)	Apr-23	Jul-23	Oct-23	Jan-24	Apr-24	Jul-24	Oct-24	Jan-25					
	Q1A	Q2A	Q3A	Q4E	Q1E	Q2E	Q3E	Q4E	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Non-GAAP													
Product Revenue	309.0	399.7	453.3	457.8	343.4	384.6	423.0	494.9	1,442.3	1,792.2	1,619.8	1,645.9	1,921.8
Support Revenue	280.3	288.9	309.6	324.1	345.5	355.7	368.1	378.8	738.5	961.3	1,203.0	1,448.0	1,682.7
Total Revenue	\$589.3	\$688.7	\$762.8	\$781.9	\$688.8	\$740.2	\$791.1	\$873.7	\$2,180.8	\$2,753.4	\$2,822.8	\$3,093.9	\$3,604.5
Product COGS	90.1	113.8	121.9	134.3	103.1	119.3	129.1	148.6	458.5	545.6	460.1	500.2	588.8
Support COGS	73.7	73.7	76.1	79.1	84.0	86.4	89.4	92.1	208.1	261.4	302.7	351.9	408.9
Total COGS	163.9	187.5	198.1	213.4	187.1	205.8	218.6	240.7	666.7	807.0	762.8	852.0	997.8
Product Gross Profit	218.9	285.9	331.3	323.5	240.3	265.2	293.9	346.3	983.8	1,246.5	1,159.7	1,145.7	1,333.0
Support Gross Profit	206.6	215.2	233.4	245.0	261.5	269.2	278.6	286.8	530.4	699.9	900.3	1,096.2	1,273.8
Total Gross Profit	425.5	501.1	564.7	568.6	501.8	534.5	572.5	633.1	1,514.2	1,946.5	2,059.9	2,241.8	2,606.8
R&D	147.1	138.4	138.2	146.5	147.9	147.2	163.2	171.2	439.7	530.8	570.2	629.5	704.5
S&M	215.3	213.2	212.5	225.2	223.0	223.0	228.7	270.0	727.6	811.1	866.2	944.7	1,083.3
G&A	43.5	37.7	44.8	45.3	43.0	43.0	47.9	49.6	109.9	147.3	171.2	183.5	207.0
Total Operating Expense	405.8	389.3	395.5	417.0	414.0	413.2	439.8	490.8	1,277.1	1,489.2	1,607.7	1,757.7	1,994.9
Operating Profit (Loss)	\$19.6	\$111.8	\$169.2	\$151.6	\$87.8	\$121.3	\$132.7	\$142.3	\$237.1	\$457.2	\$452.3	\$484.1	\$611.9
Financial Income (Expense)	12.4	6.8	5.3	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	0.6	10.1	35.8	44.7	44.7
Pretax Income	32.0	118.7	174.6	162.8	99.0	132.5	143.9	153.4	237.6	467.3	488.0	528.8	656.7
Taxes	7.3	7.6	9.0	11.4	6.9	9.3	10.1	10.7	14.8	18.7	35.3	37.0	46.0
Net Income	\$24.7	\$111.1	\$165.6	\$151.4	\$92.1	\$123.2	\$133.8	\$142.7	\$222.8	\$448.6	\$452.7	\$491.8	\$610.7
EPS	\$0.08	\$0.34	\$0.50	\$0.46	\$0.28	\$0.37	\$0.40	\$0.43	\$0.74	\$1.42	\$1.39	\$1.47	\$1.81
Sharecount													
Basic	305.9	309.5	314.2	316.2	318.2	320.2	322.2	324.2	285.8	299.5	311.4	321.2	329.2
Diluted	317.0	326.6	330.3	330.8	332.8	333.3	334.3	334.8	300.9	315.7	326.1	333.8	337.8
Analysis													
% of Revenue													
Product Margin	70.8%	71.5%	73.1%	70.7%	70.0%	69.0%	69.5%	70.0%	68.2%	69.6%	71.6%	69.6%	69.4%
Service Margin	73.7%	74.5%	75.4%	75.6%	75.7%	75.7%	75.7%	75.7%	71.8%	72.8%	74.8%	75.7%	75.7%
Gross Profit	72.2%	72.8%	74.0%	72.7%	72.8%	72.2%	72.4%	72.5%	69.4%	70.7%	73.0%	72.5%	72.3%
R&D Rate	25.0%	20.1%	18.1%	18.7%	21.5%	19.9%	20.6%	19.6%	20.2%	19.3%	20.2%	20.3%	19.5%
S&M Rate	36.5%	31.0%	27.9%	28.8%	32.4%	30.1%	28.9%	30.9%	33.4%	29.5%	30.7%	30.5%	30.1%
G&A Rate	7.4%	5.5%	5.9%	5.8%	6.2%	5.8%	6.1%	5.7%	5.0%	5.3%	6.1%	5.9%	5.7%
Operating Expense	68.9%	56.5%	51.8%	53.3%	60.1%	55.8%	55.6%	56.2%	58.6%	54.1%	57.0%	56.8%	55.3%
Operating Margin	3.3%	16.2%	22.2%	19.4%	12.7%	16.4%	16.8%	16.3%	10.9%	16.6%	16.0%	15.6%	17.0%
Tax Rate	22.9%	6.4%	5.2%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	6.2%	4.0%	7.2%	7.0%	7.0%
Non-GAAP Net Income	4.2%	16.1%	21.7%	19.4%	13.4%	16.6%	16.9%	16.3%	10.2%	16.3%	16.0%	15.9%	16.9%
YoY % Growth													
Total Revenue	-5.0%	6.5%	12.8%	-3.5%	16.9%	7.5%	3.7%	11.7%	29.5%	26.3%	2.5%	9.6%	16.5%
R&D	17.9%	11.5%	0.4%	1.5%	0.6%	6.3%	18.1%	16.9%	21.0%	20.7%	7.4%	10.4%	11.9%
S&M	7.7%	12.9%	9.7%	-1.5%	3.6%	4.6%	7.6%	19.9%	11.8%	11.5%	6.8%	9.1%	14.7%
G&A	56.3%	3.0%	10.1%	7.3%	-1.0%	14.2%	6.8%	9.6%	-7.6%	34.0%	16.2%	7.2%	12.8%
Total Operating Expense	15.2%	11.4%	6.3%	0.4%	2.0%	6.1%	11.2%	17.7%	12.7%	16.6%	8.0%	9.3%	13.5%
QoQ % Growth	•								†				
Total Revenue	-27.3%	16.9%	10.8%	2.5%	-11.9%	7.5%	6.9%	10.5%	1				
R&D	1.9%	-5.9%	-0.2%	6.0%	1.0%	-0.5%	10.9%	4.9%					
S&M	-5.9%	-0.9%	-0.3%	6.0%	-1.0%	0.0%	2.6%	18.1%	1				
		-13.3%	19.0%	1.0%	-5.0%	0.0%	11.3%	3.7%					
G&A	3.0%	- 1 5 5 9h	19 096	[.(J9h i	- D (J9n								

Source: Company reports, BofA Global Research estimates

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



Price objective basis & risk

Pure Storage (PSTG)

Our PO of \$42 is based on 3x C2025E EV/Sales. This multiple compares to median 2x of historical range 1x-4x. Given Pure's strong revenue growth relative to other storage peers, we view 3x as appropriate (premium based on faster growth relative to peers).

Upside risks to our PO are faster recovery in the commercial segment, lower flash costs, sooner than expected recovery in the supply chain, and unexpected share gains.

Downside risks to our PO are an extended economic slowdown, rising costs, competition from well-established vendors like NetApp, Dell-EMC and HP that control vast distribution networks and have the ability to deeply discount products for certain customers, competition from private companies, enterprise movement to the public cloud, execution-related issues due to the high-growth nature of the company, and erosion of its competitive advantage in operating software over time.

Analyst Certification

I, Wamsi Mohan, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

US - IT Hardware and Technology Supply Chain Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				•
ъ.	Amphenol	APH	APH US	Wamsi Mohan
	Apple Inc.	AAPL	AAPL US	Wamsi Mohan
	Corning Inc.	GLW	GLW US	Wamsi Mohan
	Dell Technologies Inc.	DELL	DELL US	Wamsi Mohan
	Flex Ltd.	FLEX	FLEX US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	HP Inc.	HPQ	HPQ US	Wamsi Mohan
	International Business Machines Corp.	IBM	IBM US	Wamsi Mohan
	Jabil Inc.	JBL	JBL US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Nutanix Inc	NTNX	NTNX US	Wamsi Mohan
	Roku, Inc.	ROKU	ROKU US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Seagate Technology	STX	STX US	Wamsi Mohan
	TD Synnex Corp	SNX	SNX US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	TE Connectivity Ltd.	TEL	TEL US	Wamsi Mohan
	Western Digital Corporation	WDC	WDC US	Wamsi Mohan
NEUTRAL				
	Arrow Electronics Inc.	ARW	ARW US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Avnet Inc.	AVT	AVT US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	CDW Corp	CDW	CDW US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Concentrix Corporation	CNXC	CNXC US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Hewlett-Packard Enterprise	HPE	HPE US	Wamsi Mohan
	Pure Storage	PSTG	PSTG US	Wamsi Mohan
	Sensata Technologies Holdings Plc	ST	ST US	Wamsi Mohan
	Teradata Corporation	TDC	TDC US	Wamsi Mohan
UNDERPERFORM				
	DigitalOcean	DOCN	DOCN US	Wamsi Mohan
	NetApp Inc.	NTAP	NTAP US	Wamsi Mohan
	Sanmina Corporation	SANM	SANM US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
	Vishay Intertechnology, Inc.	VSH	VSH US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
RSTR				•
-	Super Micro Computer Inc.	SMCI	SMCI US	Ruplu Bhattacharya
		5	5	



IQmethod[™] Measures Definitions

Business Performance	Numerator	Denominator
Return On Capital Employed	NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) \times (1 - Tax Rate) + Goodwill Amortization	Total Assets – Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill
		Amortization
Return On Equity	Net Income	Shareholders' Equity
Operating Margin	Operating Profit	Sales
Earnings Growth	Expected 5 Year CAGR From Latest Actual	N/A
Free Cash Flow	Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex	N/A
Quality of Earnings	Numerator	Denominator
Cash Realization Ratio	Cash Flow From Operations	Net Income
Asset Replacement Ratio	Capex	Depreciation
Tax Rate	Tax Charge	Pre-Tax Income
Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio	Net Debt = Total Debt - Cash & Equivalents	Total Equity
Interest Cover	EBIT	Interest Expense
Valuation Toolkit	Numerator	Denominator
Price / Earnings Ratio	Current Share Price	Diluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified)
Price / Book Value	Current Share Price	Shareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares
Dividend Yield	Annualised Declared Cash Dividend	Current Share Price
Free Cash Flow Yield	Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex	Market Cap = Current Share Price × Current Basic Shares
Enterprise Value / Sales	EV = Current Share Price × Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt +	Sales
P 11 1 1 2 7 2 5 1 5 1	Other LT Liabilities	

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

Menethod 3*is the set of BofA Global Research standard measures that serve to maintain global consistency under three broad headings: Business Performance, Quality of Earnings, and validations. The key features of iQmethod are: A consistently structured, detailed, and transparent methodology. Guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of the comparative valuation process, and to identify some common pitfalls.

Redatabase is our real-time global research database that is sourced directly from our equity analysts' earnings models and includes forecasted as well as historical data for income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements for companies covered by BofA Global Research.

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Disclosures

Important Disclosures

Pure Storage (PSTG) Price Chart



B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

The Investment Opinion System is contained at the end of the report under the heading "Fundamental Equity Opinion Key". Dark grey shading indicates the security is restricted with the opinion suspended. Medium grey shading indicates the security is under review with the opinion withdrawn. Light grey shading indicates the security is not covered. Chart is current as of a date no more than one trading day prior to the date of the report.

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Technology Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	215	53.09%	Buy	111	51.63%
Hold	97	23.95%	Hold	45	46.39%
Sell	93	22.96%	Sell	24	25.81%

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

R1 Issuers that were investment banking clients of BofA Securities or one of its affiliates within the past 12 months. For purposes of this Investment Rating Distribution, the coverage universe includes only stocks. A stock rated Neutral is included as a Hold, and a stock rated Underperform is included as a Sell.

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Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster^{R2}

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Inderperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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