8 Emerging Data Storage Trends To Watch In 2021

A focus on the actual business requirements from storage infrastructures, and not on the legacy discussions about speeds and feeds, the names on the bezels, and where the data is actually located, will characterize the storage industry of 2021 and beyond.

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NetApp pioneered the idea of seamlessly tying onpremises, public cloud, private cloud, and edge storage into a single architecture, which for that company is known as the Data Fabric, and its all-flash storage rivals Pure Storage and IBM have recently taken huge steps to make their technologies and the cloud inseparable. Other major storage vendors including Dell Technologies and Hewlett Packard Enterprise are moving in that direction, but were slow out of the gate.

It's a big step for a storage vendor to make it easy to move data to the cloud and potentially off its own hardware. But business users are getting to the point where they don't have a preference where the data is stored as long as it is accessible and safe and subject to manipulation to reduce costs. Watch for this trend to continue in 2021.

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