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Smaller organizations utilize the consolidated benefits of a VNX platform because it combines SAN performance with NAS presentation so applications that are best suited for SAN or NAS can have the benefit of one technology for both needs. VNX breaks its data containment into 16TB volumes to hold data, and fits the small to mid-sized company. Because of the performance and capacity limitations of SAN architectures, VNX platform can only be leveraged up to a limited size at which point it makes better sense separate the NAS function from the SAN function so the complexity is limited to the SAN portion. This allows the NAS side to scale out as simply and large as necessary. In the case of Isilon, a single volume data container can scale to as large as 20 PB today (soon to be 30 PB). That would require over 1800 volumes of VNX to hold. 1 container vs. 1800... you can appreciate the complexity difference of managing the two different systems.

Hadoop is traditionally not compatible with either SAN or NAS. It is only compatible with DAS (Direct Attached Storage) utilizing HDFS (Hadoop Distributed File System)... with the ONE exception of Isilon who has developed the ability to transform HDFS into a protocol like NFS or CIFS/SMB. With Isilon, Hadoop is now compatible with NAS including NFS and CIFS/SMB, as well as FTP, HTTP, etc.