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Source: Nimble Storage

In the near immediate future, Nimble storage will offer the most flexible architecture for scaling in the storage industry. This will include options for scale-out, scale deep and scale up.

- Scale out – (Target GA is June 2012) - This will allow customer to cluster up to 4 Nimble arrays to be managed and provide data services as a single storage array. This means a single data volume can be configured to span across multiple arrays in order to take advantage of the bandwidth, cache and CPUs of all the array controllers. This option will be well suited to any customer requiring additional performance and capacity.
- Scale Deep – (Target 2 – 3 months post Scale Out) - Scale deep would allow the addition of up to 2 drive shelves (combination of SSD and NL-SAS drives) to be added to an existing array via a SAS port on the controllers. (Note: All Nimble arrays that have shipped have a SAS port existing on the controllers, meaning any customer that has bought an array will already have this port available.) This option would be well suited for a customer requiring more capacity but not necessarily more performance. There will be some performance increase due to the expansion of the Adaptive Flash by adding additional SSDs.
- Scale Up – (Target 2 – 3 months post Scale Out) Scale up allows the upgrade of an existing array controller. Current controllers include a single Intel E5504 processor with 12 GB of memory. The upgrade of the controller would either add a 2nd CPU/12GB of memory or it may be a complete controller upgrade consisting of dual CPU configuration taking advantage of a higher performance chipset. This option will be well suited to a customer looking to increase their performance. This might also make a good 2nd upgrade for a customer that has already used Scale Deep to expand capacity but now finds they also need more performance.

Of Note: Advanced Clustering Technologies, Inc. was exhibiting innovation wielding two independent nodes for each 1U of rack space. The nodes support a pair of Xeon CPUs, gigabit Ethernet and InfiniBand connectivity, a pair of 2.5" hard drives, and lots of memory. Nothing is shared between systems, so if one goes down, the rest of the cluster continues marching along in the HPC space.

Click on the link <http://www.advancedclustering.com/products/cluster-videos.html> for video. This demo will show you how the clustered storages act as a single SAN.