

Best Practices for Designing Highly Available Storage – FC SAN Perspective

Yesterday, I wrote about the [Host Perspective of Designing Highly Available Storage](#). Today I am going to talk about the Fiber Channel SAN Perspective what it takes. Perhaps this is a small post.

- At least two paths between the hosts and the storage system are required for high availability. Ideally, the cabling for these paths should be physically separated.
- These paths should be handled by separate switching, if not directly connecting hosts and storage systems. This includes redundant, separate HBAs, and attachment to both of the storage system's storage processors.
- Path management software such as PowerPath and dynamic multipathing software on hosts (to enable failover to alternate paths and load balancing) are recommended.
- For device fan-in, connect low bandwidth devices such as tape, and low utilized and older, slower hosts to edge switches or director blades.