PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: Information Storage and Management, 2nd Edition
Author: EMC Education Services [Edited by Somasundaram Gnanasundaram & Alok Shrivastava]
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, inc
List Price: US $60.00
Format: hard cover; 490
Publication Date: May 2012
ISBN: 9781118094839
Reviewer: Lakshmi Subramanian
Review Date: September 23, 2012

Introduction to the Book

The book begins with the building-blocks of Information and Information Storage systems and its internal workings, specifically in a Data Center Environment, and progressively forays into the specialized subject of Data Protection, Storage Networking Technologies, Backup, Archive and Replication of Data, Cloud Computing and Securing and Managing Storage Infrastructure. True to its name, the book does cover the entire gamut of Information Storage and Management.

Overview of Book’s Structure

The organization and flow of topics, for the most part, is one of the things I liked about this book. The book is divided into 5 major sections – Storage System, Storage Networking Technologies, Backup Archive & Replication, Cloud Computing and Securing, and Managing Storage Infrastructure.

Storage System talks about the basic building blocks of storage and is probably intended for a novice to catch up on the basics, which is necessary to understand the remainder of the book. For a mid to senior level specialist in the subject matter, this section may serve as a refresher on the basics. Storage Networking Technologies
focuses on the options available with respect to storage in a networked environment – quite common in present day corporations. It discusses the architecture, protocols used, connectivity and data transfer methodologies and topologies used for each storage option and though not spelled out under separate headings – the benefits of each option and what kind of business needs they will serve is also interlaced. The Backup, Archive and Replication section, introduces readers to Business Continuity, justification for backups, methods of backing up data; the recovery needs and options based on the business needs; intervals and methods of archiving data, driven by business objectives and factors, such as retention period. The Cloud Computing section discussed its benefits, the Cloud Service and Cloud Deployment models, and infrastructure and challenges. The Securing and Managing Storage Infrastructure section touches upon the Security Aspects of each storage option covered in the first two sections and in the Virtualized and Cloud environments; and Management of Storage Infrastructure discusses the various parameters for monitoring and alerting.

Highlights: What’s New in this Book

This book will serve as a valuable tool to help one decide how to use the information presented in the real world. Almost every chapter has a section called “Concepts in Practice”, which talks about the products available for each of those options, though they are EMC specific. The range of the topics span from basic to expert level and the authors have done an impressive job in keeping the reading as light, as possible, without compromising on the extent and quality of information, and at the same time, holding the attention of the reader. I applaud the EMC Education Services team for delivering a one-stop book on Storage Systems and their Management.

Highlights: What I liked!

Apart from the layout and flow of topics, I really like the fact they have a very exhaustive list of Acronyms and Abbreviations and a good Glossary and Index, which serves as a very good reference. It helps one go back to refer a term, that was read previously but difficult to recall, because if you are not living and breathing ‘Storage’, this could be an overload of Information Storage and Management (pun intended).

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

The Sections “Concepts in Practice” are EMC specific and do not reference competing products. A comparison grid with the different options available and their best-suited purpose would have been a nice-to-have and to use as a ready reference. Some sections, especially pertaining to Virtualization fail to answer questions a reader may have on reliability of the storage option and mitigate any risks therein.
Who might benefit from the Book

The primary reason I was interested in this book, is because I write up storage requirements for the application team that I represent and kick-start the procurement process and though I do not have to deal with the nitty-gritties of the decision-making process, I wanted to make sure that I understand this space, to be able to add value to the process and to the team and organization as a whole. This book has helped me understand how I can map our storage requirements based on business needs to what would best suit our specific situation and it is definitely a win!

This book is a great tool for someone who would like to understand the Storage Options and Management from the perspective of an Enterprise. It also serves as a ready-reckoner for a seasoned professional to re-assess current Storage Architecture and explore options to improve storage performance, security or any other aspect that is critical to the business.

Conclusion

I would highly recommend this book to students and professionals alike, because it would not only catapult their interest in the subject but serve as a guide to accomplish their objectives – be it just to learn or make decisions on what Storage option would best serve their purpose. It is great value for money! This will go in the “Reference books” section of my library!


Editor’s note: This book review was the result of cooperation between the publisher, PM World and the Dallas Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI Dallas Chapter – www.pmisdallas.org). Publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published by PM World in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members are all mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@pmworldjournal.net.
About the Reviewer

Lakshmi Subramanian

Lakshmi Subramanian, PMP, has 10 years of varied and valuable experience serving the IT and IT Enabled Services industry. She has a Bachelors in Commerce, Masters in Computer Applications and Diploma in Business Management and is a proud member of the Dallas PMI Chapter. Lakshmi is currently working as an IT Project Manager for a Telecom Major in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in Texas, USA. Lakshmi can be contacted at slakshmi1505@gmail.com.