MiraLink Makes Remote Mirroring
A Little Easier for the Smaller Enterprise

Analyst: Michael Fisch

Management Summary

MiraLink, a provider a business continuity solutions, recently announced the *MiraLink 400* and *Data Rate Management Log*. Both products make it a little easier for smaller enterprises to deploy remote mirroring for data protection and recovery.

MiraLink 400

The MiraLink 400 is the new entry-level solution in MiraLink's line of remote data mirroring appliances. It has a standalone enclosure that supports three SATA drives (unRAIDed) with a total capacity of 80 to 750 GB per appliance. Like the other members of this product line, it provides a real-time copy of data to a remote site over any distance. This can be used for a quick failover in the event of a disaster or system failure. A remarkable feature of the model 400 is its price – less than $5,000 for a source/target pair. This means small- and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) and remote offices could realistically deploy such a solution.

The general capabilities of MiraLink appliances include.

- Out-of-band architecture that simplifies installation and is non-intrusive to the existing environment
- Does not require host software that would slow applications and might cause conflicts
- Mirrors synchronous over unlimited distance (by way of a local mirror that is streamed asynchronously to the target appliance at the remote site)
- Functions over a standard IP connection to keep communication costs down and recovers automatically after an interruption
- Mirror is identical to source for consistency and restartability
- Compatible with all major operating systems

Data Rate Management Log

Data Rate Management Log (DRML) is a lightweight software tool that measures the data change rate on Windows servers. It runs on a USB key and tracks both local and network-attached drive usage. It is more accurate than existing built-in Windows administrative tools and it does not affect disk usage itself or consume inordinate system resources. DRML presents average and peak statistics in a graphical format. This tool is quite useful for sizing infrastructure requirements.

- Capacity planning for primary storage and server CPU and memory
- Bandwidth needed for remote mirroring
- Appropriate MiraLink model
- LAN and SAN bandwidth requirements

The price of DRML is $99.95. MiraLink will credit the purchase price toward a one of its remote mirroring appliances.

Conclusion

There are many reasons to deploy remote mirroring: disaster recovery, centralized backup, regulatory compliance. They are all fundamentally about business continuity – to keep an enterprise going, delivering goods and services to customers, minimizing legal risks, and staying financially sound. Remote mirroring protects data from local disasters and provides quick recovery with zero or little data loss. Some business applications are important enough to need this kind of protection.

MiraLink designs its technology to mitigate the cost and complexity of traditional mirroring solutions, so it can bring them within the reach of SMEs and branch offices.[1] The MiraLink 400 is another step in that direction, lowering the price of a source/target solution to under $5,000. Additionally, the DRML software tool is a handy way to size a remote mirroring solution and perform general capacity planning in Windows environments. Its $99.95 price is a small investment compared to the performance penalty one would pay for insufficiently-sized IT assets, or the cost penalty of oversized, underutilized assets.

In short, MiraLink offers a practical and cost-effective set of remote mirroring solutions for enterprises that need to satisfy business continuity and regulatory requirements.

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[1] For details, see **The Clipper Group Navigator** dated October 31, 2005, entitled *MiraLink Lowers Cost and Complexity of Remote Mirroring*, and available at http://www.clipper.com/research/TCG2005069.pdf.

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➢ *The Clipper Group can be reached at 781-235-0085 and found on the web at www.clipper.com.*

About the Author

Michael Fisch is Director of Storage and Networking for The Clipper Group. He brings over ten years of experience in the computer industry working in sales, market analysis and positioning, and engineering. Mr. Fisch worked at EMC Corporation as a marketing program manager focused on service providers and as a competitive market analyst. Before that, he worked in international channel development, manufacturing, and technical support at Extended Systems, Inc. Mr. Fisch earned an MBA from Babson College and a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Idaho.

➢ *Reach Michael Fisch via e-mail at mike.fisch@clipper.com or at 781-235-0085 Ext. 211. (Please dial "211" when you hear the automated attendant.)*

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