

Hitachi Dynamic Link Manager Advanced Software

Hitachi Dynamic Link Manager Advanced software offers robust multipath SAN connections between servers and storage systems. It provides fault tolerant failover, fallback and load balancing, and centralized path management for improved information access, usability and availability.

Data Path Protection and Centralized Management for Enhanced Performance and Nonstop Availability

Business Continuity Challenges

In today's information-driven business environment, 24/7 data access and availability is a must. Well planned business continuity strategies must include the ability to protect data as it travels between the server and the storage system. This is a difficult challenge, as data paths can become congested, resulting in bottlenecks, or fail entirely, cutting off access to key information.

Hitachi Dynamic Link Manager Advanced software provides comprehensive path failover and fallback to ensure higher data availability, reliability and accessibility. Automatic work load balancing helps to maintain outstanding system performance across all available paths. If one path were to fail, Hitachi Dynamic Link Manager Advanced would automatically switch the I/O to an alternate path, ensuring that an active route to your data is always available.

For organizations overwhelmed by the difficulties of managing multiple storage paths for large numbers of servers, Hitachi Dynamic Link Manager Advanced provides a simple, centralized and integrated storage path management interface. This increases administrator efficiencies, minimizes configuration errors and streamlines reporting. Administrators can optimize application performance by controlling path bandwidth. They can keep applications online to perform maintenance tasks that typically require taking a path down by easily switching to alternate paths. Automatic path health checks and reporting from each host improve system reliability, reduce downtime and aid in rapid problem troubleshooting.

Benefits

Protect Data Availability

- Reduces the risk of financial loss due to failures of critical applications via path failover
- Achieves a higher level of data availability through automatic failover and fallback

- Keeps applications online while performing maintenance that requires taking a path down
- Adds value to existing path-failover products

Optimize System Performance

- Improves system performance by taking all storage I/O requests and splitting the workload across available paths
- Monitors the status of online paths through a health check facility at administrator-specified intervals and places a failed path offline when an error is detected

Enable Control of Application-specific Storage Service Levels

- Matches path load-balancing algorithms to specific application needs, such as round-robin for applications with random I/O characteristics
- Optimizes application path reliability and performance, taking into account workloads in the whole system

Simplify Path Administration and Increase Administrator Efficiencies

- Provides a single path-management interface for multiple servers, operating systems and storage system configurations
- Provides an easy way to check the health of all SAN paths through summary views
- Provides secure host grouping for creating customized management views within a resource group to suit the needs of each operational group
- Integrates reporting of alerts and error information from each host
- Enables easy switching to and from alternate paths in complex storage networks

Complementary Solutions

Hitachi Data Systems storage management solutions consist of hardware, software and services. Complementary software includes:

- Hitachi Basic Operating System
- Hitachi Device Manager
- Hitachi Tuning Manager
- Hitachi Storage Services Manager

In our complementary services, delivered by Hitachi Data Systems Global Solution Services consultants, we apply best practice planning and configuration with expert onsite installation support to ensure the solution is set up correctly and optimally for the environment, with the least amount of disruption. Hands-on training classes are also available and recommended for all products, on your site or at Hitachi Data Systems training centers.

System Requirements and Support Matrix

<http://www.hds.com/products/storage-software/system-requirements>

FEATURES

Wide Range of Operating Environments

- Supports path failover and I/O load balancing for IBM® AIX®, Microsoft® Windows, HP-UX, Sun Solaris and Linux operating systems
- Supports Fibre Channel and iSCSI connections
- Supports most major server clustering products
- Supports standard volume management tools
- Supports popular host bus adapters (HBAs)
- Complements Microsoft Windows MPIO environments through added automation, including failback and path load balancing
- Supports all Hitachi storage systems as well as storage from other vendors

Path Management

- For each multipathed instance, lists the path information for all paths or for each host, HBA port, storage system and storage port
- Provides aggregated path views corresponding to path status (online or offline) for an easy way to check the health of the entire multipathing environment
- Adjusts load balancing for individual LUNs
- Enables data access on all Hitachi storage systems in both direct attached storage (DAS) and storage area network (SAN) environments with path failover and I/O balancing over multiple HBA cards
- Supports failover and failback in either manual or automatic modes
- Allows dynamic LUN addition and deletion without a server reboot (not available on all platforms)
- Provides multiple active paths for bandwidth control at the HBA port level

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