BeeGFS®

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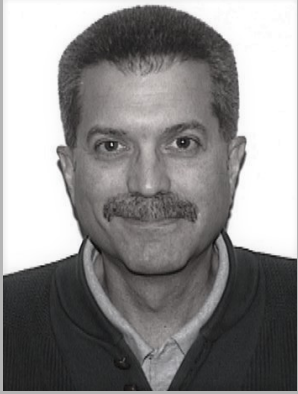
In 2019 NetApp became a worldwide Diamond Partner of ThinkParQ, delivering turnkey solutions with NetApps E-Series Storage and BeeGFS, enabling customers to deploy a cost-effective, easy-to-manage HPC solution, with support from NetApp. We sit down with Stan Skelton and learn more about NetApp E-Series and BeeGFS, the partnership with ThinkParQ, along with Stan's predictions for the future!

Stan, let's kick this off by letting our readers learn more about you.

My name is Stan Skelton and I am the Chief Architect and Senior Director of Business Development for the NetApp E-Series product line. I am continually looking beyond the horizon to the market's future to determine how NetApp E-Series products can evolve to meet business requirements today and in the future.

Tell us more about NetApp, what you do, your go-to-market strategy, etc?

NetApp offers a complete portfolio of solutions to simplify management of applications and data across cloud and on-premise environments. NetApp E-Series products are particularly well-suited for customers running parallel file systems that require high performance, low latency, and limitless scalability. Proven 99.9999% availability, up to 2 million IOPS, and integration with leading file systems like BeeGFS, make E-Series an excellent match for even the most extreme HPC workloads, including AI.

Why did NetApp become a ThinkParQ partner?

The primary reason we chose to partner with ThinkParQ is because we wanted to offer our customers a simpler way to transition to parallel computing. BeeGFS offers the simplicity and ease of use that perfectly complements NetApp E-Series storage. With BeeGFS we can address the needs of both traditional and hybrid environments with a fully integrated parallel file system solution that is cost effective, quick to deploy, and easy to manage—with the speed, reliability, and scalability customers expect from an enterprise-class solution. Because NetApp and BeeGFS work so well together, we recently expanded our partnership to include support for BeeGFS. We resell and deliver both level 1 and level 2 support for BeeGFS. Customers can rely on NetApp's world-class support organization to help configure, fine-tune, and troubleshoot the overarching BeeGFS deployment to get the most performance and value from their NetApp and BeeGFS investment.

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In what regions do you represent ThinkParQ & BeeGFS?

NetApp is a global organization. Wherever we sell NetApp hardware—APAC (excluding China), EMEA, and the Americas—we can support BeeGFS. NetApp does not distribute BeeGFS, but we do support it.

What is your favorite feature of BeeGFS?

My favorite BeeGFS feature is BeeOND, which enables customers to create on-demand file systems that are connected to server storage. These on-demand file systems isolate workloads from the normal I/O to increase performance. Customers create these on-demand file systems when they need them and spin them down when the job is done. BeeOND delivers an easy way for customers to increase the agility of their HPC environment at no extra cost.

Which vendors are mainly being used and why?

NetApp has a portfolio of companies with whom we partner to deliver BeeGFS across our geographic regions. All have a rich history in HPC and parallel file systems.

Lastly, any predictions for the future?

I have two predictions:

First, it's generally known that data sets will grow enormously in size and will drive an increased need for parallel file systems like BeeGFS. With AI becoming more mainstream, the demand for high bandwidth, low latency, and highly scalable parallel file systems will continue to fuel the market.

Second, disruption is becoming the new norm and it will continue at an accelerated pace. More than ever, businesses must be flexible to keep up with this continuous change. Solutions, processes, and people skills must all be flexible. A hybrid cloud strategy with options for on-premises, edge, and cloud deployments will be the best way for organizations to get the flexibility they need to succeed in this ever-changing world.

Finally, I recommend the NetApp and BeeGFS Solution Brief for more information about our joint solution and secondly, www.netapp.com/hpc for a fuller picture of NetApp's presence in high-performance computing.

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