

# Network Computing®

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# 11

TH ANNUAL  
WELL-CONNECTED  
AWARDS



By Bruce Boardman

## ★ Product of the Year ★

Another year of intense testing in our Real-World Labs® has culminated in our 11th Well-Connected Awards contest for outstanding networking products and services. From the outside, our labs may look like a twisted mess of Cat 5E cable, CD-ROM crystals, discarded Dunkin' Donuts cups and papers bearing the rants of tech editors who banged away on equipment well into the wee hours. But this seeming chaos has yielded clear product choices based on comprehensive testing and thorough analysis.

For every product we tested, we dug below the surface and explored how well it fit into the organization's infrastructure and the overall IT business. We kept a constant eye on integration and security, and literally scraped our knuckles on the nuts and bolts holding the hardware together.

### iSCSI Target

**WINNER:** PeerStorage Array 100E. EqualLogic, (888) 579-9762, (603) 579-9762. [www.equallogic.com](http://www.equallogic.com)

Offering 3.5 formatted terabytes, RAID 0 and RAID 5, simple IP connectivity and enterprise-class redundancy, EqualLogic's PS100E gave us all the storage without the storage networking hassles. The only downside we found were the limitations placed on the PS100E by using IP connections—even with their multiple redundant paths. When we reviewed this category last year, an OEM-only product won the Editor's Choice award. However, we found no other openly available product that could compete in every area with the PS100E in our evaluations this year. For expandability, performance and throughput, our tests showed that the EqualLogic product holds an edge over each competitor.

★ PRODUCT OF THE YEAR ★

## Storage & Servers

**PeerStorage Array 100E.** EqualLogic, (888) 579-9762, (603) 579-9762. [www.equallogic.com](http://www.equallogic.com) Midsize enterprises and departments in larger organizations have long needed the benefits of storage-area networks without investing millions of dollars to build a Fibre Channel SAN. The market has responded with "SAN-in-a-box" and high-end iSCSI solutions. For ease of configuration and management, the EqualLogic PS100E iSCSI target cannot be beat. The cost versus enterprise-class features and top-notch performance in our iSCSI throughput tests make it the best iSCSI setup we looked at all year, and iSCSI makes it more useful than any SAN-in-a-box for users not trained to deal with FC SANs. Offering terabytes of information storage with basic IP configuration, and expandability in a few mouse clicks, the PS100E is the iSCSI dream machine. The multiple Gigabit NICs in each box and the ability to drop another array in and say, "Add this array to existing volumes without any downtime" make the PS100E massively expandable, for a price that most small or midsize organizations will be willing to pay.

