



# CGGVeritas

## CGGVeritas Explores SAN Efficiency With SANbox2™ - 64, SANbox® 5200 Stackable Switch

### Challenge

Using existing methods to access massive data files was ineffective and generated multiple copies in the data center.

### Solution

SANbox2-64 modular switch and stackable SANbox 5200s enable the effective distribution of storage to clients, while minimizing cost per port.

### Result

QLogic switches enable the 'cloud' of connectivity that exists between the servers and storage.



It can easily be said that no sector of today's oil and gas service industry benefits greater from the advance of technology than companies operating in the geophysical services sector. And CGGVeritas is no exception, providing customers with services to manage exploration and risk, as well as enhancing petroleum exploration success worldwide. In fact, in the high-stakes world of oil exploration, innovative technology plays a key role in staying ahead of the competition.

So it's easy to see why CGGVeritas chose to implement QLogic® SANbox2-64 switches for their SAN solution, as their work involves the transport and storage of massive, complex geophysical images. The SANbox2-64 helped the company store and retrieve these crucial files, and allowed the company to free up valuable server space and disk space to avoid performance bottlenecks.

In addition, the company installed multiple SANbox 5200s to integrate its new data storage devices with the existing ones. These moves were made in order to address the challenge of accessing the company's large data files, because that process typically generates multiple copies, and was compromising I/O throughput with the existing infrastructure.

"With file sizes ranging from mere megabytes to 150 gigabytes, we needed to streamline file portability," said Dean Campbell, senior Unix support specialist. "The SANbox2-64 is the ideal switch for connecting storage equipment so our customers receive flawless data access. The SANbox 5200 gives us further flexibility and scalability to grow the edge of our storage area network."

### Powering a SAN that Spans the Ocean

When it comes right down to it, CGGVeritas customers have millions of dollars at stake - figuring out where oil deposits exist and where drilling would actually be profitable is the name of the game. And so it is imperative that the graphics that the company provides to its clients must paint an accurate picture of the ocean floor and be readily accessible. It therefore stands to reason that CGGVeritas places a large degree of trust in its vendors.

"The QLogic SANbox2-64 is totally reliable," said Campbell, adding that 12 IT experts oversee the Houston-based data processing center, one of four such centers worldwide. "Everything has worked as advertised, it's been easy to implement, and all the required components are included."



*"What we wanted to do is design and implement the 'cloud' of connectivity between the server and the storage. We are doing that with the SANbox2-64 and SANbox 5200s. Now we have a streamlined, reliable and robust SAN."*

— Dean Campbell, Senior Unix Support Specialist

In addition to the QLogic SANbox2-64 and SANbox 5200 switches, the CGGVeritas SAN includes:

- Numerous AMD Opteron cluster servers
- Thousands of Intel-based processors
- Red Hat Linux and SUSE operating systems
- Why CGGVeritas Chose the SANbox2-64.

The SANbox2-64 combines the best features of Edge and Director hardware - high portcount, modularity, scalability and ease of use - into one low-cost Enterprise-class switch.

"Financially, it came down to which vendor had the lowest cost-per-port," Campbell said. "QLogic came in at least 50 percent lower than its competitors. With the currently installed SANbox2-64s, all we have to do is purchase additional blades to add new storage and hosts."

Currently, the company is using 16 ports per switch, but with storage being installed in terabytes, adding to the already existing petabytes, it is obvious that there must be room for cost-effective expansion.

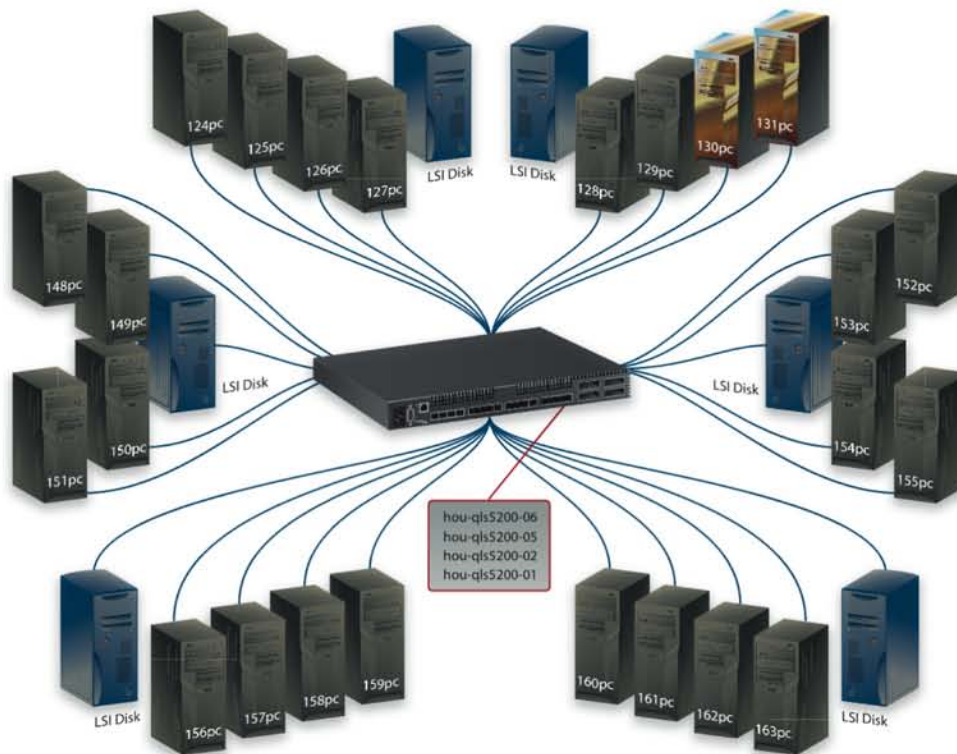
"We've already helped realize our ROI with data availability," said Campbell, adding that when the company transfers data files, they are often duplicated and can take up increased disk space. "With the QLogic SANbox switches, we have the needed infrastructure and now we are ready to continue our growth."

### SANbox 5200 — Bringing Scalability to the SAN

The SANbox 5200 is the only stackable Fibre Channel switch on the market, and proved to be an integral part of the CGGVeritas SAN solution by delivering the seamless scalability and performance of a chassis switch. Each stackable SANbox 5200 switch has sixteen 2Gb ports, plus a four-pack of highspeed 10Gb ISL ports. And with entry as low as eight ports with 4-port software-keyed increments, and built-in graphical user interface (GUI) wizards, each SANbox 5200 stackable switch provides maximum flexibility for configuring, managing and scaling SANs.

### A Dream Come True

"What we wanted to do is design and implement the 'cloud' of connectivity between the server and the storage," Campbell explained. "We are doing that with the SANbox2-64 and SANbox 5200s. Now we have a streamlined, reliable and robust SAN."



Each Linux cluster is made up of 64 AMD Opteron systems NFS attached to a master AMD Opteron system connected to the disk arrays via the SANbox2-64 and SANbox 5200s. The data center is comprised of over 7000 systems, all interconnected through the QLogic switches.

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