

# SUCCESS STORY

## Oxford Glyco Sciences

Oxford Glyco Sciences (OGS) of Abingdon, UK, is a leader in the emerging field of proteomics, the comprehensive study of proteins. The company has successfully integrated proteomics with genomics to create an innovative, proprietary drug discovery platform that allows the systematic separation, identification and characterization of proteins on an industrial scale.

By automating the analysis of certain protein combinations produced by genes, such as those suspected of causing disease, OGS can isolate and identify distinct protein “fingerprints,” called protein markers. With this information, pharmaceutical companies can produce a drug that will bind to and destroy the proteins specific to that disease-producing gene. To date, the company holds more than 1,300 patents for protein markers for cancers and many other diseases.

The company currently analyzes more than 2,000 samples a week, or half a million proteins per year, through mass spectrometers. At this rate, the company is generating roughly two terabytes of data per quarter. With such a computing-intensive operation to support, OGS sought to build a system that not only handles a tremendous amount of data today, but one which will scale to accommodate an exponential increase in data without sacrificing availability or reliability.

Driving the company’s business is a Sun E10000 “Starfire” scalable multi-processor system, plus 100 Intel processor farms and various Sun workstations. In addition to the firm’s 50+ person IT staff, data availability is ensured by a Sun Storage Area Network (SAN), consisting of eight Sun StorEdge A5100 fibre channel disk arrays, four per fabric pair to provide disk mirroring. Sun StorEdge Fibre Channel (FC) network switches, provided by QLogic, allow OGS to give each of the SAN’s two domains exclusive access to its storage.

Mike Yoeman, sales executive for Sun, said the new SAN answered OGS’s requirements for an end-to-end solution from a single vendor. “Their goal was to migrate heterogeneous legacy systems to the SAN, while providing access to the system’s common pool of storage. Additionally, the solution had to provide a clear path to scale as cpu, memory and storage demands grew.”

Key to the architecture is the Sun StorEdge FC network switches. “The QLogic switches permit us to allocate specific disks within the array to different hosts. In this way, OGS has the flexibility to assign system resources where they are needed, when they are needed. Plus, if OGS’s system requirements spike, their current SAN architecture can be upgraded to full fabric mode with new HBAs, switch firmware and Solaris 8,” stated Yoeman.

OGS’s system is a four terabyte SAN consisting of eight A5100 arrays, each with 14 x 36 GB drives, four StorEdge 16-port FC network switches, the Starfire E10000 server with 20 cpus and two domains, and a ten-drive L700 tape library for secondary storage. Applications on OGS’s system include: Informix database, lab management

### COMPANY

Oxford Glyco Sciences

### INDUSTRY

Bio-Tech

### APPLICATIONS/SOFTWARE

Storage Area Networks

### HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

Sun Enterprise E10000 Server  
Sun StorEdge Network FC Switches (by QLogic)  
Sun StorEdge A5100 Disk Arrays  
Sun StorEdge L700 Tape Library  
Solaris Software

### KEY BUSINESS RESULTS

Maximized investment in both current and legacy systems with flexible storage area network architecture. Improved data availability and system reliability. Future-proof IT infrastructure to accommodate growing data and user requirements.

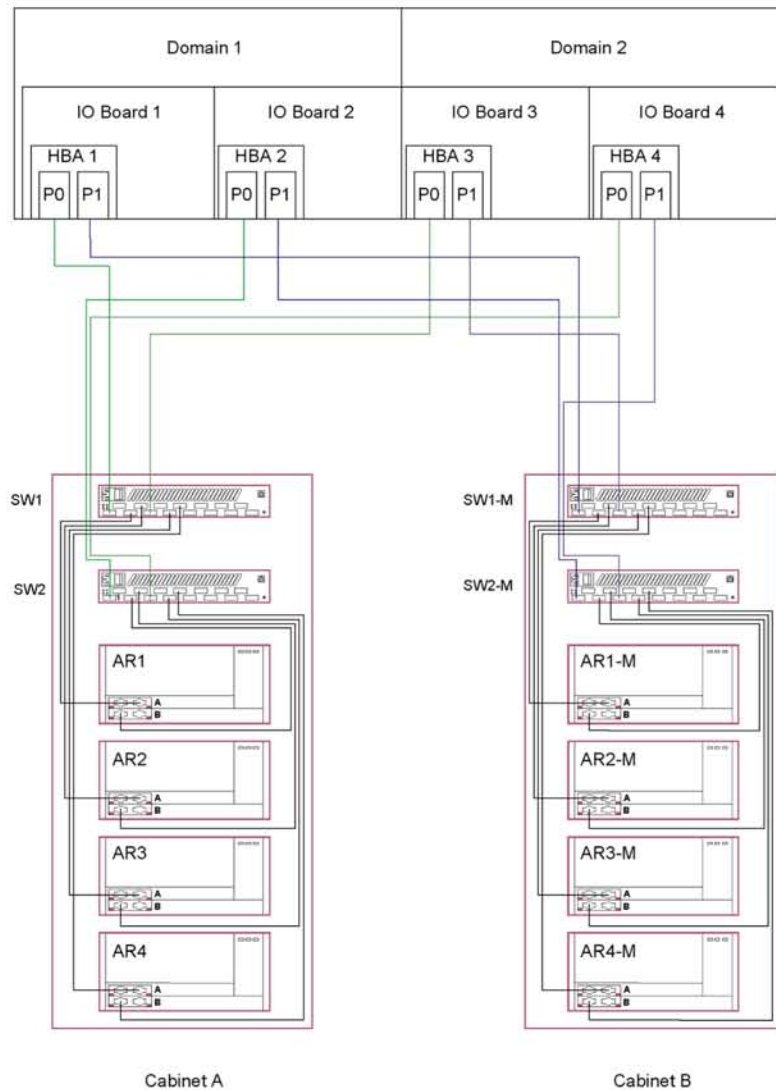


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system, analyzing images from mass spectrometry.

According to Tim Miller, Storage Practice Manager, Sun Professional Services, “OGS is a perfect example of how Sun, with its key technology partners, can provide an end-to-end migration solution to customers demanding the data availability, reliability and flexibility afforded by storage area networks.”



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