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**Flash Paper Exam #1**

 We need to invest in storage area network (SAN) technology in order to organize our redundant departmental storage needs into one easily managed unit and will save $32,000 in the process. SANs allow us to take our current system of having one isolated file server per department and merge them into one unified and flexible storage system. This will decrease our storage needs by 40% and allow for better communication and collaboration across departments.

 Currently, we have four discrete departments each with different storage needs and separate file servers for storage; however, departments often work together and need to access the same files. With isolated islands of storage, interdepartmental projects require many redundant copies of the same files. This creates a lot of wasted space for files that should only require one copy and wasted time during interdepartmental communication. SAN acts a network for storage that trims the fat of our current departmental storage needs, consolidating our current discrete file server system into one customizable, collaborative server. SAN allows you to divvy up storage between devices as needed which means less wasted space as we can custom fit each department on the SAN to its exact needs. This translates to less redundancy as all departments will be able to access the same files and more easily collaborate, forgoing a lot of space and time that was previously wasted on duplication.

Over a three year period, an investment in SAN will save us $32,000. Without SAN, we would be paying for 1000 terabytes of data at $50,000 a year, totaling $150,000 over three years. With SAN, we cut our storage needs to 600 terabytes of data at $60 a year, which amounts to $118,000 behind a small implementation cost. Beyond the monetary benefit is the creation of a much more unified system that simplifies interdepartmental communication and increases productivity. SAN is a technology that will not only save us money, but also greatly revamp our process of storing and sharing files and should therefore be our current top priority for investment.

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|  | **As-Is Costs (Without SAN)** |  |
|  | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** | **Total** |
| **1000TB (w/o SAN)** |  $ 50,000  |  $ 50,000  |  $ 50,000  |  $ 150,000  |
| **Total** |  $ 50,000  |  $ 50,000  |  $ 50,000  |  $ 150,000  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  **To-Be Costs (With SAN)**  |  |
|  |  **Year 1**  |  **Year 2**  |  **Year 3**  |  **Total**  |
| **Implementation Fee** |  $ 10,000  |  $ -  |  $ -  |  $ 10,000  |
| **600TB SAN** |  $ 36,000  |  $ 36,000  |  $ 36,000  |  $ 108,000  |
| **Total** |  $ 46,000  |  $ 36,000  |  $ 36,000  |  $ 118,000  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  **Year 1**  |  **Year 2**  |  **Year 3**  |  **Total**  |
| **As-Is Cost** |  $ 50,000  |  $ 50,000  |  $ 50,000  |  $ 150,000  |
| **To-Be Cost** |  $ 46,000  |  $ 36,000  |  $ 36,000  |  $ 118,000  |
| **Net Benefit** |  $ 4,000  |  $ 14,000  |  $ 14,000  |  **$ 32,000**  |

**Works Cited**

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Schluting, C. (2007, December 7). Storage networking basics: reaping the benefits of a SAN. *Enterprisestorageforum.com* Retrieved October 3, 2013, from http://www.enterprisestorageforum.com/sans/features/article.php/3715421/Storage-Networking-Basics-Reaping-the-Benefits-of-a-SAN.htm