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Question 1

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Which slot on a physical XtremIO X2 XMS holds the server's boot disk?

Options:

A- 3

B- 0

C- 2

D- 1

Answer:

D

Explanation:

The Dell XtremIO X2 XMS is designed with a specific slot for the server's boot disk. According to the documentation and specifications provided by Dell, the boot disk is located in a designated slot within the system. While the exact slot number is not explicitly mentioned in

the snippets provided, the Dell XtremIO design documents, such as the support documentation¹, technical whitepapers², and specification sheets³⁴⁵, contain detailed information about the system architecture and component layout, including where the boot disk is situated.

For a verified and accurate answer, one should refer to the official Dell XtremIO design documents, which provide a comprehensive overview of the system, including detailed diagrams and descriptions of the hardware components and their respective slots. These documents are accessible through Dell's official support page or technical resources related to the XtremIO X2 product line.

Question 2

Question Type: MultipleChoice

When creating XtremIO volumes for a host, which operating systems will benefit by changing the default logical block size for applications consisting of 4 KB I/Os?

Options:

- A- VMware ESX and Microsoft Windows
- B- RHEL and IBM AIX

C- Sun Solaris and HP-UX

D- Microsoft Windows and RHEL

Answer:

A

Explanation:

When creating XtremIO volumes for a host, operating systems like Microsoft Windows and RHEL (Red Hat Enterprise Linux) will benefit from changing the default logical block size to better match applications that consist of 4 KB I/Os. This is because these operating systems are commonly used with applications that have a 4 KB I/O size, and aligning the logical block size with the application I/O size can improve performance by reducing the need for read-modify-write cycles.

For instance, in Windows environments, the NTFS file system often uses a default cluster size of 4 KB, which aligns well with a 4 KB logical block size. Similarly, for RHEL, the Ext4 file system can be configured with a 4 KB block size, which is a common setting for many Linux-based applications¹².

Discussions on Dell Technologies community forums indicate that changing the logical block size can prevent issues with unaligned I/O and is part of a larger configuration strategy for optimizing storage performance³.

The Reference Architecture Guide for Dell EMC XtremIO documents mention using a block size of 64 KB for database data and log file drives after the installation of the operating system in the VMs, for Windows and RHEL operating systems respectively¹². This suggests that the block size is an important consideration for performance tuning in these environments.

Question 3

Question Type: MultipleChoice

What can be demonstrated with the XMS Simulator?

Options:

- A- Configuring connectemc
- B- Initializing cluster
- C- Creating volumes
- D- Deploying XMS

Answer:

C

Explanation:

The XtremIO XMS Simulator can be used for various purposes, including demos, product training, comparing XMS/XtremIO version release functionality, testing scripts against XtremIO's RESTful API, and XtremIO development, testing, and simulation¹. Among the

options provided, creating volumes is a task that can be demonstrated with the XMS Simulator. This is because the simulator allows users to interact with a simulated XtremIO environment, which includes managing and operating volumes as part of the overall management simulation1.

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Question 4

Question Type: MultipleChoice

A customer is adding a new volume to their XtremIO environment using the RESTful API. When attempting to create the volume, a response code of 400 is returned. What is the

cause of this response code?

Options:

- A- RESTful API command encountered an internal error
- B- RESTful API command timed out
- C- RESTful API command contains a syntax error

D- RESTful API command is not authorized

Answer:

C

Explanation:

A response code of 400 in the context of RESTful API operations generally indicates that the request made by the client was malformed or contains a syntax error. This means that the data stream sent by the client to the server did not follow the rules as defined by the API specification. It could be due to various reasons such as incorrect request format, missing required parameters, or invalid parameter values¹.

In the case of the Dell XtremIO environment, if a customer receives a 400 response code when attempting to create a volume via the RESTful API, it is likely due to a syntax error in the API command. The customer should review the API request to ensure that it conforms to the expected format and includes all necessary information as per the XtremIO API documentation².

Community discussions on the Dell Technologies website where similar issues have been addressed and the cause of the 400 error was identified as a syntax error in the RESTful API command².

General information about the meaning of a 400 Bad Request error in REST APIs, which supports the conclusion that a syntax error is the cause¹.

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Question 5

Question Type: MultipleChoice

An XtremIO administrator wants to understand the I/O transfer process. What are the parts of a typical I/O transfer?

Options:

A- Protocol, header, data, and address

B- Metadata, header, data, and log

C- Protocol, header, data, and handshaking

D- Negotiation, header, data, and acknowledgement

Answer:

C

Explanation:

A typical I/O transfer involves several components that work together to ensure data is correctly sent and received. These components include:

Protocol: This defines the rules for how data is transmitted between devices. It ensures that the sender and receiver are using a common language and standards.

Header: The header contains metadata about the data being transferred, such as source and destination addresses, error checking codes, and sequencing information.

Data: This is the actual payload or information that is being transferred.

Handshaking: This part of the process involves the exchange of control messages before the actual data transfer begins. It establishes the parameters of the communication channel and confirms that both sender and receiver are ready for the transfer.

These components are essential for the successful completion of an I/O transfer, ensuring that data is accurately and reliably transmitted from one point to another.

The Dell XtremIO Design documents provide a detailed understanding of the product features, functionality, use cases, and configurations, which includes the I/O transfer process as a fundamental aspect of storage array operations¹.

Additional resources on I/O transfer processes can be found in the support documentation for the XtremIO Family on Dell's official website².

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Question 6

Question Type: MultipleChoice

When troubleshooting SAN performance problems what would be a key indicator of a physical issue?

Options:

- A- High CRC error count
- B- High Buffer to Buffer Credits
- C- Low Buffer to Buffer Credits
- D- High Class 3 Discards

Answer:

A

Explanation:

When troubleshooting SAN performance problems, a key indicator of a physical issue is a high CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check) error count. CRC errors are indicative of corrupt data packets during transmission, which often points to issues such as faulty cables, bad ports, or other physical problems in the network infrastructure. High CRC error counts can lead to retransmissions, reduced throughput, and overall degradation of SAN performance. Addressing the physical components associated with high CRC error counts is essential for restoring optimal SAN operations.

While the specific Dell XtremIO Design document was not available, general SAN troubleshooting guidelines and best practices indicate that CRC errors are a critical metric to monitor for physical connectivity issues¹.

Additional resources on SAN performance troubleshooting can be found in the support documentation for the XtremIO Family on Dell's official website².

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Question 7

Question Type: MultipleChoice

What is an accurate statement about XtremIO XVC refresh operations?

Options:

- A- Only snapshot-to-production refresh is supported
- B- O/S side device scan is not required
- C- Unmount of a production volume is not required
- D- Refreshed volume cannot be resized

Answer:

C

Explanation:

XtremIO XVC (XtremIO Virtual Copies) allows for efficient snapshot management and operations, including the refresh of volumes. One of the key features of XVC is that it enables the refresh of a production volume from a snapshot without requiring the volume to be unmounted from the host. This capability is designed to minimize disruption and maintain continuous availability of data to applications during refresh operations. The refresh operation is handled within the XtremIO storage array, and the production volume remains accessible to the host during this process¹.

The Dell XtremIO Design Achievement document provides information on the capabilities and features of XtremIO X2 systems, including XVC operations¹.

Additional details on XVC refresh operations can be found in the support documentation for the XtremIO Family on Dell's official website².

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Question 8

Question Type: MultipleChoice

A customer has a complex virtualized environment and wants to see a topology view from virtual or physical hosts down to the storage array volumes to identify application to

storage dependencies.

Which Dell EMC product provides this solution?

Options:

- A- Technician Advisor
- B- ViPR SRM
- C- XtremIO VAAI plug in
- D- AppSync

Answer:

B

Explanation:

ViPR SRM (Storage Resource Management) is the Dell EMC product that provides a comprehensive topology view from virtual or physical hosts down to the storage array volumes. This tool is designed to help customers manage complex virtualized environments by

offering insights into application-to-storage dependencies. ViPR SRM delivers detailed reporting and analytics, which can be used to optimize storage performance and capacity planning¹.

The Introduction to XtremIO X2 Storage Array document provides information on the system features and management tools available for XtremIO arrays, which includes details on how ViPR SRM can be used to visualize and manage the storage infrastructure¹.

Additional resources on the Dell EMC support site offer documentation and guides on how to effectively use ViPR SRM for storage resource management².

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Question 9

Question Type: MultipleChoice

A storage administrator is configuring SAN switches and zoning to connect a four X-Brick XtremIO array. A VMware ESXi server is hosted on a blade chassis with 16 HBA ports.

In addition, the SAN consists of two separate SAN switches.

What is the recommended XtremIO best practice for zoning?

Options:

A- First Storage Controllers' HBA ports to the first switch

Second Storage Controllers' HBA ports to the second switch

Multipath all host ports to single LUNs per zone

B- Two HBA connections per host

Single initiator/multiple targets per zone

Maximum of 16 paths for each device

Host connected to each SAN switch

C- Single Storage Controller HBA port to the first switch

Single Storage Controller HBA port to the second switch

Single initiator/multiple targets per zone

Maximum of 4 paths for each LUN per zone

D- Two HBA connections per host connected to a single switch

Multiple initiators/multiple targets per zone

Maximum of 4 paths for each LUN per zone

Answer:

B

Explanation:

For a four X-Brick XtremIO array, the recommended best practice for zoning in a SAN environment with VMware ESXi servers is to have two HBA connections per host, with each host connected to both SAN switches. This configuration allows for redundancy and high availability. The zoning should be set up with a single initiator (the HBA on the host) to multiple targets (the storage controllers' HBA ports) per zone. This ensures that each host has multiple paths to the storage, allowing for failover and load balancing. The maximum number of paths for each device should be 16 to prevent exceeding the path limits and to maintain optimal performance¹.

Dell Technologies community discussions on XtremIO Zoning Best Practices provide insights into the recommended zoning configurations for different XtremIO setups¹.

The Host Configuration Guide for XtremIO, which can be found on the Dell EMC support site, offers detailed instructions on zoning best practices for XtremIO storage arrays².

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Question 10

Question Type: MultipleChoice

What is a benefit of XtremIO All Flash arrays?

Options:

- A- Cost per GB is the same as spinning disk
- B- Cost per GB is lower than spinning disk
- C- Cost per I/O per GB is the same as spinning disk
- D- Cost per I/O per GB is lower than spinning disk

Answer:

D

Explanation:

XtremIO All Flash arrays provide a significant benefit in terms of cost per I/O per GB when compared to traditional spinning disks. This is due to the higher performance and efficiency of flash storage, which delivers faster data access speeds and better I/O rates. As a result, the cost per I/O operation, when spread over the total capacity of the storage (GB), is lower for all-flash arrays. This efficiency translates into better overall value, especially for workloads that require high I/O throughput¹.

It is a common understanding that all-flash arrays, like XtremIO, offer better performance and efficiency compared to spinning disks, which results in a lower cost per I/O per GB¹.

The "Introduction to XtremIO X2 Storage Array" document from Dell Technologies highlights the efficiency of the storage array, which contributes to reducing the \$/GB cost of storage².

Additional data from industry sources supports the notion that all-flash storage can be more cost-effective in the long run due to operational cost reductions and lower total cost of ownership (TCO) over time¹.

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