

Storage management

Policy-based automation and performance monitoring



Dependence on storage networks

Companies increasingly depend on storage area networks (SANs) to store and safeguard vast amounts of information on customers, products and operations. The growth of these networks has become exponential, and their reliability mission critical. SANs are application-driven, and as more operations adopt them, their software functionality becomes more varied and complex.

Matching SANs to operations

IT departments and independent solution providers are under increasing pressure to deliver applications that more thoroughly manage and mine the data kept in SANs. Companies also want to give their business personnel direct access to the decision logic applied by SAN applications for processing, storing, retrieving and sharing data. SANs are typically delivered with essential functionality. But as a company matures and its products, practices, policies and offers change, its SAN has to be adapted accordingly.

Policy implementation and performance monitoring

Storage applications for policy-based management, dynamic provisioning, and network and performance monitoring are in great demand. Business rule products from ILOG give business users access to the decision logic for automating data processing and provisioning systems. For real-time network and performance monitoring, ILOG has a comprehensive line of visualization products that include ILOG JTGO, a graphical user interface (GUI) builder that quickly visualizes the structure of a SAN, including its storage devices and points of access.

- **Policy-based management of storage resources and networks**
- **Dynamic provisioning and configuration**
- **Real-time network monitoring and performance management**



Storage management solutions

ILOG software helps ISVs, OEMs and their customers' IT and business users quickly develop solutions or implement decisions that extend the sophisticated storage management applications provided with SANs. Many companies in the data storage sector rely on ILOG products in developing advanced front- and back-end management solutions. SAN administrators use the products to simplify and automate tasks, reduce the incidence of human error, and maximize resource and data allocation. They cut costs, shorten time to market and eliminate risks in delivering advanced functionality and better performance. ILOG components are used in applications for policy-based storage resource management (SRM), storage area management (SAM), and unified GUIs for SAN supervision and performance monitoring.

SRM and SAM automation

Data storage administrators use policy-based SRM and SAM tools to automate the notification and decision-making for conflict resolution, authorizations, job prioritization, traffic direction, storage resources and dynamic provisioning. Automating these operations means fewer people are needed to handle more resources. It also reduces the number of errors that can result in costly downtime, and generally improves performance and cost effectiveness. ILOG JRules (Java), ILOG Rules for .NET and ILOG Rules (C++) deliver these benefits through ILOG's business rule management system (BRMS). The user captures policies with ILOG Rule Builder, which uses a simple English-like syntax to capture decisions as business rules. (ILOG Rule Builder can be localized with other languages). Once written, the business rules can be stored in a repository for testing and deployment across the enterprise, or immediately deployed to automate an operation. Other features ensure that ILOG's business rule products bring reliability, high performance and ease of use to SRM and SAM policy-based management.

Performance and network monitoring

Administering a SAN typically requires a networkwide view through a graphical interface that allows the user to operate equipment directly and in real time. The GUI should include performance monitoring, event messaging, and a complete map of the network and its connected equipment. This lets network administrators see how well equipment is running, and pinpoint the exact cause of any problem and its impact on network operations. ILOG's comprehensive Java, .NET and C++ visualization software components include ILOG JTGO, which is specifically designed for network equipment and event monitoring. It comes with a complete set of network and equipment graphics and visualization editing tools. It also provides functions for automatically generating network layouts. Its SAN features include storage icons, SNMP state models, inventory rendering facilities, and intuitive performance display and analysis. It also provides LDAP connectors that enable a storage management application to provide a single policy management interface with a different view for each level of authorization and direct access to the company's LDAP server.

“When written with business rules, storage policies become simple to manage. SAN administrators can instantly access, edit, modify and deploy new policies across equipment with just a few clicks and without having to learn complex scripting languages.”

– Jean-Yves Tripier
Industry Marketing Director
Telecommunications and Media
ILOG



Learn more

For more information about ILOG in storage management, please visit www.ilog.com/industries/communications.

ABOUT ILOG

ILOG delivers software and services that empower customers to make better decisions faster and manage change and complexity. Over 2,000 global corporations and more than 400 leading software vendors rely on ILOG's market-leading business rule management system (BRMS), optimization and visualization software components, to achieve dramatic returns on investment, create market-defining products and services, and sharpen their competitive edge. The BRMS market share leader, ILOG was founded in 1987 and employs more than 600 people worldwide.

ILOG Worldwide Information Center - Tel: 1-800-FOR-ILOG (US only) or 1-775-881-2800 (International) • URL: <http://www.ilog.com>

Australia - ILOG - Sydney - Tel: +61 (0) 2 9955 7210 - E-mail: info@ilog.com

China - ILOG (S) Pte. Ltd. - Beijing Representative Office - Tel: +86 10 8518 1080 - E-mail: info@ilog.com.cn

France - ILOG S.A. - Gentilly - Tel: +33 (0)1 49 08 35 00 - E-mail: info@ilog.fr

Germany - ILOG Deutschland GmbH - Bad Homburg v.d.H. - Tel: +49 6172 40 60 - 0 - E-mail: info@ilog.de

Japan - ILOG Co., Ltd - Tokyo - Tel: +81 3 5211 5770 - E-mail: info@ilog.co.jp

Singapore - ILOG (S) Pte. Ltd. - Singapore - Tel: +65 67 73 06 26 - E-mail: info@ilog.com.sg

Spain - ILOG S.A. - Madrid - Tel: +34 91 710 2480 - E-mail: info@ilog.es

UK - ILOG Ltd. - Bracknell - Tel: +44 (0) 1344 66 16 00 - E-mail: info@ilog.co.uk

USA - ILOG, Inc. - Mountain View, CA - Tel: +1 650 567-8000 - E-mail: info@ilog.com

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