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STORAGE ROUTER AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING VIRTUAL LOCAL STORAGE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of and claims the benefit of the filing dates of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/081,110 by inventors Geoffrey B. Hoese and Jeffry T. Russell, entitled “Storage Router and Method for Providing Virtual Local Storage” filed on Feb. 22, 2002, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,789,152 which in turn is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 09/354,682 by inventors Geoffrey B. Hoese and Jeffry T. Russell, entitled “Storage Router and Method for Providing Virtual Local Storage” filed on Jul. 15, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,421,753, which in turn is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/001,799, filed on Dec. 31, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,941,972, and hereby incorporates these applications by reference in their entireties as if they had been fully set forth herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates in general to network storage devices, and more particularly to a storage router and method for providing virtual local storage on remote SCSI storage devices to Fibre Channel devices.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Typical storage transport mediums provide for a relatively small number of devices to be attached over relatively short distances. One such transport medium is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) protocol, the structure and operation of which is generally well known as is described, for example, in the SCSI-1, SCSI-2 and SCSI-3 specifications. High speed serial interconnects provide enhanced capability to attach a large number of high speed devices to a common storage transport medium over large distances. One such serial interconnect is Fibre Channel, the structure and operation of which is described, for example, in Fibre Channel Physical and signaling Interface (FC-PH), ANSI X3.230, Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop (FC-AL), and ANSI X3.272, Fibre Channel Private Loop Direct Attach (FC-PLDA).

Conventional computing devices, such as computer workstations, generally access storage locally or through network interconnects. Local storage typically consists of a disk drive, tape drive, CD-ROM drive or other storage device contained within, or locally connected to the workstation. The workstation provides a file system structure, that includes security controls, with access to the local storage device through native low level, block protocols. These protocols map directly to the mechanisms used by the storage device and consist of data requests without security controls. Network interconnects typically provide access for a large number of computing devices to data storage on a remote network server. The remote network server provides a file system structure, access control, and other miscellaneous capabilities that include the network interface. Access to data through the network server is through network protocols that the server must translate into low level requests to the storage device. A workstation with access to the server storage must translate its file system protocols into network protocols that are used to communicate with the server. Consequently, from the perspective of a workstation, or other computing device, seeking to access such server data, the access is much slower than access to data on a local storage device.
FIG. 3 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a storage network with a storage router that provides virtual local storage.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of one embodiment of the storage router of FIG. 3, and FIG. 5 is a block diagram of one embodiment of data flow within the storage router of FIG. 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional network, indicated generally at 10, that provides access to storage through a network server. As shown, network 10 includes a plurality of workstations 12 interconnected with a network server 14 via a network transport medium 16. Each workstation 12 can generally comprise a processor, memory, input/output devices, storage devices and a network adapter as well as other common computer components. Network server 14 uses a SCSI bus 18 as a storage transport medium to interconnect with a plurality of storage devices 20 (tape drives, disk drives, etc.). In the embodiment of FIG. 1, network transport medium 16 is an network connection and storage devices 20 comprise hard disk drives, although there are numerous alternate transport mediums and storage devices.

In network 10, each workstation 12 has access to its local storage device as well as network access to data on storage devices 20. The access to a local storage device is typically through native low level, block protocols. On the other hand, access by a workstation 12 to storage devices 20 requires the participation of network server 14 which implements a file system and transfers data to workstations 12 only through high level file system protocols. Only network server 14 communicates with storage devices 20 via native low level, block protocols. Consequently, the network access by workstations 12 through network server 14 is slow with respect to their access to local storage. In network 10, it can also be a logistical problem to centrally manage and administer local data distributed across an organization, including accomplishing tasks such as backups, virus scanning and redundancy.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a storage network, indicated generally at 30, with a storage router that provides global access and routing. This environment is significantly different from that of FIG. 1 in that there is no network server involved. In FIG. 2, a Fibre Channel high speed serial transport 32 interconnects a plurality of workstations 36 and storage devices 38. A SCSI bus storage transport medium interconnects workstations 40 and storage devices 42. A storage router 44 then serves to interconnect these mediums and provide devices on either medium global, transparent access to devices on the other medium.

Storage router 44 routes requests and data as a generic transport between Fibre Channel 32 and SCSI bus 34. Storage router 44 uses tables to map devices from one medium to the other and distributes requests and data across Fibre Channel 32 and SCSI bus 34 without any security access controls. Although this extension of the high speed serial interconnect provided by Fibre Channel 32 is beneficial, it is desirable to provide security controls in addition to extended access to storage devices through a native low level, block protocol.

According to the present invention, storage router 56 has enhanced functionality to implement security controls and routing such that each workstation 58 can have access to a specific subset of the overall data stored in storage devices 60, 62 and 64. This specific subset of data has the appearance and characteristics of local storage and is referred to herein as virtual local storage. Storage router 56 allows the configuration and modification of the storage allocated to each attached workstation 58 through the use of mapping tables or other mapping techniques.

As shown in FIG. 3, for example, storage device 60 can be configured to provide global data 65 which can be accessed by all workstations 58. Storage device 62 can be configured to provide partitioned subsets 66, 68, 70 and 72, where each partition is allocated to one of the workstations 58 (workstations A, B, C and D). These subsets 66, 68, 70 and 72 can only be accessed by the associated workstation 58 and appear to the associated workstation 58 as local storage accessed using native low level, block protocols. Similarly, storage device 64 can be allocated as storage for the remaining workstation 58 (workstation E).

Storage router 56 combines access control with routing such that each workstation 58 has controlled access to only the specified partition of storage device 62 which forms virtual local storage for the workstation 58. This access control allows security control for the specified data partitions. Storage router 56 allows this allocation of storage devices 60, 62 and 64 to be managed by a management station 76. Management station 76 can connect directly to storage router 56 via a direct connection or, alternately, can interface with storage router 56 through either Fibre Channel 52 or SCSI bus 54. In the latter case, management station 76 can be a workstation or other computing device with special rights such that storage router 56 allows access to mapping tables and shows storage devices 60, 62 and 64 as they exist physically rather than as they have been allocated.

The environment of FIG. 3 extends the concept of a single workstation having locally connected storage devices to a storage network 50 in which workstations 58 are provided virtual local storage in a manner transparent to workstations 58. Storage router 56 provides centralized control of what each workstation 58 sees as its local drive, as well as what data it sees as global data accessible by other workstations 58. Consequently, the storage space considered by the workstation 58 to be its local storage is actually a partition (i.e., logical storage definition) of a physically remote storage device 60, 62 or 64 connected through storage router 56. This means that similar requests from workstations 58 for...
access to their local storage devices produce different accesses to the storage space on storage devices 60, 62 and 64. Further, no access from a workstation 58 is allowed to the virtual local storage of another workstation 58.

The collective storage provided by storage devices 60, 62 and 64 can have blocks allocated by programming means within storage router 56. To accomplish this function, storage router 56 can include routing tables and security controls that define storage allocation for each workstation 58. The advantages provided by implementing virtual local storage in centralized storage devices include the ability to do collective backups and other collective administrative functions more easily. This is accomplished without limiting the performance of workstations 58 because storage access involves native low level, block protocols and does not involve the overhead of high level protocols and file systems required by network servers.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of one embodiment of storage router 56 of FIG. 3. Storage router 56 can comprise a Fibre Channel controller 80 that interfaces with Fibre Channel 52 and a SCSI controller 82 that interfaces with SCSI bus 54. A buffer 84 provides memory work space and is connected to both Fibre Channel controller 80 and to SCSI controller 82. A supervisor unit 86 is connected to Fibre Channel controller 80, SCSI controller 82 and buffer 84. Supervisor unit 86 comprises a microprocessor for controlling operation of storage router 56 and to handle mapping and security access for requests between Fibre Channel 52 and SCSI bus 54.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram of one embodiment of data flow within storage router 56 of FIG. 4. As shown, data from Fibre Channel 52 is processed by a Fibre Channel (FC) protocol unit 88 and placed in a FIFO queue 90. A direct memory access (DMA) interface 92 then takes data out of FIFO queue 90 and places it in buffer 84. Supervisor unit 86 processes the data in buffer 84 as represented by supervisor processing 93. This processing involves mapping between Fibre Channel 52 and SCSI bus 54 and applying access controls and routing functions. A DMA interface 94 then pulls data from buffer 84 and places it into a buffer 96. A SCSI protocol unit 98 pulls data from buffer 96 and communicates the data on SCSI bus 54. Data flow in the reverse direction, from SCSI bus 54 to Fibre Channel 52, is accomplished in a reverse manner.

The storage router of the present invention is a bridge device that connects a Fibre Channel link directly to a SCSI bus and enables the exchange of SCSI command set information between application clients on SCSI bus devices and the Fibre Channel links. Further, the storage router applies access controls such that virtual local storage can be established in remote SCSI storage devices for workstations on the Fibre Channel link. In one embodiment, the storage router provides a connection for Fibre Channel links running the SCSI Fibre Channel Protocol (FCP) to legacy SCSI devices attached to a SCSI bus. The Fibre Channel topology is typically an Arbitrated Loop (FC_AL).

In part, the storage router enables a migration path to Fibre Channel based, serial SCSI networks by providing connectivity for legacy SCSI bus devices. The storage router can be attached to a Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop and a SCSI bus to support a number of SCSI devices. Using configuration settings, the storage router can make the SCSI bus devices available on the Fibre Channel network as FCP logical units. Once the configuration is defined, operation of the storage router is transparent to application clients. In this manner, the storage router can form an integral part of the migration to new Fibre Channel based networks while providing a means to continue using legacy SCSI devices.

In one implementation (not shown), the storage router can be a rack mount or free standing device with an internal power supply. The storage router can have a Fibre Channel and SCSI port, and a standard, detachable power cord can be used, the FC connector can be a copper DB9 connector, and the SCSI connector can be a 68-pin type. Additional modular jacks can be provided for a serial port and a 802.3 10BaseT port, i.e. twisted pair Ethernet, for management access. The SCSI port of the storage router can support SCSI direct and sequential access target devices and can support SCSI initiators, as well. The Fibre Channel port can interface to SCSI-3 FCP enabled devices and initiators.

To accomplish its functionality, one implementation of the storage router uses: a Fibre Channel interface based on the HEWLETT-PACKARD TACHYON HPFC-5000 controller and a GLM media interface; an Intel 80960RP processor, incorporating independent data and program memory spaces, and associated logic required to implement a stand alone processing system; a serial port for debug and system configuration. Further, this implementation includes a SCSI interface supporting Fast-20 based on the SYMBIOS 53C8xx series SCSI controllers, and an operating system based upon the WIND RIVERS SYSTEMS VWORKS or VWORKS kernel, as determined by design. In addition, the storage router includes software as required to control basic functions of the various elements, and to provide appropriate translations between the FC and SCSI protocols.

The storage router has various modes of operation that are possible between FC and SCSI target and initiator combinations. These modes are: FC Initiator to SCSI Target; SCSI Initiator to FC Target; SCSI Initiator to SCSI Target; and FC Initiator to FC Target. The first two modes can be supported concurrently in a single storage router device as discussed briefly below. The third mode can involve two storage router devices back to back and can serve primarily as a device to extend the physical distance beyond that possible via a direct SCSI connection. The last mode can be used to carry FC protocols encapsulated on other transmission technologies (e.g. ATM, SONET), or to act as a bridge between two FC loops (e.g. as a two port fabric).

The FC Initiator to SCSI Target mode provides for the basic configuration of a server using Fibre Channel to communicate with SCSI targets. This mode requires that a host system have an FC attached device and associated device drivers and software to generate SCSI-3 FCP requests. This system acts as an initiator using the storage router to communicate with SCSI target devices. The SCSI devices supported can include SCSI-2 compliant direct or sequential access (disk or tape) devices. The storage router serves to translate command and status information and transfer data between SCSI-3 FCP and SCSI-2, allowing the use of standard SCSI-2 devices in a Fibre Channel environment.

The SCSI Initiator to FC Target mode provides for the configuration of a server using SCSI-2 to communicate with Fibre Channel targets. This mode requires that a host system has a SCSI-2 interface and driver software to control SCSI-2 target devices. The storage router will connect to the SCSI-2 bus and respond as a target to multiple target IDs. Configuration information is required to identify the target IDs to which the bridge will respond on the SCSI-2 bus. The storage router then translates the SCSI-2 requests to SCSI-3 FCP requests, allowing the use of FC devices with a SCSI host system. This will also allow features such as a tape
device acting as an initiator on the SCSI bus to provide full support for this type of SCSI device.

In general, user configuration of the storage router will be needed to support various functional modes of operation. Configuration can be modified, for example, through a serial port or through an Ethernet port via SNMP (simple network management protocol) or a Telnet session. Specifically, SNMP manageability can be provided via an 802.3 Ethernet interface. This can provide for configuration changes as well as providing statistics and error information. Configuration can also be performed via TELNET or RS-232 interfaces with menu driven command interfaces. Configuration information can be stored in a segment of flash memory and can be retained across resets and power off cycles. Password protection can also be provided.

In the first two modes of operation, addressing information is needed to map from FC addressing to SCSI addressing and vice versa. This can be “hard” configuration data, due to the need for address information to be maintained across initialization and partial reconfigurations of the Fibre Channel address space. In an arbitrated loop configuration, user configured addresses will be needed for AL_PAs in order to insure that known addresses are provided between loop reconfigurations.

With respect to addressing, FCP and SCSI 2 systems employ different methods of addressing target devices. Additionally, the inclusion of a storage router means that a method of translating device IDs needs to be implemented. In addition, the storage router can respond to commands without passing the commands through to the opposite interface. This can be implemented to allow all generic FCP and SCSI commands to pass through the storage router to address attached devices, but allow for configuration and diagnostics to be performed directly on the storage router through the FC and SCSI interfaces.

Management commands are those intended to be processed by the storage router controller directly. This may include diagnostic, mode, and log commands as well as other vendor-specific commands. These commands can be received and processed by both the FCP and SCSI interfaces, but are not typically bridged to the opposite interface. These commands may also have side effects on the operation of the storage router, and cause other storage router operations to change or terminate.

A primary method of addressing management commands through the FCP and SCSI interfaces can be through peripheral device type addressing. For example, the storage router can respond to all operations addressed to logical unit (LUN) zero as a controller device. Commands that the storage router will support can include INQUIRY as well as vendor-specific management commands. These are to be generally consistent with SCC standard commands.

The SCSI bus is capable of establishing bus connections between targets. These targets may internally address logical units. Thus, the prioritized addressing scheme used by SCSI subsystems can be represented as follows: BUS:TARGET:LOGICAL UNIT. The BUS identification is intrinsic in the configuration, as a SCSI initiator is attached to only one bus. Target addressing is handled by bus arbitration from information provided to the arbitrating device. Target addresses are assigned to SCSI devices directly, though some means of configuration, such as a hardware jumper, switch setting, or device specific software configuration. As such, the SCSI protocol provides only logical unit addressing within the Identify message. Bus and target information is implied by the established connection.

Fibre Channel devices within a fabric are addressed by a unique port identifier. This identifier is assigned to a port during certain well-defined states of the FC protocol. Individual ports are allowed to arbitrate for a known, user defined address. If such an address is not provided, or if arbitration for a particular user address fails, the port is assigned a unique address by the FC protocol. This address is generally not guaranteed to be unique between instances. Various scenarios exist where the AL-PA of a device will change, either after power cycle or loop reconfiguration.

The FC protocol also provides a logical unit address field within command structures to provide addressing to devices internal to a port. The FCP_CMD payload specifies an eight byte LUN field. Subsequent identification of the exchange between devices is provided by the FQXID (Fully Qualified Exchange ID).

FC ports can be required to have specific addresses assigned. Although basic functionality is independent of this, changes in the loop configuration could result in disk targets changing identifiers with the potential risk of data corruption or loss. This configuration can be straightforward, and can consist of providing the device a loop-unique ID (AL_PA) in the range of “01h” to “EFh.” Storage routers could be shipped with a default value with the assumption that most configurations will be using single storage routers and no other devices requesting the present ID. This would provide a minimum amount of initial configuration to the system administrator. Alternately, storage routers could be defaulted to assume any address so that configurations requiring multiple storage routers on a loop would not require that the administrator assign a unique ID to the additional storage routers.

Address translation is needed where commands are issued in the cases FC Initiator to SCSI Target and SCSI Initiator to FC Target. Target responses are qualified by the FQXID and will retain the translation acquired at the beginning of the exchange. This prevents configuration changes occurring during the course of execution of a command from causing data or state information to be inadvertently misdirected. Configuration can be required in cases of SCSI Initiator to FC Target, as discovery may not effectively allow for FCP targets to consistently be found. This is due to an FC arbitrated loop supporting addressing of a larger number of devices than a SCSI bus and the possibility of FC devices changing their AL-PA due to device insertion or other loop initialization.

In the direct method, the translation to BUS:TARGET: LUN of the SCSI address information will be direct. That is, the values represented in the FCP LUN field will directly map to the values in effect on the SCSI bus. This provides a clean translation and does not require SCSI bus discovery. It also allows devices to be dynamically added to the SCSI bus without modifying the address map. It may not allow for complete discovery by FCP initiator devices, as gaps between device addresses may halt the discovery process. Legacy SCSI device drivers typically halt discovery on a target device at the first unoccupied LUN, and proceed to the next target. This would lead to some devices not being discovered. However, this allows for hot plugged devices and other changes to the loop addressing.

In the ordered method, ordered translation requires that the storage router perform discovery on reset, and collapses the addresses on the SCSI bus to sequential FCP LUN values. Thus, the FCP LUN values 0-N can represent N+1 SCSI devices, regardless of SCSI address values, in the order in which they are isolated during the SCSI discovery process. This would allow the FCP initiator discovery pro-
access to identify all mapped SCSI devices without further configuration. This has the limitation that hot-plugged devices will not be identified until the next reset cycle. In this case, the address may also be altered as well.

In addition to addressing, according to the present invention, the storage router maintains a configuration and access controls that cause certain requests from FC Initiators to be directed to assigned virtual local storage partitioned on SCSI storage devices. For example, the same request for LUN 0 (local storage) by two different FC Initiators can be directed to two separate subsets of storage. The storage router can use tables to map, for each initiator, what storage access is available and what partition is being addressed by a particular request. In this manner, the storage space provided by SCSI storage devices can be allocated to FC initiators to provide virtual local storage as well as to create any other desired configuration for secured access.

Although the present invention has been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions, and alterations can be made hereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A storage router for providing virtual local storage on remote storage devices to a device, comprising:
   a buffer providing memory work space for the storage router;
   a first Fibre Channel controller operable to connect to and interface with a first Fibre Channel transport medium; a second Fibre Channel controller operable to connect to and interface with a second Fibre Channel transport medium; and
   a supervisor unit coupled to the first and second Fibre Channel controllers and the buffer, the supervisor unit operable:
   to maintain a configuration for remote storage devices connected to the second Fibre Channel transport medium that maps between the device and the remote storage devices and that implements access controls for storage space on the remote storage devices; and
   to process data in the buffer to interface between the first Fibre Channel controller and the second Fibre Channel controller to allow access from Fibre Channel initiator devices to the remote storage devices using native low level, block protocol in accordance with the configuration.

2. The storage router of claim 1, wherein the configuration maintained by the supervisor unit includes an allocation of subsets of storage space to associated Fibre Channel devices, wherein each subset is only accessible by the associated Fibre Channel device.

3. The storage router of claim 2, wherein the Fibre Channel devices comprise workstations.

4. The storage router of claim 2, wherein the remote storage devices comprise hard disk drives.

5. The storage router of claim 1, wherein each of the first Fibre Channel controller comprises:
   a Fibre Channel (FC) protocol unit operable to connect to the Fibre Channel transport medium;
   a first-in-first-out queue coupled to the Fibre Channel protocol unit; and
   a direct memory access (DMA) interface coupled to the first-in-first-out queue and to the buffer.

6. A storage network, comprising:
   a first Fibre Channel transport medium;
   a second Fibre Channel transport medium;
   a plurality of workstations connected to the first Fibre Channel transport medium;
   a plurality of storage devices connected to the second Fibre Channel transport medium; and
   a storage router interfacing between the first Fibre Channel transport medium and the second Fibre Channel transport medium, the storage router providing virtual local storage on the storage devices to the workstations and operable:
   to map between the workstations and the storage devices;
   to implement access controls for storage space on the storage devices; and
   to allow access from the workstations to the storage devices using native low level, block protocol in accordance with the mapping and access controls.

7. The storage network of claim 6, wherein the access controls include an allocation of subsets of storage space to associated workstations, wherein each subset is only accessible by the associated workstation.

8. The storage network of claim 6, wherein the storage devices comprise hard disk drives.

9. The storage network of claim 6, wherein the storage router comprises:
   a buffer providing memory work space for the storage router;
   a first Fibre Channel controller operable to connect to and interface with the first Fibre Channel transport medium, the first Fibre Channel controller further operable to pull outgoing data from the buffer and to place incoming data into the buffer;
   a second Fibre Channel controller operable to connect to and interface with the second Fibre Channel transport medium, the second Fibre Channel controller further operable to pull outgoing data from the buffer and to place incoming data into the buffer; and
   a supervisor unit coupled to the first and second Fibre Channel controllers and the buffer, the supervisor unit operable:
   to maintain a configuration for the storage devices that maps between workstations and storage devices and that implements the access controls for storage space on the storage devices; and
   to process data in the buffer to interface between the first Fibre Channel controller and the second Fibre Channel controller to allow access from workstations to storage devices in accordance with the configuration.

10. A method for providing virtual local storage on remote storage devices to Fibre Channel devices, comprising:
    interfacing with a first Fibre Channel transport medium;
    interfacing with a second Fibre Channel transport medium; maintaining a configuration for remote storage devices connected to the second Fibre Channel transport medium that maps between Fibre Channel devices and the remote storage devices and that implements access controls for storage space on the remote storage devices; and
    allowing access from Fibre Channel initiator devices to the remote storage devices using native low level, block protocol in accordance with the configuration.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein maintaining the configuration includes allocating subsets of storage space to associated Fibre Channel devices, wherein each subset is only accessible by the associated Fibre Channel device.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the Fibre Channel devices comprise workstations.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the remote storage devices comprise hard disk drives.
14. An apparatus for providing virtual local storage on a remote storage device to a device operating according to a Fibre Channel protocol, comprising:
   a first controller operable to connect to and interface with a first transport medium, wherein the first transport medium is operable according to the Fibre Channel protocol;
   a second controller operable to connect to and interface with a second transport medium, wherein the second transport medium is operable according to the Fibre Channel protocol; and
   a supervisor unit coupled to the first controller and the second controller, the supervisor unit operable to control access from the device connected to the first transport medium to the remote storage device connected to the second transport medium using native low level, block protocols according to a map between the device and the remote storage device.
15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the supervisor unit is further operable to maintain a configuration wherein the configuration includes the map between the device and the remote storage device, and further wherein the map includes virtual LUNs that provide a representation of the storage device.
16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the map only exposes the device to LUNs that the device may access.
17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the supervisor unit is further operable to maintain a configuration including the map, wherein the map provides a mapping from a host device ID to a virtual LUN representation of the storage device.
18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the remote storage device further comprises storage space partitioned into virtual local storage for the device connected to the first transport medium.
19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the supervisor unit is further operable to prevent the device from accessing any storage on the remote storage device that is not part of a virtual local storage partition assigned to the device.
20. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first controller and the second controller further comprise a single controller.
21. A system for providing virtual local storage on remote storage devices, comprising:
   a first controller operable to connect to and interface with a first transport medium operable according to a Fibre Channel protocol;
   a second controller operable to connect to and interface with a second transport medium operable according to the Fibre Channel protocol;
   at least one device connected to the first transport medium;
   at least one storage device connected to the second transport medium; and
   an access control device coupled to the first controller and the second controller, the access control device operable to:
   map between the at least one device and a storage space on the at least one storage device; and
   control access from the at least one device to the at least one storage device using native low level, block protocol in accordance with the map.
22. The system of claim 21, wherein the access control device is further operable to maintain a configuration wherein the configuration includes the map between the at least one device and the at least one storage device, and further wherein the map includes virtual LUNs that provide a representation of the at least one storage device.
23. The system of claim 22, wherein the map only exposes the at least one device to LUNs that the at least one device may access.
24. The system of claim 21, wherein the access control device is further operable to maintain a configuration including the map, wherein the map provides a mapping from a host device ID to a virtual LUN representation of the at least one storage device to a physical LUN of the at least one storage device.
25. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one storage device further comprises storage space partitioned into virtual local storage for the at least one device.
26. The system of claim 25, wherein the access control unit is further operable to prevent at least one device from accessing any storage on the at least one storage device that is not part of a virtual local storage partition assigned to the at least one device.
27. The system of claim 21, wherein the first controller and the second controller further comprise a single controller.
28. A method for providing virtual local storage on remote storage devices, comprising:
   mapping between a device connected to a first transport medium and a storage device connected to a second transport medium, wherein the first transport medium and the second transport medium operate according to a Fibre Channel protocol;
   implementing access controls for storage space on the storage device; and
   allowing access from the device connected to the first transport medium to the storage device using native low level, block protocols.
29. The method of claim 28, further comprising maintaining a configuration wherein the configuration includes a map between the device and the one storage device, and further wherein the map includes virtual LUNs that provide a representation of the storage device.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein the map only exposes the device to LUNs that the device may access.
31. The method of claim 28, further comprising maintaining a configuration including a map from a host device ID to a virtual LUN representation of the storage device to a physical LUN of the storage device.
32. The method of claim 28, further comprising partitioning storage space on the storage device into virtual local storage for the device.
33. The method of claim 32, further comprising preventing the device from accessing any storage on the storage device that is not part of a virtual local storage partition assigned to the device.
34. A system for providing virtual local storage, comprising:
   a host device;
   a storage device remote from the host device, wherein the storage device has a storage space;
   a first controller;
   a second controller
   a first transport medium operable according to a Fibre Channel protocol, wherein the first transport medium connects the host device to the first controller;
a second transport medium operable according to the Fibre Channel protocol, wherein the second transport medium connects the second controller to the storage device;

a supervisor unit coupled to the first controller and the second controller, the supervisor unit operable to:

13 maintain a configuration that maps between the host device and at least a portion of the storage space on the storage device; and

14 implement access controls according to the configuration for the storage space on the storage device using native low level, block protocol.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the supervisor unit is further operable to:

36. The system of claim 35, wherein the configuration comprises a map from a host device ID to a virtual LUN representation of the storage device to a physical LUN of the storage device.

37. The system of claim 34, wherein the storage device further comprises storage space partitioned into virtual local storage for the host device.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the supervisor unit is further operable to prevent the host device from accessing any storage on the storage device that is not part of a virtual local storage partition assigned to the host device.

39. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the first controller and the second controller further comprise a single controller.