SAN is a Reality

The University's first SAN (Storage Area Network) was installed during the month of October 2004. It will provide a centralised repository of the University's corporate data and is expected to deliver:

- savings due to simplified data management and more efficient use of disc space
- more reliability due to the use of modern disc drives, comprehensive RAID for fault tolerance, and automatic hot-swap replacement of faulty disc drives
- the practical implementation of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery measures through synchronous replication of data between the main computer room and the "disaster recovery" computer room
- increase in testing and development productivity through the use of Snapshot and Virtual Machine technology
- more efficient tape backup

The SAN provides the foundation for future development and growth of IT at Murdoch University.

ITS is embarking on a program of steady migration of data to the SAN from various computer systems. The first systems whose data will be ported to the SAN will be the file servers addata and mydisk. Early in 2005, work and planning will begin for the portation of the exchange and other major systems.

For the technically-minded, the core of the SAN is the SANsymphony disc virtualisation software supplied by the Datacore Software of the USA. Data is stored on 3 Adaptec FS4500 Serial ATA disc arrays, each with a capacity of 3 terabytes (i.e. 1,099,511,627,776 bytes). Two of the disc arrays are in the primary site. The third array is at the "disaster" site and will contain selected replicated data from the primary site.

The SAN includes one Cisco 9216, one Cisco 9120 switch at the primary site and one Cisco 9216 switch at the "disaster" site. These switches allow a choice of either iSCSI or Fibre Channel connection of servers to the SAN.

(MEN OF THE SAN)
(Left to right) Back row : Hossain Samei, Tylar Scott, Sid Bartle, Dan Myers, Mike Groeneweg.
Front Row: Simon Oxwell, Robert Morales.