

Adaptec RAID 3405 USC

SCSI for dummies from a long-time storage provider.

Adaptec is a name well known in the computer industry for a very, very long time as a trusted provider of storage solutions. With generations of servers using Adaptec SCSI controllers, RAID controllers and networks everywhere bolstered by SNAP appliances and Adaptec SAN solutions, there's very little data that hasn't been pushed around by an Adaptec storage device at one time or another.

Now changes are afoot. Adaptec has redesigned its business to support the SMB channel more than ever, withdrawing from the OEM market (selling chips to manufacturers to

CONTACT	Adaptec
ONLINE	www.adaptec.com.au
MARKET	SMB
PRICE	\$599

place into motherboards) and a strong focus on selling standalone Adaptec products. This lets people choose the storage solution they'd like to use and let it grow with their requirements.

As one of the bigger pushers of the new SCSI standard SAS (for Serial Attached SCSI), Adaptec has launched the second generation of SAS and SATA

✓ SAS/SATA support; performance.

•• VERDICT ★★★★★

✗ Price grows with cabling/battery.

combined adaptors, dubbed Universal Serial Controllers for end users and the white box market. The beauty of SAS is that its compatibility with SATA allows the lower-cost drives to be installed off SAS controllers. So, you can start with SATA and upgrade to SAS disks if required, or populate your server with high-capacity and lower-cost SATA drives.

The new model we were provided for testing was the entry-level RAID 3405 model. This is a PCI Express X4 solution, supporting the direct attachment of four SAS or SATA drives. The 3405 supports RAID levels 0, 1, 1E, 5, 5EE, 6, 10, 50, 60 and JBOD, sports a 500MHz processor and 128MB of cache. All the new models in the series allow for 72-hour battery backup, which is sold separately. The 3405 is a slim form factor, allowing it to be installed in smaller 2U rack mounts and blade servers.

We tested a RAID 5 array of Seagate Cheetah 15k.5 SAS hard disk drives on the Adaptec 3405 using HDTach. The array managed a very respectable average throughput of 181.4MB/s and a random access speed of 6.1ms. The burst speed for the controller was at 420MB/s from cache, 100MB/s faster than the Ultra 320 SCSI standard. What's not to like?

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