



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Challenge:

Rapidly growing storage demands required consolidation and simplified management.

### Goal:

An easy to manage SAN solution that would centralize storage and establish a flexible platform to support future growth.

### Results:

The Hifn Swarm 3000 iSCSI Storage Appliance delivered the performance, ease of administration and value this growing city needed.

### ENVIRONMENT:

- 3 terabytes of data
- Rapidly growing Exchange Server and SQL Server database data
- Future plans to implement virtualization and blade servers

### KEY BENEFITS:

- Simplified installation and management minimizes administration time
- VSS-integrated snapshot support enables end users to self-recover critical data
- Powerful RAID 6 protection assures disaster tolerance



# City of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, Prepares for Growth with Hifn Swarm iSCSI SAN Appliance

## Organization

The City of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, coined “The City of Sun and Sea,” is located on a barrier island in the northeast corner of Miami-Dade County. Bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Intracoastal Waterway on the west, the city is positioned midway between downtown Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Almost one million vacationers visit Sunny Isles Beach annually to enjoy the 2½ mile-long fine sand beach and outdoor amenities such as water sports, boating, fishing, and tennis as well as the abundant shopping, dining and entertainment options nearby. The city is also experiencing a major redevelopment renaissance on its east side. This redevelopment is driving increased population growth for both year-round and seasonal residents.

## The Challenge

After moving into a new facility in 2004, the city government offices for the City of Sunny Isles began adding new business applications to support their growing city. The city IT team soon found themselves supporting a wave of new applications and the rapidly mounting storage requirements that came with them. To accommodate this influx of new data, Derrick Arias, IT director for the City of Sunny Isles Beach began a search for a SAN that would meet his storage demands. The solution needed to meet his needs both today and tomorrow, because it was apparent that they might be risking storage problems down the road.

“We manage all of the city’s technology. If it has an on-off switch it’s ours, and over the past year the number of applications we’re supporting has grown dramatically,” says Arias.

## The Solution

Arias asked his peers for advice. “We talked to other government organizations with much larger IT environments than ours that were running the same applications as we were. They were doing it with iSCSI. That’s when I realized I didn’t need to spend a million dollars,” he says.

After deciding that an iSCSI device is what they needed, Arias next looked for a solution that would deliver the simplified

---

**We looked at a number of IP SAN solutions and found that the Hifn Swarm was significantly easier to manage. It has centralized both our storage and management while delivering high performance to our end users. In fact, users have commented that they are seeing a much higher performance than ever before.**

*Derrick Arias  
IT Director, City of Sunny Isles Beach, FL*

---

management he required. He ultimately selected the Hifn Swarm 3000 IP SAN Appliance which today provides them with 3.25TB to 6.5TB of RAID 6-protected networked storage and supports VSS-integrated snapshots and disk-to-disk



## CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FLORIDA

and disk-to-disk-to-tape backup. Once he decided on the Swarm appliance, Arias also purchased a Hifn network attached storage (NAS) gateway where he could consolidate and protect his NAS boxes through the Swarm's integration with Windows Storage Server 2003 R2.

Previously, the city had been running separate Dell servers with NAS file shares and backing them up to tape. Now, the Swarm NAS gateway performs twice-daily snapshots of the fileshares automatically through Windows ShadowCopy. The gateway also allows 150 end users at city

---

**The Swarm gives us the perfect platform to grow with.**

*Derrick Arias  
IT Director, City of Sunny Isles Beach, FL*

---

hall to access those snapshots directly on their workstations for up to 30 days and perform restores themselves.

"We've already used this hundreds of times since acquiring the Swarm appliance last fall," Arias said. "Users can just go to 'folder properties,' select 'previous versions,' and their snapshots are all listed there. The best part is that we haven't had to deal with restore requests from tape anymore."

### Results

Overall, Arias has been very satisfied with the simplified management of his Swarm. For example, if he wants to assign an iSCSI initiator from one of his servers to the SAN, the Swarm only requires him to add the iSCSI initiator on the server and point the server at the IP address of the Swarm appliance. Once that happens, the initiator's name appears automatically in the Swarm management interface, which allows Arias to create a volume and then check off the initiator's number in the GUI to point it at that volume.

"That's it," Arias said. "Done. The other products I looked at used a multi-step process where you'd have to know the long name [for the initiator], or copy and paste it several times, as well as align the data path from server to storage and the volume setup manually."

Furthermore, the combination of the Hifn Swarm IP SAN appliance and the Swarm NAS gateway has allowed the City of Sunny Isles to consolidate its storage and prepare for the future.

"Looking forward, we're going to be getting into virtualization and blading our servers," Arias said. "We feel the foundation for both those things in our data center is a SAN. The Swarm gives us the perfect platform to grow with."

### ABOUT SWARM IP SAN APPLIANCES FROM HIFN

The Swarm is a series of IP SAN appliances that deliver the benefits of storage networking to small and mid-sized business that want encryption, storage consolidation, centralized management, automatic backup, high availability and seamless integration with the Microsoft operating environment.

750 University Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95032  
408.399.3500 tel  
408.399.3501 fax  
info@hifn.com  
[www.hifn.com](http://www.hifn.com)