



"We've used 3ware 9650 and 9690 RAID controllers for years and have come to love the 3DM2 management utility. When Pogo Linux recommended the new 3ware 9750 card to keep up with our customers' growing data transfer needs, we liked the idea of being able to increase IO performance, while maintaining the simplified RAID management 3ware provides to monitor our network. Increased benefits, without sacrificing uniformity, is an unusual trait in technology solutions."

Jesse Proudman,  
CEO of Blue Box Group

## Blue Box Group Migrates to LSI™

### 6Gb/s 3ware® Controller Cards Running on Pogo Linux Servers Support More Cloud-Based Customers in Its Data Center

Web hosting providers need to deliver cost-effective data storage and fast data transfers to their customers to be competitive in the growing cloud-hosted services market. A Ruby on Rails web hosting specialist since 2003, Blue Box Group provides customers with cloud solutions to serve their unique applications.

As a longtime 3ware customer, Blue Box Group upgraded its infrastructure from 3ware 3Gb/s to 3ware 6Gb/s SATA+SAS RAID controllers running on Intel®-based Iris servers from Pogo Linux. The easy-to-use management of 3ware RAID storage technologies, combined with Pogo Linux's robust application and database server system design, gave Blue Box Group a scalable and expandable solution to address both current and future business growth needs in their data center.

Customer IO demands on Blue Box Group's web database servers had increased. Today's companies are storing and processing more data, requiring IO subsystems that can keep up with business objectives. Blue Box Group needed to improve the data transfer rate on their existing 3Gb/s infrastructure, but wanted to continue using their existing storage platform and RAID management software.

#### **Pogo Linux Recommends 3ware 9750 RAID controllers to Blue Box Group for Better IO Performance**

From an IT perspective, Blue Box Group wanted to expand its existing infrastructure while increasing its ROI. Pogo Linux recommended that Blue Box Group deploy Pogo Linux Iris Dual Intel Xeon rack mount servers with new LSI 3ware 6Gb/s SATA+SAS 9750 RAID controllers. By obtaining 3ware 6Gb/s SAS hardware now, Blue Box Group could future-protect its IT investment by easily integrating new database and application servers within its existing

## thechallenge.

Blue Box Group, founded in August of 2003, provides managed Ruby on Rails web hosting services for customers of all types and sizes. With the increase it's customers have been seeing in data storage requirements, Blue Box Group needed a solution to provide additional IO capabilities and meet customers' performance expectations.

## thesolution.

Blue Box Group's objectives for higher IO performance and simplified management were achieved with Pogo Linux Iris Dual Xeon rack mount servers and LSI 3ware 9750 6Gb/s SATA+SAS RAID controllers.

## aboutpogolinux.

Pogo Linux, Inc.

Founded in 1999, Pogo Linux, Inc. is a workstation, server, and storage vendor based in Seattle, Washington. With a multi-OS focus and in-house technical expertise, Pogo Linux is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable, and energy efficient Linux, Solaris, and Windows-based systems.

For complete storage solutions using LSI products please visit [www.pogolinux.com](http://www.pogolinux.com) or email [rawee.k@pogolinux.com](mailto:rawee.k@pogolinux.com)



3Gb/s infrastructure. This gave Blue Box Group a head start on a full-scale migration to a 6Gb/s SAS ecosystem down the road.

Together, the LSI 3ware and Pogo Linux system solution addressed the IO data transfer needs while maintaining uniformity of the RAID management. The improved IO performance allowed Blue Box Group to keep up with its customers' growing demands without the complexities of adding a new software management layer — or IT training — to its data center. Additionally, Pogo Linux helped reduce deployment time by ensuring that the new database and application system designs were compatible with Blue Box Group's existing infrastructure — a challenge typically associated with new system design. Also, the array configuration information is identical from the 9650/9690 series to the 9750 making the existing storage volumes usable by the newer controller quickly.

### LSI 3ware 6Gb/s RAID Controllers Offer Higher Performance Reads and Writes

"Our customers rely on the high throughput and ease of management that 3ware RAID controllers provide," said Erik Logan, president of Pogo Linux. "For Blue Box Group, the new 3ware 9750 controllers deliver the performance their hosting customers demand with no significant management changes or retraining of personnel. That's a win for everyone."

As a loyal customer of 3ware 9650 and 9690 controllers, Blue Box Group was interested in realizing the benefits of state-of-the-art performance from the new LSI 3ware 9750 SATA+SAS RAID controllers for its application and database servers. Already familiar with the speed of LSI RAID-on-Chip (RoC) technology, Blue Box Group explored the SAS RoC technology that is available in the new model to improve reads and writes, along with the increased signal rate from the x8 PCI Express® 2.0 host interface.

The new controllers can deliver up to 2.5Gb/s in sequential read and 1.7Gb/s in sequential write performance using 6Gb/s drives, more than doubling the data transfer rates of the previous generation of products. The controllers are also designed to easily integrate with existing 3Gb/s SATA and SAS infrastructure, allowing customers to protect current investments while significantly improving read and write performance.

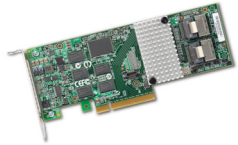
The decision to move to the latest model within the LSI 3ware family was simple, as the performance gains greatly outweighed the investment. The LSI 6Gb/s 3ware controller is also applicable for future use when Blue Box Group migrates to a full 6Gb/s ecosystem — further increasing the long-term ROI.

### LSI 3ware 3DM2™ Utility Offers Simplified Management

Blue Box Group had been using 3ware 9650 and 9690 RAID controllers, and wanted to maintain the uniformity of the 3DM2 management utility and advanced command line interface to monitor and control 3ware products. The easy-to-use and intuitive 3DM2 interface, also available with the 9750 models, simplifies the configuration, management, and remote monitoring of 3ware storage arrays. These benefits, along with self-monitoring and automatic service notifications help minimize Blue Box Group's administration of storage arrays. Data Center Solution Components

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### LSI 3ware SAS 9750-8i

Offering data transfer rates of up to 6Gb/s per port, this 3ware SATA+SAS controller provides many new features while also ensuring complete investment protection for existing SAS and SATA implementations. LSI 3ware delivers unprecedented power in multi-stream RAID environments where performance, redundancy, and data protection are most important.



### Blue Box Group Application Server

Iris 1251 1U Rackmount by Pogo Linux  
Operating System: CentoOS 5.4  
Processor: Dual Quad-Core Intel Xeon Processor 5500 Series  
Memory: 16GB Memory  
RAID Controller: 3ware 9750 4-Port RAID Card  
RAID Arrays: RAID 5 (4x Western Digital 250GB SATA Drives)



### Blue Box Database Server

Iris 2250 2U Rackmount by Pogo Linux  
Operating System: CentoOS 5.4  
Processor: Dual Intel Xeon Processor 5500 Series  
Memory: 32GB Memory  
RAID Controller: 3ware 9750 8-Port RAID Card  
RAID Arrays: RAID 1 Mirror (2x Western Digital 250GB SATA Drives) & RAID 10 (4x Seagate 15k 300GB SAS Drives)

For more information and sales office locations, please visit [lsi.com/channel](http://lsi.com/channel)

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April 2010

