

Aging RAID still an effective protection technology

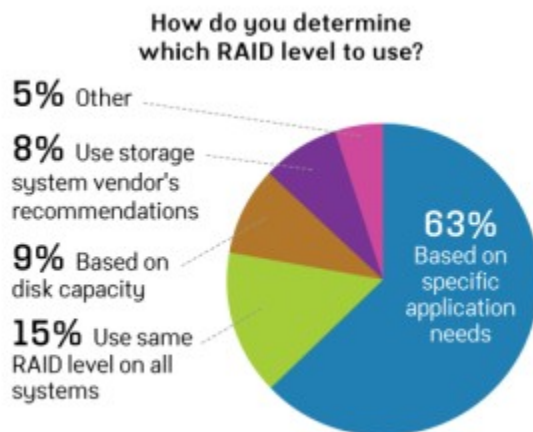
http://searchStorage.techtarget.com/magazineFeature/0,296894,sid5_gci1518769,00.html

by: [Rich Castagna](#)

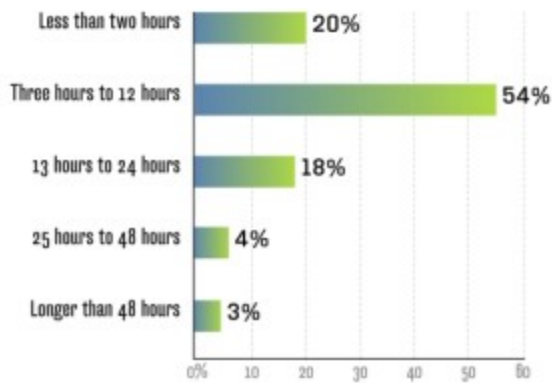
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RAID has taken some knocks lately, like criticism that it's a nearly 30-year-old technology that can't stand up to the rigors of a modern data storage environment. But maybe it's been around so long because it's so good: 96% of respondents to our survey rely on some form of RAID. The most-used RAID configuration isn't much of a surprise, as 87% use RAID 5, followed by RAID 1 (52%) and RAID 10 (40%). Seventy-five percent of RAID users employ more than one type on RAID on their storage systems, and nearly 20% juggle four different RAID configurations in their shops. But that's not to suggest users are totally enamored with RAID, as their two biggest gripes are inefficient use of disk capacity (36%) and lengthy rebuild times (32%); however, 10% of respondents didn't see any particular shortcomings. RAID appears to be doing its job well: 72% had to perform RAID rebuilds at least once in the last year and although rebuilds took a little while (54% said three hours to 12 hours), 93% reported that they didn't lose any data. To quote one respondent: "RAID rocks!"



On average, how long did your RAID rebuilds take to complete?



Rate the following data protection technologies in order of their importance to your company.
(Least important = 1.0, Most important = 5.0)

Rating	Protection technology
4.2	RAID
3.9	Traditional backup
2.8	Continuous data protection
2.8	Replication
1.3	Cloud backup services

45%

Have had a second drive fail in the same RAID group during a rebuild.

"We spin about 500 TB of array storage and have yet to experience negative issues in our environment that can be attributed to RAID devices." *Survey respondent*

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