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Dataram makes SAN flash cache sandwich Behind the Fibre Channel switches

By [Chris Mellor](#) • [Get more from this author](#)

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Memory supplier Dataram has found another place to stuff flash cache, parking a pile of it between drive arrays and fabric switches in a SAN.

[Dataram](#) has been around for ever (well, since 1967) and builds and ships memory products to speed server apps. In 2008 it bought Cenatek, an SSD supplier, and Jason Caulkins, that company's founder, is now Dataram's chief technologist.

In August Dataram said it would deliver "a unique storage product line that will deliver application performance improvements as well as cost savings without the need for an expensive storage upgrade or replacement". XcelaSAN is the product and is a cache, an embedded server with caching software and flash memory, that sits inline between Fibre Channel fabric switches in a storage area network (SAN) and the drive arrays.

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What do you get for your money? Dataram is a bit coy. We do know that inside the 2UK enclosure there are eight 4Gbit/s Fibre Channel ports. hot-swappable and redundant power-