Nominee: Tarmin, Inc.

Nomination title: A Data Centric Approach to Big Data Storage Management

In today's world, organizations generate huge volumes of data, volumes that double every two years, on average. The vast majority of data is unstructured, and is prevalent in data intensive industries such as financial services, healthcare, education, oil and gas and life sciences.

Traditional storage infrastructures are no longer suitable to address the opportunities and the requirements leveled by the growth of unstructured data that is scattered in disparate silos across multiple applications and platforms, increasing storage costs, making data vulnerable to compliance issues, and posing as a risk to organizations.

Tarmin has developed Data Defined Storage, an innovative new market category which takes a data centric approach to data management. It builds on the benefits of both object and software-defined storage technologies. However, object and software-defined storage can only be mapped to the first pillar of Data Defined Storage's three main attributes: GridBank File System: Media Independent Data Storage, which enables a media agnostic infrastructure – utilizing any type of storage, including low cost commodity storage to scale out to petabyte-level capacities.

In addition to the GridBank File System, Data Defined Storage is comprised of two other attributes: GridBank Data Management: Data Security & Identity Management, delivering end-to-end information governance, protection, retention management, security and mobility; and the GridBank MetaBase: Distributed Metadata Repository which captures the value of data across distributed data stores by collecting all basic metadata and custom metadata and conducting full-text indexing and filtering of all standard and industry-specific files.

GridBank's data centric storage architecture addresses the requirements of businesses in today's data intensive world. Tarmin has changed the psychology around unstructured data by moving away from focusing on media type, size and location of data, and instead viewing data as valuable intellectual property.

GridBank enables a comprehensive and holistic view and approach to managing, protecting and accessing file, email or SharePoint data across large distributed locations. GridBank can ingest unstructured data from virtually any source and move the data based on comprehensive policies through the entire range of a storage infrastructure. It can also manage the data by any criteria and present it cohesively through a convenient global namespace to clients worldwide. GridBank is multi-faceted and provides media independent object storage, global namespace, file system virtualization, archiving, indexing, ingestion, failsafe replication, disaster recovery, search, discovery and big data analytics integration.

GridBank 4.0 features end-to-end data protection, information governance framework, search, discovery and access regardless of the file type, device or social origination. It offers random access with enterprise object storage, improved performance, accelerated data retrieval time and delivers scalability to multiple petabyte levels and beyond.

GridBank also delivers the industry's first social media REST API, providing a common interface to any social media provider and allowing social streams and instant messaging data to be brought into a centralized storage repository to be indexed and archived for compliance, e-Discovery and analytics.

With GridBank's service capabilities, organizations are able to monetize information assets, reduce regulatory and compliance risk, simplify their infrastructure and reduce storage costs and overhead expenses. GridBank also impacts the bottom line by reducing overall TCO by up to 80%, improving operational efficiencies. Its acquisition and ownership costs are much lower than competitive alternatives.

Tarmin joined forces with IBM and created a global strategic business partner agreement that allowed Tarmin to expand into wider channel engagements, resulting in signing Industry Solution Integrator/Industry Solution Reseller (ISI/ISR) agreements in the UK and an IOEM in the US. Together with IBM and partner, Eurotech Computer Services Ltd, Tarmin's GridBank solution was selected and installed by Premier Oil, a leading Upstream Oil and Gas firm operating in UK, Norway, Asia & Africa.

Tarmin also developed a partnership with Ingram Micro which has further introduced the Data Defined Storage market category and GridBank to a number of relevant industry VARs that are extending the reach of GridBank and increasing Tarmin's market share.

Why nominee should win

• Tarmin is a pioneer of the new market category, Data Defined Storage, which focuses on the content and value of data versus the type, media and location.

• Tarmin introduced the GridBank Data Management Platform to transform the way organizations manage, protect and gain value from data by uniting application, information and storage tiers into a single, integrated data centric architecture

• GridBank enables companies to take a data centric approach and to leverage their data as an asset, instead of an ongoing cost center

• GridBank has been recognized for its innovation through several industry awards including World Finance 100, CIO 100, Gartner Cool Vendor, among many others.