

Overview

Introduction

Solid State Drives (SSDs) are fast becoming a real force with respect to storage in the computer industry. With no moving parts, storage is no longer bound by mechanical barriers to higher performance. HP SSDs for workstations offer overall performance typically beyond that of SAS 15k rpm HDDs (Hard Disk Drives).

SSDs should be considered for workstations with HDD bound workloads. For applications where 15k rpm HDDs deliver a performance improvement over standard SATA HDDs, an HP SSD will likely deliver even better performance.

The Solid State Drives measure Access Time in microseconds (65 to 85) as opposed to the best HDDs (15k rpm) being measured in milliseconds (~6ms); the SSD is about 70 times faster. In addition, the extremely high average sustained read performance (up to 270MB/s) is considerably higher than the average sustained read performance of 15k rpm HDDs available today (150MB/s to 205MB/s*). The result is a much higher performance potential. Random IOPs (I/O Operations per second) are in a class of their own, up to 20X faster than 15k rpm HDDs. This obviously helps with database operations but it also helps with OS and application performance. Users experience faster boot times, faster application loading and snappier system response.

SSDs help lower the acoustical emissions of the workstation. No moving parts means SSDs inherently have no acoustical emissions. Furthermore, they consume much less power than Workstation class HDDs so less air is needed for cooling. The result is lower system fan speeds and therefore, lower acoustics.

SSDs tend to be more rugged than hard drives with respect to shock and vibration because SSDs have no moving parts.

* Based on HP and third party tests.

Performance

HP 160GB SATA 3Gb/s SSD:

Up to 270MB/s sustained reads and up to 165MB/s sustained writes.

Access times of 75 microseconds (typical Read) and 90 microseconds (typical Write).

Power Consumption (typical):

Active: 150mW

Idle: 100mW

HP 300GB SATA 3Gb/s SSD:

Up to 270MB/s sustained reads and up to 205MB/s sustained writes.

Access times of 75 microseconds (typical Read) and 90 microseconds (typical Write).

Power Consumption (typical):

Active: 150mW

Idle: 100mW

HP 128GB SATA 6Gb/s SSD:

Up to 500MB/s sustained reads and up to 175MB/s sustained writes.

Power Consumption (typical):

Active: 150mW

Idle: <85mW

HP 256GB SATA 6Gb/s SSD:

Up to 500MB/s sustained reads and up to 260MB/s sustained writes.

Power Consumption (typical):

Active: 160mW

Idle: <85mW



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HP 160GB SATA X25-M SSD:

Up to 250MB/s sustained reads and up to 100MB/s sustained writes.

Access times of 65 microseconds (typical Read) and 85 microseconds (typical Write).

NOTE: The numbers above represent raw system performance. Actual performance in applications will typically be lower.

Form Factor

These SSDs are SFF (Small Form Factor, 2.5") drives, which are mounted in a removable 3.5" Frame. The SSD can be mounted in either a standard 3.5" bay or in a SFF, 2.5" bay by removing the 3.5" frame.

Intelligent System Maintenance

SSDs emulate HDDs such that the operating system thinks it is talking to a hard drive. However the physical data mapping is quite different. In fact the SSD intelligently manages the physical location of data on the drive in the background via wear leveling algorithms that maximize the life of the SSD. The extremely fast access times of SSDs permit the SSD to move the data around as needed for wear leveling without impacting the performance. The net result is that defragmenting is not needed and defragmenting will not improve the performance.

The 160GB and 300GB MLC drives also benefits from the new Microsoft Windows 7 TRIM command. The TRIM command is focused on maintaining MLC SSD write performance (inherently slower than SLC write performance) by erasing no longer used (released) logical blocks (aka files deleted from the Windows recycle bin) from the SSD automatically in the background. Note that the TRIM command (available today via HP SoftPAQ and standard OS pre-load in ~August 2010). Note that TRIM is not supported on a RAIDed array.

Models

HP 160GB SATA SSD	LZ704AA
HP 300GB SATA SSD	LZ069AA
HP 128GB SATA SSD	A3D25AA
HP 256GB SATA SSD	A3D26AA
HP 160GB SATA X25-M SSD	WV915AA

Benefits

- Higher overall performance than 15k HDDs based on random IOPs, sustained reads and sustained writes.
- Lower systems level acoustical emissions than systems with HDDs, especially 15k rpm HDDs
- More rugged than HDDs with respect to shock and vibration
- Typical wall power savings relative to a 15k drive is ~10W/drive (based on drive idle power and power supply at 85% efficiency. Active drive power deltas are slightly larger.)
- Lower system maintenance because there is no need to defragment the drive

NOTE: Some operating systems such as Microsoft Vista automatically schedule defragmenting sessions. Shutting off automatic defragmenting for the SDD will save both time and energy.

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Compatibility

HP Z200, Z200 SFF, HP Z210, HP Z210SFF, Z400, Z420, Z600, Z620, Z800 and Z820 Workstations. Check individual workstation platform Quickspecs for confirmation.

If an HP Solid State Drive is purchased as an After Market Option for use in an Optical Bay, one of the following mounting brackets will be needed.

HP Z-series Workstations

3.5" drive bracket for HP Z200 CMT & SFF, Z210 CMT & SFF, Z400, Z600 and Z800, HP Optical Bay HDD Mounting Bracket-BLK-for WKS, HP Part Number NQ099AA

2.5" (SFF) bracket for Z600 and Z800, HP 2.5in HDD 2-in-1 Optical Bay Bracket, HP Part Number FX615AA

HP xw4600 Workstation: 3.5" drive bracket, HP Optical Bay HDD Mounting Bracket, HP Part Number DY659AA

Service and Support

HP SSD drives have a one-year limited warranty or the remainder of the warranty of the HP Workstation (up to 3 years, whichever is longer). Technical support is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day by phone, as well as in online support forums. Certain restrictions and exclusions apply.

Technical Specifications

Hard Drives	HP 160GB SATA SSD	Capacity	160GB		
		Width	Media Diameter	NaN in; NaN cm	
			Physical Size	2.5 in; 6.36 cm	
		Interface	SATA		
		Synchronous Transfer Rate (Maximum)	3Gb/s		
		Operating Temperature	32° to 158° F (0° to 70° C)		
		HP 300GB SATA SSD	Capacity	300GB	
			Width	Physical Size	2.5 in; 6.36 cm
			Interface	SATA	
			Synchronous Transfer Rate (Maximum)	3Gb/s	
	Operating Temperature		32° to 158° F (0° to 70° C)		
	HP 160GB SATA X25-M SSD	Capacity	160,041,885,696 bytes		
		Height	0.28 in; 0.7 cm		
		Width	Media Diameter	NaN in; N/A cm	
			Physical Size	2.5 in; 6.36 cm	
		Interface	SATA		
		Synchronous Transfer Rate (Maximum)	3Gb/s		
		Seek Time (typical reads, includes controller overhead, including settling)	Average	Read: 75 microseconds; Write: 85 microseconds	
		Logical Blocks	312,581,808		
	Operating Temperature	32° to 158° F (0° to 70° C)			

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