

# WESTERN DIGITAL LAUNCHES SAN SOFTWARE BUSINESS AS SEPARATE COMPANY

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SANavigator is introduced to focus exclusively on the storage area network management software market

Western Digital Corporation has formed a new company from its Connex subsidiary to focus exclusively on the storage area network (SAN) management software market. The new company, SANavigator Inc., develops and markets SAN management software tools.

“The SAN market is evolving rapidly as corporate storage networks grow increasingly complex - an environment that the SANavigator™ software is designed to simplify,” Matt Massengill, Western Digital president and chief executive officer, said. “The SANavigator software operations will best execute its development and marketing strategies as an independent company. Ultimately, an agile, cohesive and focused SANavigator company will add greater value to shareholders.”

Operating as a separate company, SANavigator Inc. will continue to aggressively develop its storage management software based on its existing SANavigator architecture, pursue strategic partnerships and market the SANavigator software product through specific sales channels. It expects to incrementally grow its personnel base to appropriately penetrate the market.

“The SANavigator product has received wide industry attention since its introduction and is progressing quickly with the recent release of version 1.5, and the Company is driving beyond the technology incubation stage,” said Connex president and chief operating officer Michael Williams. “As a separate organization it can more vigorously extend industry alliances, seek equity partners and execute marketing strategies.”

Robert Wright, who headed the development of the SANavigator product at Connex as vice president, software engineering, will manage SANavigator Inc. as president and chief operating officer. The entire SANavigator product team will become part of the new company.

According to industry analyst firm Gartner Group, the storage management software business was \$4.2 billion in 1999 and is expected to grow to \$14.7 billion by 2004.

“Creating a new company that concentrates on SAN management software is an appropriate strategic move by Western Digital,” said Michael Peterson, President, Strategic Research Corporation. “By giving SANavigator the ability to focus exclusively on specific markets, customer requirements and sales channels, they are creating a better framework for its success.”

The SANavigator product is a simple, safe and scalable SAN management tool that eliminates the complexity and vendor-specific limitations of existing SAN management products. With SANavigator, IT professionals can remotely monitor and manage SAN installations from anywhere in the world via the Internet using an intuitive Java-based console.

Western Digital’s network attached storage (NAS) subsidiary, Connex, will continue producing its line of high-performance, multi-protocol NAS systems and software under the leadership of Williams.

#### About Western Digital

Western Digital, one of the storage industry’s pioneers and long-time leaders, provides products and services for people and organizations that collect, manage and use digital information. Our core business, Hard Drive Solutions, produces reliable, high-performance hard drives that keep users’ data close-at-hand and secure from loss.

Applying its data storage core competencies to emerging markets, Western Digital’s new ventures meet the increasing demand for innovative information management solutions arising from the proliferation of the Internet and broadband services. Keen Personal Media provides interactive personal video recorder and set-top box software, services and hardware for broadband television content management and commerce. Connex designs Network Attached Storage products that enable IT managers to quickly expand network storage.

SANavigator Inc. develops and markets software that simplifies the central management of Storage Area Networks. SageTree is a software company providing enterprise manufacturing and supply chain analytic applications.

Western Digital was founded in 1970. The Company's storage products are marketed to leading systems manufacturers and selected resellers under the Western Digital brand name. Visit the investor section of our Web site ([www.westerndigital.com](http://www.westerndigital.com)) to access a variety of financial and investor information.

This press release contains forward-looking statements relating to the growth of the SAN market and future operations and strategies of SANavigator, Inc. The forward-looking statements are based on current management expectations, and actual results may differ materially as a result of several factors, including: overall demand for and growth of enterprise storage; market reception of SANavigator, future product development; and other factors discussed in Western Digital's recent SEC filings. Western Digital undertakes no obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of such statements.

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