Written by Marco Attard 04 March 2016

Samsung pushes enterprise flash capacities further with the PM1633a, a 15TB SSD based on the 12Gb/s Serial Attached SCSI (SAS) interface.



First announced at the 2015 Flash Memory Summit, the PM1633a comes in the 2.5-inch form factor-- allowing customers to fit twice as many drives in a standard 19-inch 2U rack compared to an equivalent 3.5-inch drive.

Allowing for 15TB capacity is the stacking of 16 layers of 256Gb V-NAND memory chips, for a total of 512 chips in each drive. In turn, each 256Gb V-NAND chip stacks cell-arrays in 48 layer, an improvement over 2nd generation 32-layer 128Gb V-NAND.

Performance-wise the PM1633a promises random read/write speeds of 200000/32000 IOPS, and sequential read/write of up to 1200Mb/s. The drive also carries 16GB of DRAM and supports 1 DWPD (drive writes per day).

"To satisfy an increasing market need for ultra-high-capacity SAS SSDs from leading enterprise storage system manufacturers, we are directing our best efforts toward meeting our customers' SSD requests," Samsung says. "We will continue to lead the industry with next-generation SSDs, using our advanced 3D V-NAND memory technology, in order to accelerate the growth of the premium memory market while delivering greater performance and efficiency to our customers."

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