SAN Case Study

Business Profile:
A mid-sized publishing house has a centralized IT department located in San Francisco, CA, connected to 3 branch offices on the west coast. Recent analysis of the storage environment suggests that they are getting poor ROI in their storage infrastructure.

Current Situation/Issue:
The company’s current infrastructure consists of several storage arrays direct-attached to a heterogeneous mix of 90 servers. All servers are dual-attached to the arrays for reliability and redundancy.

Since each storage device has 32 connectivity ports, each could support a maximum of 16 servers. The company sees the 32-ports as a limitation. Each storage device has the disk capacity to support more than 16 servers. However, there was no way to add a 17th server to make use of that capacity and support future growth.

Proposal:
How would you suggest that the company restructure their environment? List the advantages and disadvantages of your proposed solution. (Note: You will need to justify your choice based on scalability, performance, and availability of the new solution.)