



StarWind Software is a global leader in Storage Virtualization and iSCSI storage for small and midsize companies. StarWind's flagship product is a storage virtualization software platform that turns any industry-standard Windows Server into a fault-tolerant, fail-safe iSCSI SAN. It is designed for use as networked storage for VMware, Hyper-V, Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft SharePoint and other server applications configured in server clusters. StarWind Software is focused on providing small and midsize companies with affordable high availability technology which was previously only available in high-end storage products.

StarWind Software has released a major version of their Starwind ISCSI Server software – StarWind 5.0 with High Availability support. StarWind is going to be #1 iSCSI SAN software for VMware and Hyper-V as they say.

I was asked to test their software and blog about it. I'm obviously honored with this question and of course I will do this. After a short mail traffic between StarWind Software and me I got a license file and the software to test.

Traditional High Availability SANs are expensive and complicated. Starwind's ISCSI SAN software is a must have for small and midsize companies. I am really surprised about the simplicity of the package. Don't get me wrong but it's strong, easy to use and flexible. I think the best way to use this software is on one or even better two physical servers with a lot of disks in one or more RAID groups. Boost up the speed and keep your availability. There are

several flavors starting with a 'Starwind server' and ends with a 'Starwind Enterprise HA unlimited' edition. The diverse range of functionalities which comes with the flavors is very useful for small companies who doesn't need all features. You can find your information [here](#).

Registration [Unregister](#) | [Modify](#)

General Features

License Type	Enterprise HA Unlimited Edition
Expiration Date	2010-11-30
License ID	1
Active License Count	Unlimited

License Source

Target Server Info	StarWind iSCSI SAN Software v5.0 (Build 20091030, Win32)
Machine ID	EC55B6DF

Personalization

User Name	Roy, Mikes
Organization	

Licensed Plugins

Plugins	MIKES.EU Ramdrive, Imagefile, VirtualDVD, iSCSI, Mirror, DiskBridge, HAImage, SPTI
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After downloading the software and installing it with a typical next, next, finish thing I started with the license key which was given me. This was an easy process. First add a target through the management console by clicking on the Starwind icon on your desktop. Of course there are no servers attached by default. But this is a logical path to follow.

The GUI looks fine and easy to use with clear icons. In the summary view you can find your target lists, devices, CHAP permissions, access rights and more. You can change your skin to a skin that fits better with your OS

. You can also change your language. Unfortunately there are only two. English and I think Russian.

When adding a disk you have the options between, Hard disk, Optical Drive and tape device. When choosing the Hard drive you have the option between Physical and virtual. If you continue the process there are almost infinite possibilities
. That's really cool!

Starwind ISCSI SAN software v.5

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What more is there to tell. Starwind also distribute free products which you can find [here](#) . You should definitely try this.