

# Economy or premium?

There are three categories of cluster-based high-performance computers. Here are some requirements and storage options for each.

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Midtier</b>	<b>High-end</b>
<b>Number of server nodes in cluster</b>	32 or fewer	33 to 256	Hundreds or thousands
<b>Special requirements</b>	Low priced and used for the least demanding high-performance computing tasks	Need to support large file-streaming applications by quickly loading massive amounts of data into memory for faster job execution	Often need parallel file systems that let multiple nodes access the same files simultaneously and at high speeds
<b>Common storage configuration</b>	File-based storage access, using standard file servers or network-attached storage (NAS) devices	Scalable NAS	Scalable NAS, often combined with block-based storage-area network technology or other high-speed interconnect technology

