

The ADIC Scalar i500 FAQ

Q. Why are there 3 different Scalar i500s?

A. We've created three preconfigured base systems to reduce line items and make ordering the Scalar i500 easier. The Scalar i500 has three base systems, the 5U (36 slots), 14U (36, 82, or 128 slots), and 23U (82, 128, 174, or 220 slots). The price list includes a price for each base system. Additional configurations are calculated by adding 9U expansion modules (up to 41U).

Q. What does "preconfigured" Scalar i500 systems mean?

A. When a Scalar i500 base system is ordered, the library hardware, power supplies, and drives for the modules are preassembled, tested together, and shipped in the specific configuration that was ordered. Configured-to-order systems mean fewer separate items are shipped, and they require less time to install.

Q. How does the Scalar i500 scale?

A. The Scalar i500 scales physically by adding 9U expansion modules above or below the base system. Installation is simple—expansion units slide easily into place, are self-aligning, and fasten with thumbscrews. With capacity-on-demand, users can easily and non-disruptively activate additional slots in 46-slot increments using a software license key. Users can add more room for capacity-on-demand growth by ordering expansion modules.

Q. What are the major differences between the Scalar i500 and the Scalar i2000?

A. The Scalar i500 integrates the same iPlatform™ architecture and iLayer™ management software, but is designed for the midrange data center. The key differences are:

- Base Systems—The Scalar i500 is sold in 3 different base systems, a 5U, 14U, and 23U.
- Scalability—The Scalar i500 physically scales in a modular fashion with rack-compatible 9U expansion modules, up to a 41U full rack system. The Scalar i2000 starts with a full rack-sized base system and grows by adding rack-sized expansion modules. The Scalar i500 capacity-on-demand system lets users easily add more storage in 46-slot increments, while the Scalar i2000 grows in 100-slot increments.
- Simplicity—Integrated Setup, Task, and Troubleshooting Wizards in the Scalar i500 simplify installation, day-to-day use, and service for users in midrange environments.

Q. What is included in the Scalar i500 warranty?

A. The one-year Scalar i500 warranty includes 5x9 phone support, 7x24 web support, iLink, and E-mail Home. Customer Replaceable Units (CRUs) are delivered next business day. Field Replaceable Units (FRUs) are replaced on-site the next business day by a field support technician.

Q. What are the differences between the user interface in the Scalar i2000 and the Scalar i500?

A. The Scalar i500 has a local touch-screen color user interface, and a web-based remote management interface. The physical size of the Scalar i500's screen is smaller than the Scalar i2000's, so the interface details are slightly different, but the menu structures are very similar. And, since the Scalar i500 is designed to be user installable and upgradeable, we also include Setup, Task, and Troubleshooting Wizards to help users through those processes.

Q. What kind of advanced management features does the Scalar i500 support?

A. The Scalar i500 leverages ADIC's iPlatform architecture and iLayer management software approach to integrate the industry's most advanced midrange management features. These include proactive remote monitoring and diagnostics, easy-to-use Setup, Task, and Troubleshooting Wizards, library partitioning, and built-in support for Storage Resource Management (SRM) tools, including EMC's ControlCenter™. Advanced, proactive monitoring and diagnostics in the Scalar i500 gather, synchronize, and analyze event logs for prompt issue resolution, emailing users and the service team detailed alerts often before issues can impact library operation. The Scalar i500 will also offer storage networking drives for switch port aggregation, diagnostics, and proactive path verification.

Q. Will the 5U Scalar i500 replace the Scalar 24 library?

A. No. The Scalar i500 is designed for midrange environments where users need scalability and more advanced management features. The Scalar 24 is a purpose-built library, aimed at customers that require their first library at the most competitive price. We will continue to offer our customers the industry's most advanced value-priced product for that market segment.

Q. What is the difference between the Scalar i500's modular, single-robotics system and stackable systems?

A. The "stackable" approach to scaling, which both Overland and Quantum use, expands capacity by stacking multiple libraries together and connecting them with pass-through ports or tape transfer elevators. In contrast, the Scalar i500 grows in modules, but all the modules are served by a single, continuous robotics system. Stackable systems have serious limitations related to the multiple, separate robotic systems and extra mechanical links required to connect them. They are much slower—tapes that need to be used by a drive in a different module can take two or three times longer to move. They are less reliable—more moving parts and more links increase failure rates—and make them more complex to install and maintain. They limit the kind of partitioning the library can practically support. And they normally cost more to buy, install, and maintain. The Scalar i500 combination of modular growth and single, continuous robotics gives users rapid and convenient scalability while maintaining the highest levels of performance, reliability, ease of installation, and value.

Q. How does the Scalar i500's approach to scalability differ from the one StorageTek uses in the SL 500?

A. The key to the Scalar i500's scalability is that it is flexible enough to handle smaller configurations effectively and to allow them to grow easily as users' data grows. Although the SL 500 uses a single robot, it fails badly when it comes to flexibility and ease of installation—in fact, it is so difficult to install and use that it is not practical for smaller systems that expect to grow, and very awkward for large systems. The problem is that the StorageTek robotics design requires that the control module—where the library GUI is located—is always at the top of the library. That means that every time a new module is added, the old one has to be removed and the rack mounting hardware must be reinstalled in a new location. It also means that if users want the library to be in the top part of a rack—or expect to fill an entire rack—the GUI will end up at the very top of the system. At best, that makes it extremely difficult to operate. The Scalar i500 offers easy and flexible expansion—a new module can be mounted above or below the control module, so the GUI can always be at eye level, and new modules slip easily and quickly into place using self-aligning pins and thumbscrews.

Q. Does each expansion module come with power supplies?

A. Yes. Each module is delivered with a single power supply. Users have the option of adding a second power supply to each module to create full 2N power with two external power sources.

Q. What I/E options does the Scalar i500 offer?

A. The Scalar i500 offers the largest range and most flexible configuration of I/E stations among midrange libraries. I/E stations slide out from the right side of the library and hold tapes in removable magazines for easy handling. Users can designate tape slots in each module to act as I/E slots—in all, users can have as few as 6 or as many as 54 slots designated for I/E. When the Scalar i500 is partitioned, I/E slots are shared among partitions.