Per the April 25th request to industry to improve upon the definitions for the Computer Server Specification:

Last year, the SNIA submitted the attached SNIA Response document to the EPA. It contains several definitions for the types of storage. If the Computer Server specification is to be "lean" and feature one brief definition of storage, the SNIA recommends the definition found in section 3.5. SNIA would also welcome a hyperlink to its dictionary. The SNIA is working on a storage taxonomy that spans SOHO to the Datacenter, we plan to share in the Q3/Q4 timeframe. The taxonomy would be the foundation for a Networked Storage Specification that would parallel the Computer Server Specification. Optional would be the cross reference of the Computer Server Specification to the forthcoming Networked Storage Specification for a complete listing of Storage definitions.

(from 3.5) Storage System:
A storage system is an integrated collection of storage controllers, storage devices (e.g. disk drives) and software that provides data storage services to one or more computers. Storage systems MAY include disk arrays, tape subsystems with media loaders and robotics, optical storage, holographic storage and OR solid state storage. In networked storage environments, storage systems typically provide multiple SAN interfaces for network connectivity (Fibre Channel, Ethernet or InfiniBand) and large capacity disk arrays to facilitate storage consolidation. Networked storage disk systems are predominately electromechanical devices supporting from tens to several thousand spinning disk drives. These systems typically support continuous 24/7/365 operations and consequently have significantly different power behaviors compared to other data center IT elements.

Best regards,

Wayne M. Adams  
SNIA Board of Directors, Chair Emeritus  
SNIA Green Storage Initiative, Alliances Committee Chair  

www.snia.org