

# Introducing PowerStore Elite: Built to Lead in an Unpredictable World

In 2026, “future-proof” isn’t a goal – it’s a requirement for survival.

By Brian Henderson | May 19, 2026

## Key takeaways:

- PowerStore Elite is a new class of modern data platform, built for what’s next—not just what’s now
- Breakthrough gains in performance and density redefine consolidation at scale
- A smarter approach to efficiency helps you adapt to shifting economics
- More than storage—it’s the foundation for a continuously modern data center

## When everything is changing, your platform can’t stand still

In 2026, the only constant is volatility. Predictability is gone, as AI drives non-linear data growth. NAND economics are shifting in real time. And pressure is mounting on teams to do more with less—with no margin for disruption.

You don’t just need a storage array. You need a strategy that holds up over time. Trusted by over 20,000 customers worldwide, and ranked #1 in ease of use for the third year in a row,<sup>1</sup> PowerStore is evolving again—so you can stay ahead of the unknown.

## Introducing PowerStore Elite

At [Dell Technologies World](#), we’re introducing the most significant PowerStore advancement yet. [PowerStore Elite](#) combines next-generation hardware and software innovation to redefine what the platform can do – without changing the simplicity and versatility customers already trust.

We’re announcing:

- **Three new high-performance appliance models** (1500, 5500, 9500)
- Our most **intelligent software OS** yet
- A new **industry-leading 6:1 data reduction guarantee**<sup>2</sup>

Together, these advancements help you meet today’s demands – and prepare for tomorrows.

## Breakthrough performance and efficiency

Compared to current models, PowerStore Elite delivers up to:

- **3x the IOPS**<sup>3</sup>
- **3x the throughput**<sup>4</sup>
- **3x the density**<sup>5</sup>

These are not incremental gains. They enable workload consolidation at a fundamentally different scale. PowerStore Elite lets you store up to **5.8 PB of effective capacity** in a single 3U appliance,<sup>6</sup> so you can run more workloads on fewer systems – reducing footprint, power and cost per workload without performance tradeoffs.

# PowerStore

## Elite is here!



The same platform improvements also raise our **industry-leading data reduction guarantee** from **5:1** to **6:1**, driven by advances in data-path efficiency and next-generation hardware acceleration. The result is more predictable, long-term storage economics that help customers offset rising media costs, even in supply-constrained environments.

How did we do it?

PowerStore Elite is the result of coordinated engineering across the entire stack.

## Gen 3 hardware foundation

The **newest PowerStore models** deliver major gains in future-ready performance and density.

- **Faster compute and memory**Next-gen Intel CPUs with up to 50% more cores,<sup>7</sup> DDR5 and PCIe Gen 5 for up to 4x more data bandwidth and a 20x faster node interconnect for quicker load balancing and failover.
- **Extreme density, without lock-in**  
Industry-standard low-profile E3 NVMe media packs up to 40 drives in 3—improving efficiency while avoiding the supply constraints of proprietary modules.
- **Massive throughput and connectivity**  
Up to 40 network ports (2x current generation), support for 64Gb FC and 100GbE—and an internal fabric designed for 128Gb FC and 200/400GbE speeds.

## Capacity / Density comparison



|                          | Gen 2                    | Gen 3                                                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Drive slots              | 21                       | 40                                                             |
| Drive form factor        | 2.5", dual ported        | E3, dual ported                                                |
| Max capacity (base)      | 1.29 PBe                 | 5.8 PBe                                                        |
| Data reduction guarantee | 5:1                      | 6:1                                                            |
| FC ports                 | 16                       | 32                                                             |
| Eth ports (100Gb)        | 8                        | 16                                                             |
| Eth ports (10/25Gb)      | 24                       | 40                                                             |
| Max speeds               | FC : 32Gb<br>Eth : 100Gb | FC : 64 Gb (128Gb-capable)<br>Eth : 100 Gb (200/400Gb-capable) |
| Node cross-connect       | 10GbE, RDMA              | 200 GbE, RDMA                                                  |

## Smarter software

But hardware is only part of the story. PowerStore software has always set the platform apart — and with Elite, it does more than ever to unlock the full potential of your storage.

- **Software-based performance boost**

Data-path enhancements deliver up to 2x faster reads<sup>8</sup> while reducing CPU overhead

- **Unified scale-up / scale-out**

Seamless file and block mobility across clusters lets you consolidate all your workloads on a single platform

- **QLC or TLC on every model**

Consistent performance across media types so you can optimize for cost or capacity with no tradeoffs—unlike approaches that treat QLC as a lower tier.

- **Data reduction enhancements** Unaligned deduplication and improved compression offloads increase effective capacity while minimizing overhead.

- **Always-on resiliency**

Native metro replication over FC or iSCSI enables zero-downtime SLAs for any workload, while integrated AIOps and new [Dell Cyber Detect](#)<sup>10</sup> help detect and respond to ransomware threats early.

“PowerStore Elite is exactly the direction we want to go - high performance driven by smart software and automation. That combination creates real opportunity for consolidating workloads and simplifying our overall infrastructure”

Xiong Xiong  
Vice President of IT  
Ascend Performance Materials

And it doesn't stop there.

### Future-proof by design

Extreme headroom for today's demands is just the starting point. PowerStore Elite is a multi-generational architecture, built to evolve non-disruptively as requirements change:

- **Modular hardware** ready for future CPU, I/O and media technologies
- **Container-based OS** designed for rapid software innovation, so PowerStore keeps advancing
- **Multi-generation clustering** to help existing customers seamlessly adopt new PowerStore advantages
- **Lifecycle Extension** that simplifies modernization with included upgrades and ongoing capacity discounts

### AI-powered simplicity

No matter how demands grow and change, Elite reduces manual effort by up to 95%<sup>9</sup> with self-optimizing services that continuously tune performance and efficiency — so what starts simple stays simple.

And the automation extends beyond the array. PowerStore integrates seamlessly with the ecosystems you rely on — from [containers and virtualization](#) to hybrid cloud platforms like AWS, Azure, Nutanix and Equinix — so you can streamline workflows and deliver infrastructure as a service.

Best of all, with [Dell Private Cloud](#) software, you get end-to-end orchestration across compute, storage and networking — bringing consistency, flexibility and control across your entire environment, without lock-in.

More than storage — it's your foundation for what's next  
PowerStore Elite isn't just a faster array. It's the storage strategy for an unpredictable world — a platform to help you:

- **Consolidate** without compromise
- **Automate** the complex
- **Adapt** to the unknown

“PowerStore Elite simplifies operations today while giving customers the headroom to grow for an unpredictable future. From our perspective, that balance of simplicity, performance, and future-proof design is exactly what customers expect from a modern storage platform.”

Kevin Weissman  
Technical Solutions Architect III  
Global Solutions & Architecture  
WWT

Don't let constant change slow you down. Build on a foundation designed to lead.

## PowerStore Elite. Ready for anything.

### Availability

- PowerStore Gen 3 availability planned for July 2026 via traditional purchase or Dell APEX Infrastructure subscription.

### Additional resources

- [PowerStore Elite First Look](#) (StorageReview hands-on video)
  - [PowerStore Elite Competitive Comparison](#) (infographic)
  - [PowerStore Elite Competitive Comparison](#) (white paper)
  - [PowerStore web page](#)
  - [Dell PowerStore Gen 3: Inside the Most Aggressive Enterprise Storage Reset in Years](#) (StorageReview article)
1. Based on Dell Technologies analysis in November 2025 compared to products from 3 top storage providers using double-blinded, competitive benchmark Net Promoter Score (NPS) data gathered by third-party commissioned by Dell for FY26 H2.
  2. 6:1 average rate guaranteed for reducible data across customer applications for PowerStore Gen 3 appliances only. Rates for individual applications may vary. See terms and conditions for details.
  3. Based on internal analysis comparing PowerStore 1500 and 1200T models using peak IOPs running 70/30 read/write mix, 8k block size over FC. Actual results will vary.
  4. Based on internal analysis comparing PowerStore 1500 and 1200T models using 256k reads over FC. Actual results will vary.
  5. Based on a comparison of fully populated base chassis: PowerStore 9500 assuming a 6:1 data reduction rate (DRR) versus PowerStore 9200T assuming a 5:1 DRR. Actual results may vary.
  6. Based on maximum configuration of PowerStore 9500 base chassis. Effective capacity assumes average 6:1 data reduction. Actual results vary.
  7. Based on a comparison of CPU total core count specifications between PowerStore 3200T and PowerStore 5500 models
  8. Based on internal analysis comparing PowerStore 1500 and 1200T models peak reads, 8k block size over FC. Actual results will vary.
  9. Based on internal Dell analysis of PowerStore Manager intelligent automation features versus traditional array management. Actual results may vary.
  10. Dell Cyber Detect requires separate license purchase.

## About the Author

Brian Henderson is Senior Director, Storage and ISG Portfolio Messaging at Dell Technologies, where he leads messaging strategy for Dell's storage portfolio and broader infrastructure solutions. With deep experience across storage, networking, cloud, and AI-ready infrastructure, Brian is a seasoned technical marketing leader known for translating complex technology into clear, compelling stories for customers, partners, and sales teams.

In his role, Brian works closely with product, sales, and marketing teams to shape product positioning, create high-impact content, and drive go-to-market activations across Dell's infrastructure portfolio. Previously, he led product marketing efforts for Dell's unstructured data, networking, and midrange storage solutions.



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