HOW SERVER-BASED NETWORKS BOOST SMALL BUSINESSES

Any small business can benefit from the advantages of a server-based network. Putting a fast and well-equipped server to work increases your productivity, enables smart backup and archiving, and vastly improves the security of your data. And once you have simple application and file sharing in place, the addition of network attached storage—an easy and cost-effective upgrade—brings another array of benefits to your business and lays out a straightforward growth path.

Dell runs its small-business servers with Microsoft's new Windows Small Business Server 2008 platform, an all-in-one server solution designed to deliver the same kinds of high-end networking features that power large businesses to your business. Designed for companies with up to 75 users or PCs, it combines Windows Server 2008, Exchange Server 2007, Office Live Small Business 2008, Windows SharePoint Services and more into a single OS that can run on a single server. It's e-mail, Internet connectivity, internal Web sites, remote access, mobile device support, file and printer sharing, backup, and restore, and more, all in one package to make your small business as efficient as possible.

BENEFITS OF SERVER-BASED NETWORKING

If you haven't yet moved your business from a peer-to-peer network (or from no network at all) to a server-based network, you're missing out on all kinds of advantages that a centralized server can bring. What are the benefits of a server-based network?

File Management: How much time do you spend trying to track down documents that move around the office from employee to employee without anyone keeping track? A more efficient idea: storing your vital data in a central shared space where all workers can access it whenever necessary.

Mobility: As handheld smart phones and Wi-Fi-connected notebooks have become ubiquitous, your office is now accessible 24/7. SBS 2008 provides a Remote Web Workplace and services for supporting Windows Mobile devices as clients to SBS applications. That means your smart phone—not just your notebook—can become a true extension of your office. SBS 2008 delivers secure access to business contacts, calendars, e-mail, files, and other important desktop resources from any Internet-connected computer. You're always connected.

Collaboration: In a server-based network, workgroups can work together in virtual spaces, sharing schedules, files, and whatever else they need to get the job done. You can also grant access to outside clients and customers to make those communications more efficient and make your business appear bigger than it actually is. It becomes easy to set up satellite offices, to work together on shared documents across any distance, and even to print to a remote printer. This is where a solid network OS like SBS 2008 really shines.

Security: The network administrator of a server-based network can control access to critical and private files on a person-by-person basis, and with the inclusion of a firewall, the entire organization can be guarded from intrusions and attacks. The end result: a more buttoned-up organization where security concerns needn't preoccupy you constantly. SBS 2008 gives you control over your systems with daily and weekly reports alerting you on the health and security of your technology. A single administrator console gives you a daily view of PCs and servers and makes it easier to manage common IT tasks. Get an at-a-glance snapshot of the security and health of your PCs and servers from the "green check" report. And remember that antivirus and antispam protection is available to help protect your information from malicious attacks, viruses, and spam.
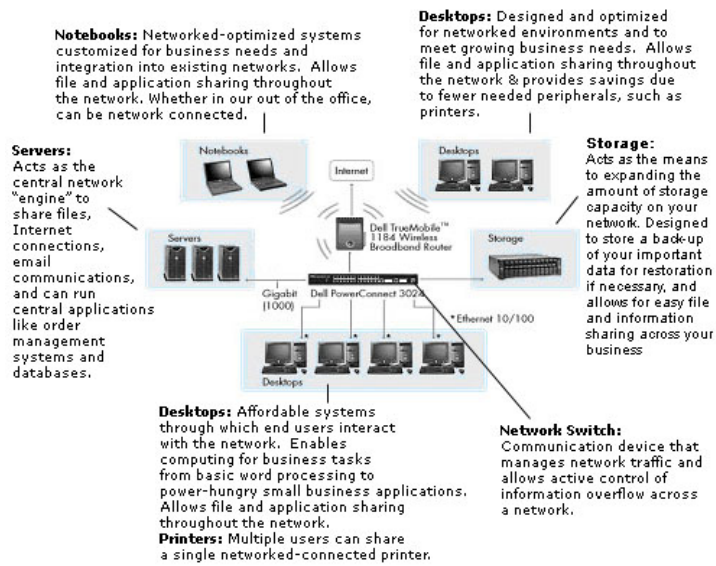
Performance: A well-equipped server with a high-performance processor and hard drive as well as sufficient memory speeds up applications and file access, especially when compared to the types of peer-to-peer networks that many small businesses use. If you have highly paid hourly employees, the last thing you want is for them to be sitting around waiting for a simple database recalc or print job. With innovations like multicore processors and Gigabit Ethernet managed by the power of SBS 2008, the performance improvement is palpable.

NETWORK ATTACHED STORAGE TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Once you've stepped up to sever-based networking and have begun to appreciate its benefits, the next question to ask is how you can make it even more useful to your operation in a cost-effective way. One suggestion: look into network attached storage (NAS). Think of NAS as a high-capacity external hard drive that connects your network for the sole purpose of improving your ability to share and store files. As you watch the amount of your stored data grow exponentially over time, you'll soon realize that boosting your ability to share and store files significantly will be a real productivity helper.

NAS makes sense because it speeds and streamlines your work:

- The extra storage space provided by NAS lets you take steps toward a paperless office by encouraging you to scan and archive old documents. Imagine getting rid of a few of those file cabinets that are cluttering your office.
- NAS relieves the stress on your overloaded main application server by offloading storage and sharing tasks, thereby letting your main server focus on running your business-critical applications far more efficiently.

Notebooks: Networked-optimized systems customized for business needs and integration into existing networks. Allows file and application sharing throughout the network. Whether in our out of the office, can be network connected.

Desktops: Designed and optimized for networked environments and to meet growing business needs. Allows file and application sharing throughout the network & provides savings due to fewer needed peripherals, such as printers.

Servers: Acts as the central network "engine" to share files, Internet connections, email communications, and can run central applications like order management systems and databases.

Storage: Acts as the means to expanding the amount of storage capacity on your network. Designed to store a back-up of your important data for restoration if necessary, and allows for easy file and information sharing across your business

Desktops: Affordable systems through which end users interact with the network. Enables computing for business tasks from basic word processing to power-hungry small business applications. Allows file and application sharing throughout the network.
Printers: Multiple users can share a single networked-connected printer.

Network Switch: Communication device that manages network traffic and allows active control of information overflow across a network.

- NAS is the easiest way to get quick relief for capacity problems. If you're enjoying record growth in your business, it's your easiest network storage upgrade.
- NAS eliminates typical office data-overload problems such as the tendency of employees to e-mail huge file attachments to each other because there's no effective and centralized space to store and collaborate on those documents.
- NAS can be managed from any Windows-based desktop and can be managed remotely as well, so any issues can be quickly addressed before downtime becomes a problem.
- There are no client licenses for this method of file sharing, so you save money.

DELL SERVER AND NAS SOLUTIONS

When you're ready to add network-attached storage to your network, look into the Dell PowerVault NF100, a cost-effective choice for file sharing. It's an entry-level solution that's pre-configured and easy to deploy. Use it for all your file sharing and backup needs (plus sharing of up to five printers).

Microsoft knows and Dell shows that small businesses have more server options than ever. SBS 2008 provides what businesses need in a bundle that's easy to set up and administer and that integrates with both Windows Vista and XP clients. As you look at where your business is now and plan where you want it to be a few years from now, remember that laying down a smartly designed technology infrastructure today will ease your journey toward growth tomorrow. A file server with network attached storage is key to sending your business along that path to productivity. You can work with Dell to make the right decisions for your business. Consultants are available by phone to help you figure out your needs, and on-site experts are also available. Once you're up and running technical support reps will be standing by when questions arise, and you can always turn to Dell's extensive Small Business 360 site at *www.dell.com/sb360* to read articles, blogs, and FAQs about the latest trends in technology for small business success. To learn more about Dell's PowerEdge server lineup for small businesses, visit *www.dell.com/sbs-solutions*. To watch an animated demo highlighting the top 10 reasons to add NAS to your network, visit *www.dell.com/content/topics/global.aspx/solutions/en/nas_demo*.

Poweredge 840

PowerEdge T300

PowerVault RD1000

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