

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. For this month's article I'd like to go over an article I've read recently on "8 reasons your business needs a server". This is a summary as the actual article is too long for this column.

**Reason 1: You can create order from chaos.** By centralizing data on a server, you can better manage business-critical information.

**Reason 2: You can protect your data by making backups easier.** There are 2 features of Windows Small Business Server 2003 that better protect your data, they are Backup Configuration Wizard and Volume Shadow Copy.

**Reason 3: You can collaborate better as a business.** A server is a must if you want to run line-of-business applications such as accounting solutions and job tracking applications.

**Reason 4: You can accommodate a mobile work force.** Servers enable authorized out-of-office workers to have remote access to your network, enabling data sharing among those who travel, telecommute or work in off-site locations.

**Reason 5: You can share high-speed broadband access.** A real catalyst to server sales among small business is in providing high-speed Internet access across a network.

**Reason 6: You can set up new computers, add users and deploy new applications more quickly and easily.** By managing your data from a central location, you can better coordinate the addition of new PCs, software licenses and software applications.

**Reason 7: You can get more processing power.** A server can supercharge your network, storing large chunks of data, freeing up memory and enabling individual PCs to perform better.

**Reason 8: You can look more professional – and connect better with your customers.** Server software such as Windows Small Business Server 2003 enables you to consolidate your e-mail accounts (AOL, Yahoo!, Hotmail, etc.) into a single, company-hosted e-mail account, enhancing your image to customers and partners.

Now that you have the reasons for having a server and next month I'll cover how to tell if it's time to buy a server. If you would like to know more about servers, I'll be happy to talk with you about them.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer to, please forward them to me. My email address

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