

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

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. Last month's article I went through the 8 reasons your business needs a server. Now this month I'll cover how to know it's time to buy a server.

You will now know when it's time to buy a server when some or all of these items are true:

- You have two or more dial-up accounts in your business (hey, it's time to share broadband access).
- You need to centralize and organize your data (you can't always find what you need when you need it).
- You need to share hardware such as printers and fax machines for two or more PCs (peer-to-peer networks mean lots of cords and wires to trip over).
- You need to simplify backups to keep your data more secure.
- You have employees who travel, frequently telecommute, or work off-site, and want to connect to a network.
- You could benefit from an intranet (your employees who travel and telecommute don't always remember to tell you).
- You have high storage needs (and your loaded-down PCs wince and groan when you add more data).
- You'd like to run accounting software or other line-of-business applications on more than one PC.
- Your company's growing and plans to add new computers and employees (congrats!).
- You mean business: You want to look professional (and bigger than you are).
- Your PCs are old, old, old, and you want to get rid of them. A server makes migration easier.
- Your PCs are old, old, old, and you want to keep them. A server takes a load off the PCs.

A number of these items may apply to those of us with servers already. Whatever the case, please contact me if you have any questions about servers and networks in general.

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 is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.