

Network Servers

You have a growing business. You're focused and you've got big plans. You know that technology can help you be more professional, proactive and competitive. You're outfitted with computers. But are you ready to take the plunge and buy a server? Are you ready for one of those big, burly computers that do...you're not quite sure what?

What Is a Server?

A server is a computer that serves up information to other computers—specifically, desktop PCs. The server distributes information from databases (such as customer, inventory and financial databases) to PC users as they request it. A server can also provide file and print sharing capabilities for a group of PCs.

Do I Need a Server NOW?

If your answer to any of the following questions is "yes," you're ready to move up to a server:

- Do multiple people in your organization need access to real-time information (such as a point-of-sale system or an inventory database) at the same time?
- Does your business depend on key applications and databases being up 24 hours a day?
- Are you in a growth mode, hiring employees and adding PCs?
- Are you in a reactive mode with your business operations or customer service?
- Do you want to expand your market share or customer reach through the Web?

What Are the Benefits of a Server?

- Servers keep employee productivity high. With a server installed, employees can access and share real-time information to perform their jobs more efficiently. For example, while the purchasing department accesses up-to-date inventory data, customer service reps can access the real-time information they need to complete purchase transactions and respond to customer queries.
- Servers organize and manage all of your business-critical data in one place. You don't have to worry about key business data being spread among Tom's, Bob's, and Cheryl's PCs. **Servers allow you to perform central data back-ups easily, to protect your most valuable business information.**
- Servers keep you in touch with customers 24 hours a day. If you have a Web server and the proper sales and marketing tools, your customers can research and evaluate your products and services at their convenience, even if they are in other time zones or overseas. This increases your customer reach and reduces your cost of sales. A good example would be this WEB site. If you are reading this then it is working for us.

Why Can't I Just Use a PC As a Server?

Although PCs and servers are based on the same Intel architecture, there are fundamental differences. A PC is optimized to service a single user at a time and usually has user-friendly interface features, such as sound and fast graphics. A server, on the other hand, is optimized for high data throughput. The server manages large amounts of data needed by each client PC. As a result, a server is equipped with larger amounts of mass storage and has multiple network interface cards. In addition, because the server hosts your business's mission-critical data, it must meet a higher standard of reliability than a PC.

Are Server Solutions Ready for Prime-Time Small Business Use?

When it comes to technology, small businesses, like large companies, need complete business solutions. "Complete" means that a wide variety of compatible software applications and hardware systems are available, along with the technical expertise required to implement and support the technology solution.

PCX Computer Service is committed to helping small businesses implement complete solutions to their technology needs. As part of this effort, we work hard to ensure that all the pieces of platforms based on Intel architecture work together effectively. As a result, hundreds of small businesses around New Orleans run their operations successfully using PCX Computer Service's networking solutions.

What Should I Look for When Choosing a Server?

When purchasing a server, choose one that is based on state-of-the-art industry architectures, such as Intel Pentium II processors. Intel architecture-based servers are easy to use and service and offer high reliability, high performance and

widespread availability. Make sure your Motherboard is up to par too. PCX uses and recommends [ASUS](#) & [Intel](#) Mainboards. After all, the CPU is useless without this Main component. SCSI storage devices are always the best bet for a File Server. PCX recommends and uses [Adaptec](#) SCSI adapters which do not take utilization away from the CPU, instead it is able to make most data requests without the CPU therefore increasing overall performance. Along with the SCSI adapter, PCX recommends and uses [IBM](#) SCSI Hard Drives and [Hewlett Packard](#) & [Seagate](#) Tape Drives. For more info on servers, check out what [Microsoft](#) recommends for your server.

Take the Plunge

A few years ago, high-reliability proprietary servers were priced beyond the reach of most small businesses. Today, affordable Pentium II processors have made server technology a viable option for many small firms.

Microsoft's [Windows NT Server](#)

PCX recommends Windows NT as your Small Business Server. Follow the link to find out why.

Now you know how servers work, how affordable they are, and how much they can do for your growing business. Isn't it time to take the plunge? Give PCX a call for a [quote](#) on a Network Server today.

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