

Re: disk latencie problems on a brand new exchange server with 2 mailboxes!!!!!!!

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Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange.admin/2007-10/msg02174.html>

- *From:* "John Fullbright" <fjohn@donotspamnetappdotcom>
 - *Date:* Tue, 23 Oct 2007 10:15:32 -0700
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Figure a mirror for the OS, a mirror for the DBs, and a single drive for the logs (or a single drive for the OS, a mirror for the logs, and a mirror for the DBs depending on what fault tolerance tradeoffs you want to make) you might be able to support 100 users at 1 IOP/user. There's no way this system will support 1000 users.

From the description of the problem, odds are all 5 drives are in 1 RAID 5

array with the OS, logs, and DBs in separate logical drives (or on the same drive; from a performance perspective it's all the same spindles). If this is the case, I would expect you to be able to support more than a handful of users. In fact, it sounds like 3 is too many. When you size disk, space isn't the only factor; you have to consider performance requirements as well. RAID 5 is a bad choice for Exchange 2003. Although it maximizes space, performance is less than half that of mirroring (RAID 1 or 10). In particular, write performance is grossly inadequate for an application with a 3:1 or 2:1 read/write ratio. RAID 5 is appropriate for applications that:

1. Require a lot of space.
2. Write data infrequently
3. Read data mostly

These criteria describe some file servers. These criteria do not describe Exchange. Back in the Exchange 5.5 days, when you had an 8:1 read/write ratio, you could squeak by with RAID 5 for the databases. You still put the logs on a mirror. In a modern Exchange 2003 environment with Outlook clients caching, your read/write ratio is more like 2:1. The RAID 5 write penalty is way too high.

John

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"Mark Arnold [MVP]" <mark@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:sh7sh3110fmui171q55cbmcn7bdmvp72n2@xxxxxxxxxx

On Tue, 23 Oct 2007 10:55:13 -0400, "Jef" <nospam@xxxxxxx> wrote:

we have an old exchange 2003 server that recieves alot of disk latencye problems using MOM 2005. We just purchased a new Poweredge 6850 16 gigs of ram quad core 3.66 with 5 15k harddrives. I moved about 3 mailboxes to this unit and i am recieving disk latency problems (see below) from the new server now also. Why is this happening, will this get worst when i move all 1000 mailboxes to it?

High Disk Read Latencies for the past 10 minutes
PhysicalDisk: Avg. Disk sec/Read: _Total value = 5.49850987944241E-02.
The
average over last 10 samples is 0.0549851.

You haven't got anywhere near enough disks in my opinion. Sure, they're fast enough but five disks? How have you got them carved up? If they're in a single RAID5 partitioned into drives that wouldn't be the best way.