

# Re: Sizing Exchange Transaction, SMTP, MTA and Quorum Drives???

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Hi John

I added some comments etc below on the areas you have mentioned I am unsure about:

"John Fullbright" wrote:

For shared disks:

1. Put the DTC and the quorum on the same drive.
2. Put the databases for each storage group on a drive (4 storage groups 4 drives). This will give you a granularity of restore at the SG level.
3. Put the transaction logs for each storage group on their own drive (4 storage groups 4 drives).
4. Put the SMTP directories on a drive. It's important for the SMTP queues to be on shared disk in 2003. If you leave it local, every time you fail over you will strand messages. When you failback they will mysteriously reappear.. maybe days or months later.
5. The MTA run and database directories are on the first database drive path by default. Unless you have some abnormally high MTA activity (mixed mode with 5.5 and this is a bridgehead for example) leave it there.

Ok, you have a theoretical .85 IOPS/user. Measure a test group or a subset of your user base. 50% concurrency? The concurrency ratio is a very common pitfall. Unless your users are on shifts, in the air and can't access a computer, etc., you'll get burned. Along will come the end of the of the quarter, everyone will be burning the midnight oil, you'll have 90% of your user on at once, performance will dive, and key staff will miss end of quarter reporting deadlines. Result: you'll be looking for a new job. Assume 100% unless it's physically impossible. Measure (over a long period – several quarters – and use the peak value+ 20%) if you'll be using anything less. Read/write ratio is important also.

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Concurrency is an Issue, they are assuming 50 percent based on a present 4-node AAAP cluster they have which hosts roughly 25,000 users , 8000 users per node. They are informing me that only 50 percent are concurrent at any one time.

I have monitored a series of Perfmon counters on a montly basis and on a daily basis also when I look at the MExchangeIS counter "Active User Count" on the busiest node it approaches 10,000 users even though the node holds only 8000 users.

I am assuming 100