

Re: Build a Server for storing and backing up files help

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-10/msg07047.html>

- *From:* "Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxxxx>
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JReeder wrote:

I want to be able to create a server from an old pc that will allow me to backup files and backup entire hard drives from other pc's on my network , ideally I want at least 1TB of space. the problems I am having is that I have no idea where to begin, I have built pc's before but never servers, could somebody give me a full guide on what to do from the hardware to the operating system and how to connect it to my network.

Shenan wrote:

Just like your PC – more space, perhaps (but not necessarily – depending on your needs) a different OS (a server OS vs. a workstation OS.)

That's it. If you plan on having 5 or less users – even Windows XP Home would do as an OS as long as the hardware can handle the larger hard disk drives.

Or – make it easy on yourself and get a network attached storage – like the Netgear/Linksys/Ximeta/Buffalo Tech devices that are basically just a lot of space attached to your network.

JReeder wrote:

finally what's the best way to connect the server , wired or wireless?

Malke wrote:

To answer your question, you would connect the server machine to the network via Ethernet and give it a static IP. If all it is doing is file serving and storage, you don't need a MS server OS – you could

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install Linux. However, you're going to an awful lot of trouble for just a file server/back up storage. Why not look into an NAS instead? Prices have come down amazingly.

As I inferred before in this thread....
You left out a lot of vital information.

- What is this network/workgroup/domain setup for?
- Why/What are you using this server for?
- How many computers(workstations) are we talking here?
- Do you want features like roaming profiles/centralized user management/etc – or just a simple file/print server?
- What types of files are we talking about here?

The fact is – again – that if all you want is a simple file/print server for 5 or less machines – Windows XP Home could do this for you.

If you have 10 or less machines – XP Professional could do the simple file/print server thing for you too.

Linux would not have the user limitation and could easily do the file server thing.

Any NAS box (like I mentioned before) would be a great file server – and many are print servers as well.

Examples:

<http://www.buffalotech.com/products/category-detail.php?categoryid=10>

<http://netgear.com/Products/Storage.aspx>

http://www.linksys.com/servlet/Satellite?c=L_Product_C1&childpagename=US%2FLayout&cid=1118334686964&pa
(Bottom)

<http://www.ximeta.com/web/products/index.php>

As for wired/wireless?

Depends on what type of wireless and the answer to all the questions above...

The larger the files and more heavily used the network – the more I would push you towards wired networking.

But you probably should still have a wireless component in there for convenience – just not necessarily for heavier usage.

Help us help you – read through and answer the above questions in this thread. If you truly don't want to waste your time and effort and possibly money – this is your chance to ask people who have probably setup/used things like this before you dive in.

Shenan Stanley
MS-MVP

How To Ask Questions The Smart Way

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<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>