

RE: Admin Server 2003 myself? Or find someone to host?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.general/2008-02/msg00083.html>

- *From:* Ryan Hanisco <RyanHanisco@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 3 Feb 2008 11:40:01 -0800
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Hi chessaurus,

I am a big believer in outsourcing anything that is not part of your standard line of business. Sure, there are some things that you might want to do yourself — configuration of SQL for your app and setup of your .Net app pools — but the hosting, security, and DNS end of things take a bit of planning, especially if you are expecting the site to be up all the time and able to resist some failure.

For this, you'll need to quantify your tolerance for failure and the isolation you need in the hardware and match that to how much you are willing to pay in a hosting company and what kind of service/ support you need from them. From that, you should be able to make your decision.

Finally, you haven't given us much idea of the traffic you expect and how intensive you think the app will be. Generally, you shouldn't worry about where the server is hosted for an ASP.Net app as a good Internet provider will have sufficient bandwidth, load balancing, and BGP failover to handle this well. If you do have a lot of streaming content that would need to be pushed, you might want to consider one of the streaming companies like akamai or cachefly to push that content in a more localized fashion.

I use serverintellect for my personal hosting and have been very pleased with their service though there are a ton of good companies out there. I would suggest talking with several of them and building a list of what you liked from each of them. It is important to be unbiased and objective in your review.

Hope this helps

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Remember: Marking helpful answers helps everyone find the info they need quickly.

RE: Admin Server 2003 myself? Or find someone to host?

"chessaurus@xxxxxxxxxx" wrote:

I am part of a team that is developing a custom, high-volume ASP.NET application that will receive primarily local traffic (ie from my city).

I have used hosted ASP.NET providers in the past (like Intermedia and ResellerChoice) and these have worked well for our earlier/smaller projects, but I'm worried about scalability for our upcoming larger project. These providers all geographically far away from my city (which seems inefficient) and share an individual SQL Server instance with many other customers (which lessens our ability to scale).

I'm toying with the idea of buying a Dell with Windows Server 2003 and SQL Server, but I'm wondering how much work this will be to secure and administer. I am an engineer with significant software development experience, but limited SysAdmin experience.

Any advice will be greatly appreciated,
Zach

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