

Re: Help with Software/Hardware decision....

Source:

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It doesn't matter how you'd distribute the software over this powerful hardware having 30 users. You can put everything on PE 2600 if 72GB is enough and imagine it's a Small Business Server.

SQL server on DC question has two aspects such as performance and security. If you have enough network bandwidth, memory, and spare processors, using the computer running SQL Server as a domain controller will work (and it does work). But the processing could be a lot of work, depending on the size of your domain. If you expect SQL Server to be busy, do not run any other service with it. This recommendation originates from NT4 and 386 computers. MSSQLServer service must run within the security context of an NT account. This configuration lets users assign permissions and rights to a service by assigning those permissions and rights to the underlying NT account. You have two account choices: You can run a service as LocalSystem, which is an administrator account with powerful rights and privileges, or you can run a service as normal, which is an account with the rights of an ordinary system user. By default, the setup program installs MSSQLServer to run as a LocalSystem account, giving users powerful rights and privileges. You can avoid these security holes (even if you install SQL Server on a domain controller) by running MSSQLServer under an account other than LocalSystem and without domain administrator privileges. However, to contain potential security problems and not degrade performance, your best option is to put SQL Server on a member server rather than a domain controller.

You should have minimum 2 DC. Think about USB drives as the backup devices instead of tape for full backups at least.

P.S. Terminal Services clients, branch servers, and unwillingness to travel aren't relevant :)