

Re: Hardware specs question

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-02/msg01546.html>

- *From:* "SuperGumby [SBS MVP]" <not@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 9 Feb 2006 07:08:36 +1100
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Exchange Server Standard (5, 2000, and 2003) were all limited to 16GB per store (pub & priv are separate stores). Exchange 2003 SP2 has raised that limit to a possible 75GB. The SP does not automatically increase the size, a regedit is required.

<http://www.vladville.com/articles/exchangep2sbs2003.asp>

You can designate the partition/folder for the store files (priv.edb, priv.stm, pub.edb & pub.stm) during installation as long as the location is made available before this part of setup is reached (ie. install base OS into first partition, when the SBS setup portion starts, pause, format additional partition(s)). The logfiles can only be moved after Exchange installation is complete.

I've already commented about the location of the stores, I won't flog the idea.

There are real benefits to having separate drives for the logfiles vs store. 1) if the store drive is corrupted or fails but the log drive is OK you can remount last night's store and replay the logs to bring it up to current. 2) by separating the drives you increase the rate at which things can be written to both sets of files. NOTE: most of this relies on the store and logfiles being on separate spindles, ie. physical HDDs. There is a possibility of corruption of a single partition of many spread over a RAID array but it is more likely to affect all such partitions. BTW the 'log' drive, on separate spindles, should be formatted FAT32 and exclusively used for the logfiles as writes to the logs are sequential (if you wish to gain the greatest performance).

A 20GB system drive has enough space for the maximum paging file for Windows 2003 Server. A regedit allows multiple paging files on one partition but it is normally better for performance to create a 2nd paging file on an additional partition, NOT on the same RAID array. This can only be done after the base OS is installed.

gotta run, work to do. Comments welcome.

"Richard" <not@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:eH6DYiNLGHA.3280@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Re: Hardware specs question

The drive space or separate partition for exchange seems to be one of considerable discussion. How does this so called 16GB exchange limit I've read about fit into all this?

When SBS is installed, do i have the option to install the logs/mail queue/pagefile in these partitions our do you move all this stuff after the fresh install?

BTW, I am not sure my old Dell 4600 hardware will provide RAID10.

Thanks
Richard

"Leonid S. Knyshev" <lknyshev@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:WuadnQA9qLkHIHTeRVn-sO@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"Richard" <not@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:uRZKSF\\$KGHA.668@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uRZKSF$KGHA.668@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

All,
Followed this thread with great interest. Have used sbs since V4.0, now

we

are ready to migrate from sbs2000 to sbs2003 and want to avoid the out

of

disk space problem that has happened on each version over time. Current sbs2000 OS partition is 8GB and ran out of space in year 4. New

hardware

is eight 32 GB drives. Based on what I'm reading here, looks like i should set up two for the RAID1 OS, the other six as RAID 5 for data. But what

about

the exchange DB? Should it be on a separate partition?
Thanks for helping.
Richard

Re: Hardware specs question

Nice choice of hardware.

RAID 1 for System

RAID 10 for Exchange DB/Data across 6 drives where the Exchange data store

partition is about 40GB (but leave the Exchange stores limited to about

30GB

or so), and the rest of the disk is a data partition. Alternatively, if

you

do not have a large mail retention requirement (we are up to 75GB/store now), RAID 1 for Exchange, RAID 5 for data.

RAID 1 for transaction logs/mail queue/pagefile

You'd want Exchange DB on a separate partition to be assured that your

data

won't fill up the space it needs to operate.

Reasons:

1. System data should always be separate, in case something runs away and starts writing a ton of data
2. RAID10 on Exchange provides you with maximum resiliency
3. Transaction logs can be used to recover the system in case the Exchange database becomes logically corrupt. They are tiny, so it makes sense to

also

separate mailqueue there as well.

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Leonid S. Knyshov, CEO

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