

# Re: SCSI Question

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- *From:* "Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" <gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 18 Aug 2006 12:58:50 -0400
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You should be able to add a hot spare at any time. You won't be able to take a 5 disk array and convert it to a 4 disk with hot spare, but you could add a 6th disk and configure that as a hot spare.

If a disk goes bad, you just replace it according to the instructions for the specific RAID controller on the server. I always get this from Dell since I'm too busy (read lazy) to read the manual. It's always a simple procedure.

If you have a hot spare, you take the failed or failing drive offline in the controller software (Open Manage). That causes it to fail over to the hot spare, which takes an hour or two depending on the amount of data. Then you replace the failed drive with a new one, and configure the new one as a hot spare.

Double check this with Dell – when you buy the servers, they want all the drives in an array to be the same size. Afterward, you should be able to add a larger drive, which can dedicate space equal to the smaller drives as part of the array or hot spare. In other words, you have 5 36 GB drives and a 72 GB hot spare. A dead drive will fail over to 36 GB of the larger drive. But again, double-check all of this with Dell so you can get the exact details for the controller you're running.

"HENRYW" <henryw@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:OldL%23ntwGHA.4876@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OldL%23ntwGHA.4876@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I have SBS 2003 installed across 5 disks. It is a Dell server 2600 whose Perc controller / configuration created a stripe / RAID 5 array across these disks.

Question:  
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(1) If one of the disks goes bad, do I just replace the disk? Or is there an option to create a hot spare BEFORE creating the RAID 5 stripe – so I could just replace the disk?

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(2) Do the disks have to be the same size? In what instance does it need to the same size?