

Re: Network topology questions from a new sbs user

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2007-04/msg00693.html>

- *From:* "Merv Porter [SBS-MVP]" <mwport@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 4 Apr 2007 20:34:22 -0400
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No, ISA will not slow things down, but requires a considerable committent (IMO) to implement. Without RAID, you need to make sure that you always maintain good, full daily backups in case of hard drive failure. Also, make sure that at least one set of the backups are stored offsite (or at least as far away from the server as possible) to prevent against losing them in case of fire, theft, water damage, etc.

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Re: Network topology questions from a new sbs user

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Merv Porter [SBS-MVP]

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"doucettea" <doucettea@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:36B5E353-CDA5-4C56-A799-802B7446BC0F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thank you, Merv and Joe, for your replies.
I will spend some time implementing your suggestions and the suggestions from the links you provided.
I gather that I need to go with 2 NICs, keep the server on 24x7 and install the ISA component.
Joe, you indicated that ISA involved a learning curve. Is this a steep one with SBS (with such a small network environment)?
Also, the server is not all that fast. It is a single P4 2.6GHz machine with non-RAID EIDE HDDs x7200 rpm. Would the internet be slowed down for the other computers? Would ISA slow down the server or clients significantly?

Thanks again,
Ari

"Joe" wrote:

doucettea wrote:

Hi all,
I am new to Windows Server and to SBS, having recently acquired it in the MS Action Pack for a small business.
I have a setup question regarding network topology...How should I set it up?

The business is a home office and has 4 computers + the server (the 5th computer, repurposed). Server has 2 NICs. Connection to the internet is by cable-modem, on IP dynamically assigned by Comcast.
I have a:
Cable modem / VOIP box

Re: Network topology questions from a new sbs user

Router with NAT firewall, DHCP capability, 4 wired ports
and a wireless
access point
Gigabit switch with 5 ports
One more WAP

What is the best way to lay out the network? I want the 4
internal
computers
to be able to access the internet and the intranet. 3 are wired
and 1
is a
laptop with wi-fi.
The router and switch are both Dlink and can do uPNP.

Forget uPNP. Really. There's nothing it can do for business users that
you wouldn't much rather do manually.

I don't want to have an external website (it is hosted by a
third
party) but

Absolutely correct. Running a public web site is, or most certainly
ought to be, a full-time job. That's 24 hours a day, not eight.

I do want to allow external employees to access the intranet.
I set up
a
dyndns.org account and will try to use that (maybe I'll post
about that
once
the server is set up?).
I don't know if this is possible, but I don't want the SBS to
have to
be
turned on for the other computers to access the internet. (But
I
understand
that it would need to be turned on to access anything that
resides on
it...)
VPN would also be nice? The router can be set to allow VPN
pass-through.

Should I go with:
Cable modem <-> Router w/ firewall <-> SBS external NIC

Re: Network topology questions from a new sbs user

<-> SBS <-> SBS
internal NIC <-> Switch <-> PCs with wired LAN and also
WAP

If this is the case:

I assume SBS will do the DHCP? Will the SBS need to be
turned on for
the
other computers to access the internet? Also, will the SBS
set-up
wizards
take care of assigning the right IP addresses to the SBS and to
all the
computers?

Yes, all that is true.

Is there a different topology that I could be going with
instead? Do I
need
to use both NICs (seems to be the majority opinion of the
MVPs whose
posts
I've read about this)?

If not leaving the SBS machine on is important, then two-NIC mode is
out. The alternative is to use a good firewall, and have the single SBS
NIC and all workstations connected by a switch, along with the WAP.

A critical point is whether you want to learn ISA. ISA is only active
when two NICs are used, when all Internet activity occurs through the
SBS, and when it must be powered. SBS Premium has ISA, Standard does
not, so not all of your customers will use it. If any do, then you need
to understand it, which means two NICs and SBS on.

There's no real problem with switching between the two modes. You will
meet some customers who will need to move from one NIC to two, and an
understanding of the issues will be useful. There's nothing like doing
it yourself regularly to give you the necessary knowledge.

DHCP and DNS: the SBS *must* provide DNS service to all its clients,
including those using VPN. DHCP is optional but easier. The SBS must
also be the WINS server, and if it is the DHCP server it will tell its
clients this. If you use a different DHCP server, you must configure it
to give the SBS IP address as both DNS and WINS servers. If SBS is the
DHCP server, this is automatic.

Re: Network topology questions from a new sbs user

Firewalls are an entertaining subject. SBS standard in two-NIC mode, and most common low-cost routers, do stateful packet inspection, which is the core firewall function. ISA in SBS Premium adds a number of useful features, and also a web proxy server, which prevents some types of attack which a packet filter cannot see.

In a customer's production environment, a reputable packet-filtering router will offer as much protection as SBS Standard in two-NIC mode, while a more expensive firewall appliance or SBS Premium in two-NIC mode will offer much more safety. Two different firewalls will give a little more protection than one, so if there are no problems in doing so, use SBS two-NIC in preference to one-NIC, even if you have another firewall in place. Part of your job will be to weigh the pros and cons of doing this.