

## Re: Slow copy to SBS 2003

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2007-07/msg02062.html>

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- *From:* "SuperGumby [SBS MVP]" <[not@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:not@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 15 Jul 2007 15:48:35 +1000
- 

you changed several factors, seemingly at the same time.

If you have a battery on the controller enable 'Write Back', if you do not have a battery enable 'Write Back (enforced)' but realise that in a power outage this may lead to drive corruption, not a big deal if the server itself is on an UPS with comms capable of triggering tidy shutdown (the RAID cache is written to disk on shutdown).

'Read Ahead' is another kettle of fish altogether. Read Ahead (on PERC, and most others) works at the sector level of the HDD's. Asked to read sector 12345 the controller will also read 12346, 12347, and 12348. If the next read request asks for these sectors they are already in cache, so the heads don't have to move to pick them up. However, on SBS, trying to be all things to all people at the same time it is unlikely that sequential reads will occur, you're filling the cache with information which never gets used. IF the controller has file rather than sector based read ahead you are more likely, on SBS, to realise an improvement.

"MM" <[nosend2me@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nosend2me@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:1184454361.223458.240220@xx](mailto:news:1184454361.223458.240220@xx)

On Jul 14, 6:26 pm, "SuperGumby [SBS MVP]" <[n...@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:n...@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

you sure on that?

'Write Back' writes to cache and signifies completion on write to cache, 'Write Through' writes to cache and does not signify completion till written to disk, Write Back should be quicker.

I think the default varies whether the controller includes battery. If battery is included 'Write Back' is default. If no battery most of the PERCs will not accept 'Write Back', you must use 'Write Back (enforced)' (or similar). If no battery 'Write Back' behaves as 'Write Through'.

"MM" <[nosend...@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nosend...@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message

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news:1184451159.943512.179010@xx

On Jul 14, 10:28 am, "Lanwench [MVP – Exchange]"  
<lanwe...@xx>  
wrote:

KasperCO <kaspe...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 13 Jul., 16:59,  
"Lanwench [MVP –  
Exchange]"  
<lanwe...@xx>  
wrote:

Inline –

KasperCO  
<kaspe...@xxxxxxxx>  
wrote:  
Hi,

I'm  
experiencing  
a  
problem  
on  
a  
small  
SBS  
2003  
network.

While  
copying  
FROM  
the  
server  
is  
normal  
speed  
–  
this

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is  
not  
the  
case  
when  
copying  
TO  
the  
server.  
Just  
copying  
a  
few  
megabytes  
can  
take  
minutes.

What  
antivirus are  
you running  
on the  
server/clients?

At the moment the server  
does not have any antivirus  
(Exchange-  
services are disabled). The  
workstations uses  
preinstalled McAfee.

Disable the workstation AV and test....  
After that, time to look at your networking  
hardware. If you're using  
an  
10/100 autosensing switch, try locking down  
all the NICs at 100/full,  
rather  
than letting them try to negotiate the settings  
themselves.

Your IP  
config looks

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fine.

Great!

BR,  
/KasperCO– Hide quoted  
text –

– Show quoted text -- Hide quoted text –

– Show quoted text –

Does the Server have RAID5? On our new Dell 2950 it was painfully slow writing files to RAID5 drive. Changing RAID5 cache to Write Thru (it is Write Back by default on new Dells) increased speed by 10x. Be sure you have battery back-up on server.

MM– Hide quoted text –

– Show quoted text –

Not 100% sure, I am not an expert but the change worked for me. I had horrific sql performance and everything was very slow after moving to a new dell 2950 that was 10x the horsepower of our old box. After some research I found that Dell RAID Cards (on the 2950 and some others) default to Write Back cache and no Read Cache I turned on adaptive read ahead cache and write through cache. I also reviewed and updated settings described in the following MS KB

You may experience network-related problems after you install Windows Server 2003 SP2 or the Scalable Networking Pack on a Windows Small Business Server 2003-based computer that has an advanced network adapter

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<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/936594/en-us>

After these changes speed was unreal! In the raid card help file I read (possibly misunderstood) that Write Back send a complete signal when the write is complete while write through does not send a signal when done. Based on the immediate performance fix I stopped looking. I'd be happy to be corrected if I can get even more performance with a simple change again in the cache.

MM