



Re: Rebuilding SBS Server 2003 SP2

warnings so figured a rebuild was the perfect time to investigate these (chuck more RAM at it and use a quicker disk).

You can put more RAM in now to test, before doing anything further.

Disabling offline files makes perfect sense to me but they like it on a just in case basis, in the event the server goes down while working on something important but it will be disabled!

If your single server dies, your users should immediately cease working on the network until you get it fixed. Or you could well end up with mismatched data.

We did have RAID but like a numpty I configured a 4 disk array in srtripe mode then one of the drives failed and I was in a world of smelly stuff. kind of reluctant to do it again, well not really I just dont have enough disks to do it now. Was intending to configure X2 disks as stripe then another two as mirror but I swapped the mobo out for another which only has space for 2 drives, is it worth configuring a x2 drive mirror?

I don't know what X2 means, sorry. I'd do either a RAID1 on two drives for the OS & a RAID5 for data, or a single RAID 10, or a single RAID 5 with a global hotspare. I use SCSI or SAS but some people are fine with SATA.

I love partitioning with nix, once setup everything is v-tidy and helps a lot with re-installs but havent a clue with partition sizes with SBS, I have sucked and seen many times with unix to get it right but then unix doesnt suck out 2 days of your life re-installing and reconfiguring so really really gonna try and get it right first time through on this third time through, lol

Cheers :-)

I do relate, dude.

"Lanwench [MVP - Exchange]"

<lanwench@xx> wrote in message [news:ezDiCeqiIHA.5088@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ezDiCeqiIHA.5088@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Re: Rebuilding SBS Server 2003 SP2

Billy Burrows <billy.burrows@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi PPL,

Over this weekend I will be rebuilding our SBS server and have some questions, if someone would be kind enough to impart some of their wisdom and experience I would be most grateful.

Grateful, even? :-)

This will be the second rebuild (first time due to hard drive failure) this time to overcome a server naming issue.

Wow. What's your server called – IHATEMYBOSS ? This is a pretty large task to undertake for something that's merely cosmetic (and internal).

Some things that I am not sure about:

Is it worth partitioning the main SBS installation drive into the following?

C:\ (Main SBS partition)

D:\ (pagefile)

E:\ (data).

There's no advantage to putting the page file on a different partition. You will see a performance improvement only if it's a separate disk/array. If you don't have that setup, and will have a single array, I would do something like this:

C: (OS, pagefile) – 20 to 40GB

D: (Exchange & SQL data) – at least 100GB depending on your needs, ideally more

E: (Users shared folders, clientapps, fax, any other custom / company shared data) – the rest of the space

The advantage of the partitions is that things don't step on each others' toes. So, a user's data folder can't get chock full of MP3 files and knock Exchange offline.

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The hard drive is 400Gb,

I'm hoping you've got a hardware RAID array in here?

the system has 4Gb RAM. With Nix we would normally assign a swap partition of 3X system RAM, would the same sizing principles apply to SBS for the pagefile partition?

We do this routinely with NIX systems for performance reasons

No performance benefit here, as per the above.

and so that we do not have to worry about recovering data from backup in the event of having to re-install the system.

Sure. And it's just tidier.

Does partitioning like this on an SBS system improve performance and will it help in the event of a future system re-install? If so what's the recommended partition sizes for the base installation, page file partition and the data partition? How can I remove the old server from client systems so that offline files will not try to synchronize with it?

Disable offline files first. And keep it that way –what's the need of that nonsense on a LAN-connected computer?

On The previous re-build simply un-ticking the option to synchronize to the old server in start > All Programs > Accessories > synchronize didn't appear to work.

Disable it via group policy.

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Many Thanks for any advice!