Does my Business Need a Server?

Server (definition):

A computer that is set aside for group use or networking tasks. It "serves" or shares with the other computers connected to it.

What functionality does a server provide in a typical business environment?

1. A server provides a single storage location for a business's important information, easily shared with everyone in the organization, and backed up by a single scheduled backup routine. Manual backups are better than none at all, but they are problematic. Use a server and a backup program with a schedule to safeguard your business' information assets.

2. A well-configured server employs a RAID configuration to reduce loss of data, even if one disk drive fails.

3. Files stored on a properly configured server are more secure. Keep those preying eyes out of your data.

4. A domain server can also serve as your email server. Why is this beneficial? A domain server that also manages your organization's email keeps all correspondence between your staff private. It never leaves your network.

5. A business server, properly configured, is a better tool for accessing your business data remotely when you are working on the road or from home.

6. What is our preferred small business server operating system? Microsoft's Small Business Server. This operating system provides for operation of a proper domain, sharing data as well as protecting data, email management with Microsoft Exchange, relational database management with Microsoft SQL Server and automated scheduled backups of all your critical data. All in one package.

7. Optionally, printer sharing can be made more functional via a server, rather than overloading a user's work station.

How do I know I need a server?

1. Are you using two or more computers in your business? If so, then it may be time for a server. By storing and organizing data in a core location, you can access and share files easily and manage business information more efficiently.

2. Do you have a mobile workforce? Businesses with a mobile workforce (employees who work from home or frequently travel) definitely need a server so that employees can remotely connect to the company network and access information and resources, no matter where they are.

3. Do your employees share documents between multiple computers? If so, there is a significant risk of losing important files and of having multiple versions of vital documents. A server will help keep files managed and provide a centralized location to store and organize important documents, assuring constant access to what you need, when you need it.

4. Can valuable files and data be replaced? A server will protect files from loss and corruption. You can easily back up information and restore files that are accidentally deleted or misplaced, and you'll never have to worry about a crashed hard drive wiping out your system again.

5. Does on (or more) of your work stations seem to be overloaded with shared files, folders and printers? Please talk to us about whether you need a server or how to leverage an existing server more effectively!