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## Are you thinking about a Server for your Small Business?

If you are like many small businesses with 5-25 employees and/or more than 3 computers, you quickly realize that it is essential to have a server to host and manage many of the critical business functions that you depend on daily. This vital piece of office technology is responsible for a wealth of important computing tasks. These include:

- Coordinating / managing the behavior across all of the workstations in the office
- Managing shared files and folders
- Providing a platform for office collaboration
- Email, calendaring and FAXes
- Remote access
- Mobile computing
- Centralized data backup
- Managed software updates
- Database management
- Host multi-user business applications (e.g. Quickbooks™)
- and more..

It can be a very time consuming job to research all of the solutions that perform all of the tasks that you might need. It can be a very expensive to buy each of them and spend the time installing and, integrating them for your business. But how do you choose the right one? How can you create the most cost effective solution?

To address this issue and concern of many software vendors are now providing “right-sized” solutions that come pre-packaged and pre-integrated for various requirements and sized small businesses. These cost effective solutions still require skilled setup, configuration and maintenance, but reduce the upfront burden and cost of researching, purchasing, and integrating the various technology components.

As an example, consider the individual software used to support the tasks listed shown here<sup>1</sup>:

• Windows Server 2008 Standard	\$ 999
• Exchange Server 2007 Standard	\$ 699
• Exchange Server 2007 Standard CALs	\$ 335 (5 * \$ 67)
• Windows Share Point Services 3.0	-
• SQL Server 2008 Standard	<u>\$ 1840</u>
	<b>\$ 3873 **</b>

\*\* This does not include the effort to integrate each of these packages together.

Now consider a packaged solution: Windows Essential Solutions, specifically Small Business Server 2008 Premium Edition.<sup>2</sup> At \$1899, SBS is less than half the cost and comes as a pre-

<sup>1</sup> Prices are MSRP for 5 user licenses (CALs) as of May 2009.

integrated / packaged solution. If your business does not require a Database management solution, the cost comparison is \$2033 versus \$1019 for SBS 2008 Standard Edition. Equally attractive.

This is one example; others exist. Reviewing the alternatives against your requirements can save you time and money. Investing a little up front can save you a lot down the road. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.microsoft.com/sbs>