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A server is a computer program that controls or supplies information to several computers connected in a network. In very small organization (say running up to five to ten computers), the main computer often serves the purpose of the server. For a start-up company, installation of server system is must before undertaking any other hardware installation such as computers and printers.

Since the server is the real brain behind networked computers, server management is essential for IT health of a company. Many companies pay no attention to server management irrespective of looming consequences. Others employ ad hoc measures. In either case, the damage could be incalculable in terms of lost hours, data loss and monetary loss.

Potential threat to server management comes mainly from these three sources: a sudden surge in web traffic, virus or malware attack or your server/system administrator quitting the job suddenly leaving you in the lurch. If an organization is not prepared for the worse eventuality, utter disorder could be occur resulting in breakdown of the entire network system.

Even if your organization has a full-time, efficient server or system administrator, it is prudent to engage a professional server management company or independent consultant to take care of the server. These able professionals have technical knowledge and experience and can tackle the challenges before they occur. Their responsibilities include proper hardware installation, installing/updating the latest software, 24x7 troubleshooting, installing anti-malware updates and security patches, and periodic maintenance.

A server is the most important piece of equipment in an IT environment of any organization. A word of caution here: many small to medium businesses keep on using a desktop PC as a server while increasing the number of computers at the same time. They should stop this practice, as it is highly insecure and unscalable. Efficient server management requires that you install a dedicated server for optimum security, scalability, and handling 24x7 heavy workloads. Besides the above benefits, dedicated servers save energy bills, decrease running expenses and are easy to maintain. Considering the cost to benefit ratio, a little investment in dedicated servers will go a long way to ensure the safety of your IT infrastructure.

When it comes to servers, leaving things to fate might not be the right policy. A small investment in installing a dedicated server, taking help of external expertise, coupled with your own resources will increase the efficiency of your company and workforce.

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