

Advice on Taming Your Unruly Computer and Learning More About Your Computer - by Allen Stein

Many small business owners read my monthly column. How do I know? - they tell me and they often ask this question: Do I need a server in my business. Eastern Connecticut has many small businesses and some are operated from the owners' homes. These businesses form a significant part of the backbone of our local economy. This column is directed toward those hard working people who often are neglected when it comes to technology information.

Actually running a small business is tough enough without having to make critical technology decisions without a technical background. Having a dedicated server usually marks the beginning of many productivity gains as well as better security for a business's valuable information and data. We Computer Tamers put together a list of ways to identify if your small business could benefit from a dedicated server:

1. You are running from PC to PC to share information.
2. You are sharing a printer that is connected to someone's PC.
3. Each PC has to be backed-up on a regular basis. (Backing up business data is important and should be done often.)
4. You are using a router to share an Internet connection.
5. You are paying someone to host and manage your companies email.
6. You are emailing files to another person in your office so that they can view or use them.
7. Everyone is running antivirus and anti-spyware on their own machines, and they are each responsible for updating those programs.
8. You use a special application such as QuickBooks that has to be hosted on one computer and everyone accesses that PC.

If you can identify with one or more of these situations, you will likely benefit from centralizing all activity to a dedicated server. Remember, a server is a PC that is designed and configured to manage other PC's and share information quickly and reliably. A server can reduce computer problems while saving hardware and software costs overall.

Learn more about dedicated Windows server software at the Microsoft website or contact the Computer Tamers to schedule one of our free *Technology Assessments* and see if a dedicated server is what you need in order to improve productivity and reduce technology expenses. [If you don't have a Computer Tamers Sales and Service Center near you, (of course you are missing out on the best service in the world) be sure to go to a local *computer store* and don't go to one of those big-box stores that offer poor customer service and "pseudo-value." What is "pseudo-value"? That's what you get when a store sells stuff that looks inexpensive, but overall and after everything is "said and done" you've paid a lot more for what you get.]

The Computer Tamers have years of experience installing and maintaining server installations from the most complex and demanding to the most basic. A business without technology expertise is at a disadvantage today. That's why there's the Computer Tamers of Lebanon!

Allen is one of JASAsolutions' Computer Tamers who host The Computer Club heard every Wednesday after the 5 o'clock news on WILI AM 14. You can learn more about getting your unruly computer under control by visiting www.TheComputerTamers.com and explore the free information compiled there for you. Earlier columns are also available at the website. Be sure to visit the Computer Tamers Sales and Service Center at River Plaza, 75 Bridge Street Willimantic. The phone number is 860-456-1310. You can call us toll-free 1-877-456-1310.