

# Server Management

How do you know if it's time to invest in a server? Here's a list of things to consider if it's time. If you find that you have reached more than one of these thresholds, a server could help your business run more efficient and professionally.

## Computer Considerations

### 1. You have 2+ business computers

If you find yourself running back and forth between the computers, it is time for a server. This will allow you to have a central location from where you can store and access files regardless of which computer you are using.

### 2. Your computer is too slow and old

You can move your documents to a server and free up valuable memory space on your computers. This will in turn help your computers run faster. Additionally, should you decide to upgrade your computers, files are easier to move.

### 3. You have difficulty finding the master documents

Sharing documents between multiple computers can work until you have to find the master document. Then you have to sift through several different versions of the document to find the master. A server provides a central location to organize and store documents.

### 4. Your computer crashed and you lost information

A server provides a separate location where files can be stored and kept secure. You can create backup copies of important files on the server and never have to worry again about the "blue screen of death".

### 5. You have too many cords

Sharing peripherals (fax machines, scanner, printers, etc) is great! However if there are too many cords to connect the peripherals to all of the computers, a server can help. You will save on cord costs too.

## Employee Considerations

### 1. You have multiple employees

Servers enable you to share software tools, access company databases and information on and off-site. As your business grows, you will be better equipped to handle additional computers and software. You can also better control who can access specific information.

### 2. You and your employees work offsite

A server can allow you and your employee's remote access regardless of your location. This is great if you work from home, travel, work onsite at customer locations, etc.



## Business Considerations

### 1. Customers think your business is owned by someone else

If your website is hosted by another company and the web address reflects that (ie. [www.godaddy.com/mybusiness](http://www.godaddy.com/mybusiness)), it is time for a server. The same can be said for your email address. It is more professional to see [service@mybusiness.com](mailto:service@mybusiness.com) than [bob@yahoo.com](mailto:bob@yahoo.com)

### 2. You want to protect your sensitive information

With a server, you can control access to files. You can protect sensitive financial or personal information. Additionally, firewalls and virus protection can be well controlled via a server.

### 3. You want to improve communications

A server can hold additional platforms (customer relationship management software, accounting programs, etc.) that can enhance communication with employees and clients. With software, your employees can send group emails/faxes and organize customer information in one location.

