

Server Requirements for InterAcct Software

When using a server to hold the InterAcct database the server only hosts files, the local computers access the files across the network, or under a Wide Area Network you will be storing the files normally on the Server where users will login.

You can use any computer to act as a server the main requirements would be a fast hard disk and fast network card (with fast network cards on the local computers accessing the server).

Wide Area Network or Local Area Network

Local Area Server

- Hard Disk – FAST (See Below)
- Network Card – FAST Gigabit (See Below)
- Network Switch – Gigabit Switch
- Operating System – Not Important
- CPU – Not Important
- Graphics Card – Not Important
- Internet Connection – Not Important

The Server is simply a File Server, and therefore you can actually use any type of computer, including UNIX/LINUX to host the Database Files.

It is also recommended that you have Gigabit Network Cards in your Workstations, so you can receive the data as quick as possible.

Wide Area Server

- Hard Disk – FAST (See Below)
- Network Card – Not Important
- Network Switch – Not Important
- Operating System – Windows Server with Terminal Server Licences
- RAM - Around 200MB per Connected user
- CPU – FAST Processor
- Graphics Card – Not Important
- Internet Connection – 50kb/s per user

Some Customers prefer to setup 2 Servers, one for users to login on and one to host the InterAcct Database.. I don't believe there is any benefit in doing this, since then you have a network card/Switch/Network Card between the Database Files and the Client Program.

Fast Hard Disk/Network Card

What ever type of Network Setup you go for, the requirements/suggestions about the Hard Disk is the Same... The Faster the Better.

The Files on the Server getting most of the work are the Database Files, so having the fastest Read/Write/Delete Access will make your InterAcct System Fly for your users.

The **best** setup would be something like:

- 3/5 Hard Drives x SAS/SATA 10,000RPM/15,000RPM in a Raid 0 Drive Array.
- Gigabit Network Card, on a Gigabit Network.

Remember you don't need too much hard disk space for InterAcct... 36/72GB Drives would be fine. Here can give you an idea of prices:

<http://www.techbuy.com.au/categories/HDD.asp>

Hard Drive Type Options

From investigations of Hard Drive Options, if you were to put them in order of Write/Delete/Read Speeds, they would be:

1. SAS (Serial Attached SCSI)... Not common on most motherboards... But can get an additional card.
2. SATA (Serial ATA)... Most Practical Option.
3. SCSI... Not common on most motherboards... but can get an additional card.
4. IDE (PATA)... Older Style Connection... Being phased out.
5. Solid State... With different degrees of speed to read/write.

Just in terms of reading... Solid State Hard Disks are many times faster over all other drives. But not that fast in terms of Write/Delete. But that is not that useful for a database hard disk.

<http://www.linux.com/feature/142657>

SATA vs SCSI... SATA is now the winner.

<http://www.pugetsystems.com/articles.php?id=19>

RAID Options

- RAID 0 (striped disks) distributes data across several disks in a way that gives improved speed and full capacity, but all data on all disks will be lost if any one disk fails.
- RAID 1 (mirrored disks) could be described as a backup solution, using two (possibly more) disks that each store the same data so that data is not lost as long as one disk survives. Total capacity of the array is just the capacity of a single disk. The failure of one drive, in the event of a hardware or software malfunction, does not increase the chance of a failure nor decrease the reliability of the remaining drives (second, third, etc).
- RAID 5 (striped disks with parity) combines three or more disks in a way that protects data against loss of any one disk; the storage capacity of the array is reduced by one disk.
- RAID 6 (less common) can recover from the loss of two disks.
- RAID 10 (or 1+0) uses both striping and mirroring.

Visual Display Monitor :

Wide format recommended. Suggest 22 inch wide

Minimum screen resolution is : 1152 x 864