



## Request for Proposal

### Project Name

Backup System Replacement (RFP 3)

### Vendor Questions

1. How many mailboxes are in your current exchange environment?

**154**

2. Should I include a 20U rack on this proposal regardless of the size of our solution? Our proposed solution will end up being 4U + UPS space which should still end up falling less than 20U. Should I size the rack based on our actual solution size or stick with the 20U rack you mentioned?

**Please include the 20U rack. We expect that we may add addition equipment at this site in the future.**

3. Can you clarify the level of scalability that you require with this solution? In the RFP, you mention “system that will be easily scalable to 60 TB.” and “rack-mount UPS with capacity to scale backup to 100 TB” so we just want to confirm with you what your requirements are in terms of long term scalability.

**The backup device should be designed to expand through the addition of new drive arrays without requiring a completely new system, i.e. a new control unit (OS and application software).**

4. What is your preference regarding hardware sizing? We can start with a bigger box (with a higher up front cost) and license future data (per TB) as you scale up OR we can start with a smaller box (lower up front cost) and you would scale up by purchasing additional hardware.

**No response. Feel free to provide options in your proposal.**

5. Do you require agent-full vs. agent-less clients on all of your servers? Our proposed solution will support both, but we wanted to confirm with you whether you had any additional requirements that would necessitate a client agent on your servers.

**No response.**

6. What is the count of physical servers?

**6**

7. What is the count of virtual hosts? This wouldn't be the # of VM's, but the actual physical units running VM's?

**We currently have three (3) xen servers that host VMs.**

8. What is the number of CPU sockets per virtual host?

**I assume you are speaking of processor cores. This varies from 1 to 6, depending on the purpose of the VM.**

9. Are the SAN volumes that are backed up seen as a logical drive in Windows?

**Since we are backing up Linux volumes containing ext3 or ext4 file systems, not all volumes can be mounted on a Windows server.**

10. Are your VMs living on the SAN or is it strictly data?

**All VMs boot off volumes that are stored on the SAN. Some VMs have additional SAN volumes mounted for extra data storage.**

11. Would you look at alternative solutions such as using our dedicated hardware and data center space for your environment?

**No. We already use Rackspace for cloud-based virtual servers. This plan covers local equipment. We are not interested in proposals for moving any of the covered equipment to a data center at this time.**

12. Are you open to any sort of a hybrid environment that would encompass, your physical servers or ours coupled our VMware based cloud technology?

**We are not interested in any proposal that would require a move from Xen to VMware.**

13. How much data would be “selected” for off-site replication? How much from Windows? How much from Linux? And how often does it change?

**The answer to this question will depend on the cost of off-site storage. However, the two most likely sources of data to be stored off-site are our DAMS and our finance server. The finance server data is stored in a Microsoft SQL Server database (Windows), and would not exceed 3 GB. The DAMS data consists of a MySQL database (Linux) and archival TIFF files—about 4.6 TB. The TIFF files do not change often. Both databases change daily.**

14. Can important data for off-site be selected from a disk volume level?

**It would be preferable to be able to select files for replication, but volume level selection would be acceptable.**

15. Can “select files” for off-site replication be shared via a UNC Path?

**No answer.**

No further questions will be accepted at this time.