



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.