# NETWORKING & SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION LAB

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**Batch: A**

**Date: 20/03/2022**

**Experiment No.: 2**

**Aim**

Prepare a comparative study of specifications of desktop and serverclass computer.

# Procedure

## Server-class computer

A server is a piece of infrastructure or a piece of hardware very similar to your standard desktop or laptop computer but a lot more powerful, which will have a lot more RAM, a lot more CPU, a lot more capacity. It is a powerful computer that receives requests from the client computers, processes, and sends back the output. A web server responds to related web requests. There can be other servers, like, application servers, mail servers, FTP servers, etc. You can add additional cards that are not necessarily available on a standard desktop or laptop computer. It will be used primarily in a business environment to serve the customers out in a business.

## Desktop

A desktop computer is a personal computer designed for regular use at a single location on or near a desk due to its size and power requirements. The most common configuration has a case that houses the power supply, motherboard (a printed circuit board with a microprocessor as the central processing unit, memory, bus, certain peripherals and other electronic components), disk storage (usually one or more hard disk drives, solid state drives, optical disc drives, and in early models a floppy disk drive); a keyboard and mouse for input; and a computer monitor, speakers, and, often, a printer for output. The case may be oriented horizontally or vertically and placed either underneath, besides, or on top of a desk.

## Comparison

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| **Server** | **Desktop** |
| It has multiple processors for faster access | It has a single processor in most cases |
| The files are stored at a secure location | The files are present at the individual’s desktop |
| It has mirrored hard drives which have the backup of the data on the servers | It has a single hard drive, if it fails you lose the data. |
| It requires more than one power supply | It has only one power supply |
| It is more secure to viruses, malware and cyber threats | It is vulnerable to viruses, malware and cyber threats |
| The hardware parts are costly | The hardware parts are not costly |
| It offers higher processing power, memory and storage | It has lower processing power, memory and storage |

A desktop computer system typically runs a user-friendly operating system and desktop applications to facilitate desktop-oriented tasks. In contrast, a server manages all network resources. Servers are often dedicated (meaning it performs no other task besides server tasks). Because a server is engineered to manage, store, send and process data 24-hours a day it has to be more reliable than a desktop computer and offers a variety of features and hardware not typically used in the average desktop computer.