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NETWORKING & SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION LAB

Experiment No: 2

Aim:

Prepare a comparative study of specification of desktop and server class computers

Procedure:

Desktop computers

A desktop is a computer intended for personal use and it is typically kept in a single place. Furthermore, desktop refers to a computer that is laid horizontally on the desk unlike towers. Early desktop computers were very large and they took up the space in a whole room.

Desktops are powered from a wall socket and therefore power consumption is not a critical issue. Furthermore, desktop computers provide more space for heat dissipation. Initially, desktop computers were not integrated with wireless technologies such as WiFi, Bluetooth and 3G, but currently they are integrated with wireless technologies.

Server Computers

A server is a software service running on a dedicated computer and the service provided by this can be obtained by other computers in the network. Sometimes the physical computer that runs this service is also referred to as the server. Mainly servers provide a dedicated functionality such as web servers serving web pages, print servers providing printing functionalities, and database servers providing database functionalities including storage and management of data.

Even though a personal computer or a laptop can work as a server, a dedicated server contains special features that would allow it to efficiently satisfy incoming requests. Therefore, dedicated servers normally include faster CPUs, large high performing RAM (Random Access Memory) and large storage devices such as multiple hard drives. Furthermore, servers use operating systems (OS) that are server oriented providing special features suitable for the server environments. In these OS, GUI is an optional feature and provides advanced back up facilities and tight system security features.

MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A DESKTOP AND SERVER

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.

SERVER	DESKTOP
It has multiple processes 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 falls you lose the data.
It requires more than one power supply	It has only one power supply.
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.