Database partitioning refers to table partitioning. Partitioning of a table can be horizontally or vertically done. SQL Server 2012 does not support table vertical partitioning (Chapter 10, Microsoft SQL Server 2012: Administration).

“*Vertical Partitioning*  involves spreading data columns across two or more tables even though they could be stored in a single table.” (Chapter 10, Microsoft SQL Server 2012: Administration).

Horizontal Partitioning has an advantage over Vertical Partitioning, and it is that with Horizontal Partitioning can select what rows to include in the Partitioning by filtering the values of the columns.

There is a condition for horizontal table partition, and it is that the partitions must stay in the same database. Different version of SQL Server do not support the same features regarding partitioning tables and indexes. Partitions are considered logical units when we execute queries. According to this MSDN article it is recommended to use 16 GB of memory when there are several partitions being used.

References

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190787(v=sql.110).aspx>