**Partitioning Disks**

Disk partition alignment is a powerful tool for improving SQL Server performance. Configuring optimal disk performance is often viewed as much art as science. A best practice that is essential yet often overlooked is disk partition alignment. Windows Server 2008 attempts to align new partitions out-of-the-box, yet disk partition alignment remains a relevant technology for partitions created on prior versions of Windows.

**Using Diskpart.exe to Perform Partition Alignment, Assign Drive Letters, and Assign File Allocation Unit Size**

Here is a template for using diskpart.exe to perform partition alignment, assign a drive letter, and format a partition.

Command Line Syntax

Diskpart

List disk

Select disk <DiskNumber>

Create partition primary align=<Offset\_in\_KB>

Following are the steps for partitioning disks:

1. Login to the server.
2. Right click on My Computer. Click on Manage.
3. Go to Storage -> Disk Management.
4. Note down the disks which are unallocated.
5. Go to run. Type “Diskpart” and click Ok.
6. Type “List disk” and click Enter.
7. Type “List disk” and click Enter to confirm that the right disk is selected.
8. Type “Create Partition primary align=size. Size should be 64 for data and log files and 4 for the mount points.
9. Click Enter.
10. We will get a message “Diskpart succeeded in creating the specified partition”.

(Reference: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-US/>)