



vSERV and vSERV/LX

Frequently Asked Questions

What is file server aggregation and why is it needed?

Every file server on a network has its own hierarchical file system (a collection of folders that contain other folders and files) that it presents to the network and is shared by users on the network. Most organizations structure the file server's file system so it is easy to organize and find information. For example, there might be a 'Departments' folder which contains 'Marketing', 'Administration' and 'Finance'. Each of those folders, in turn, might contain additional folders—one for each person in each of those departments.

Over time, as organizations need more storage space—and consequently, more servers—users frequently have multiple servers and file systems they use. Their data can be spread across multiple servers. They must remember and keep track of which data are on which servers.

File server aggregation brings multiple file servers together into one storage pool. User data is organized in one structure that is spread across all servers in the pool, automatically and transparently.

What are the differences between vSERV and vSERV/LX?

vSERV/LX is an entry-level file server aggregation product at a very attractive price point. It allows a maximum of 280GB of storage to be aggregated and can be used across as many servers as desired. vSERV/LX can be purchased for \$499.

vSERV is an unlimited product which can aggregate an unlimited amount of storage. The suggested retail price for vSERV is \$1,200/server.

All remaining information in this document applies to both the vSERV and vSERV/LX products.

Who would use vSERV and what benefits do they receive?

IT groups and end-users who use multiple file servers will benefit from vSERV. Business sizes can range from small offices with two or more file servers up to corporate server environments with numerous clients and servers.

File-server management costs are reduced by having a single pool of storage to administer. The size of the storage pool can be easily increased without disruption of service. End users benefit from an aggregated storage pool because they no longer must interact with multiple network-drive shares. A single network-drive connection gives them access to all storage in the aggregated pool.

How difficult is vSERV to install and configure?

vSERV installation and configuration is very simple:

- Install the software on each server to be aggregated.
- Enable the software on each server to be aggregated.
- Define which servers are to be in the aggregated storage group.

What server operating systems is vSERV supported on?

vSERV is currently supported on servers running Microsoft Windows2000.

Do client computers need to have additional software installed on them?

No. Any client able to access a file server before aggregation will be able to access the aggregated storage pool after vSERV is installed.

Does the performance of the aggregated pool scale well as servers are added?

Extensive performance testing has been done on vSERV in 1Vision's performance lab. Results show that performance scales linearly when servers are added to the pool.

How long does it take for a company to recoup its investment in vSERV?

vSERV significantly reduces the cost associated with managing multiple file servers. Management costs are by far the largest component in the overall cost of a server to an organization.

vSERV's attractive price means that most organizations will receive payback for their software investment within 30 days.