# AWS 95: Doing File/Print and Database Services (6/93)

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TOPIC ------------------------------------------------------------

I would appreciate some clarification about the requirements and
configurations about the new Apple Workgroup Server (AWS) 95 and the
differences between the Database and the File/Print server configurations.

Our sales team has a AWS 95, with File and Print Services, with 16MB RAM
and a 500MB Disk that we use for demos and customer evaluations.  Customers
have been very positive in their acceptance.  Now we want to demonstrate
database performance.  The local Oracle people have been cooperative in
assuring that the software will be made available.  My question is, what
can I expect to happen when I try to install and operate Oracle software on
a File/Print server.  Will it operate at less than optimum performance?
Will it refuse to load or execute?  I am trying to build a case for the
sales team to purchase a real database server but they are asking some
real-customer concern questions.


DISCUSSION -------------------------------------------------------

You can configure the AWS 95 to run both File/Print and Database services
on the same computer.  We don't offer this configuration because it's not
optimal, and the product is being positioned first and foremost as a
stand alone File/Print Server, Database Server, or an Application Server.
The penalty is a hit on performance.  Under some conditions, with large
numbers of concurrent database and File/Print users, you simply run out of
CPU power.  We haven't found where anyone has done an analysis on where or
when you'll reach the point of degraded performance, but it's reasonable to
say the server could support 20 to 30 users doing both database and
file/print services.

We did conduct a performance analysis using the server in the dual mode
configuration.  We ran our performance tools against an AWS 95 configured
as a  File/Print Server with both AppleShare and Oracle running and
configured.  In each case the performance of the primary environment was
degraded significantly.  The resulting speeds were only 60% of the same
configuration running stand alone.  We have tested the combined operations

well enough to be confident that there are no technical problems preventing customers from combining usage, but performance takes a hit and we are positioning the AppleShare Pro product as a performance enhanced version.

If you do want to configure the server to support both services you should choose the File/Print Server configuration.  You should also ensure that the server is configured with the 512K L2 cache.  This configuration, although not optimal, will allow you to get the best performance possible for both File/Print and Database applications.  The real difference between the two configurations are the kernel buffers.  Because the File/Print Server kernel has more buffers it is the best choice for a dual environment.

For demo purposes we see no problem in using a single machine.  Since you'll only be using the server to demo the functionality of the system and won't have multiple users connected you should see optimal performance in both environments.  We are less comfortable in offering this type of configuration to a customer, but depending on their needs and usage patterns it may offer acceptable performance.

Keywords:   <None>

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