

## Hosting All Orders on a Dedicated Server

The All Orders system can be hosted on any Windows based server dedicated server which are available from many hosting companies. Here are a few things to consider when planning on migrating to a dedicated server. Many of these points apply to either purchasing a new in house server or upgrading your current one as well.

- Typically when hosting the All Orders database and client application on a server, terminal services licensing will need to be purchased to allow many users to log in and work at the same time with their own unique environments. Since All Orders communicates so closely with Quickbooks the users that will need Quickbooks access, even if they are not going to be using All Orders, will most likely need access as well as the Quickbooks application will be hosted on the same server. Therefore pricing for these users should be factored in.
- In the best case scenario the server will have a minimum of two hard drives. A primary one will be used for the operating system and software that is installed. A secondary drive can be included where the database will be stored. Databases read/write to the hard drive constantly so your All Orders database being on its own hard drive will greatly improve its performance. If possible a small solid state secondary hard drive is optimal. Since it will only be hosting the database it can be the smallest one available to you and should still be sufficient.
- The recommendation is to start with an installation of SQL Server Express for installs of 10 or fewer users. If more than 10 users will be logging into the server then full licensing of SQL Server should be purchased. While the express version has limitations (it can only leverage 1 CPU core, 1GB of memory and the database size cannot exceed 4GB) it can be upgraded rather easily to a fully licensed version and will help keep the initial costs down.
- The recommendation for starting off with memory would be 8GB. This can be increased depending on the performance and the number of users on the server. In addition, SQL Server Express can only use 1GB of memory which means it will not be consuming large amounts of memory and the majority of the memory will be dedicated to the applications being run. If full licensing of SQL Server is purchased this will increase the amount of memory available for SQL Server to consume which should require an immediate increase in memory. If a fully licensed version of SQL Server is being installed initially the recommendation is for 16GB of memory.
- The recommendation for CPUs is to start with a minimum of 4 cores across all processors. This can be increased depending on the performance and the number of users on the server. In addition, SQL Server Express can only use 1 CPU core which means it will not consume lots of processing resources and the majority of the processing will be dedicated to the application being run. Since SQL Server Express has this limitation, if a choice is presented between having fewer but more powerful cores VS. more but less powerful cores, the fewer but more powerful ones should be chosen so the 1 core SQL Server has access to is as powerful as possible. If full licensing of SQL Server is purchased this will increase the amount of processing power available for SQL Server to consume which should require an immediate increase in cores. If a fully licensed version of SQL Server is being installed initially the recommendation is for 8 cores across all processors.