



Consolidation case study

Issue

The company name is withheld to protect its identity. The company did not have a full time SQL Server DBA. SQL Servers were managed by other DBAs. It was a typical case of SQL Server sprawl. DBA managers and application owners did not even know where some of the SQL Servers were located. Some applications were using SQL Server Express Edition. It was a management nightmare. None of the SQL Servers were utilized to its maximum capacity. The management wanted to consolidate as many servers as possible into major enterprise servers.

Solution

We came up with a solution to consolidate as many as 25 servers in to enterprise class servers with failover clustering. The enterprise SQL servers had more memory and were connected to SAN storage. Four servers were selected in an Active/Active/Active/Passive server mode. The passive server has enough memory to support the failover of instances from other servers. We worked closely with application owners, Windows administrators, network administrators and other stakeholders to move the applications, databases to new servers.

Result

The result was a much cleaner SQL server environment which was easier to manage with more memory and storage space for applications. Server utilization was maximized thus eliminating the need for 25 underutilized servers. Those servers were repurposed for other applications. It resulted in savings of huge amount of money in terms of hardware, licensing, operational and maintenance costs. Applications were grouped so that major applications were not interrupted by unavailability or maintenance of other applications. Adding more applications and managing future growth were made easy. It resulted in a well managed, cleaner environment which saved a lot of money and improved efficiency.