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Susan Bradley Introduces Us to Windows Server 2008 Foundation!
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[Music]

Brandon Wenn: From runasradio.com, you're listening to RunAs Radio, the Internet audio talk show for IT professionals with Richard Campbell and Greg Hughes. This is Brandon Wenn, announcing show #110, with guest Susan Bradley, recorded Thursday, April 23, 2009. RunAs Radio is produced each week by PWOP Productions, providing professional media and podcasting services online at pwop.com. You can follow the boys on Twitter at twitter.com/runasradio.

Richard Campbell: Thank you, thank you Brandon. This is Richard Campbell. You are listening to RunAs Radio and with me as always, my co-host Greg Hughes.

Greg Hughes: Hey, how are you today?

Richard Campbell: Things are good man and we're now after TechEd at long last after all that run up.

Greg Hughes: Yup. Got your trip done and are you back home now?

Richard Campbell: Presumably I'm at home, of course, with magic of radio who knows where I actually am.

Greg Hughes: Yes, our time's shifting here but good, I'm sure it went well and congratulations on a show that I'm sure will go well and when you listen to this has gone well.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Greg Hughes: It's like the TiVo of tradeshow.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, that whole tense thing of when and after and before it's very funny in these scenarios.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, it's kind of fun.

Richard Campbell: All right. Well let's dive straight into our guest then. Susan started her career in computing with IBM 8088 computers and Compaq "luggable" portables.

Greg Hughes: Nice.

Richard Campbell: To this day she is convinced that her right arm is longer than her left arm because she lugged those dang "luggables" for an entire summer on an audit job. Now, she practically has an RJ45 connection growing out of her body. In addition to blogging at www.sbsdiva.com, she writes articles for Brian Livingston's WindowsSecrets.com on the

topic of patching. Extremely honored to be the author of the smallbiz chapter in the Windows 2008 Security Resource kit, she's also co author of the upcoming [SBS 2008 Unleashed](#), and welcome back Susan.

Greg Hughes: Hey, Susan.

Susan Bradley: Thank you very much. I guess I should update it nowadays and say I'm like wireless 3G rather than RJ45 because RJ45 is so, you know, like old school, I guess.

Richard Campbell: Maybe go WiMaxx, I mean go all out.

Susan Bradley: That's true. You've got a point there.

Greg Hughes: 4G.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. They're talking 4G now these days too. You are the Small Business Server Diva and we talked about that a number of shows ago but there's a new product out now from Microsoft that sits underneath SBS?

Susan Bradley: Yes. We have a new family member kind of like the little, well, I can't say it's little brother, more like the younger niece or something like that, we have to fit it somewhere in the family. It's called Windows Foundation Server.

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Susan Bradley: And if you'd like me to go slightly off kilter just a little bit to tell you a funny story about that.

Richard Campbell: Absolutely.

Susan Bradley: This was a product that's very, very NDA hush-hush. The very first time that it was talked about was Steve Ballmer talked to Wall Street analysts in I think it was a March presentation and talked about Windows Foundation Server and we all went, "What's that?" and the kind of the scuttlebutt at the time was it was kind of like a network operating system for servers because the problem is when you go out to the Dell marketplace and you go to spec out your server, you've got some really good cheap servers these days...

Greg Hughes: Yup.

Susan Bradley: And then you look at the operating system and you go, "Whoa, the operating system is more than the server."

Richard Campbell: Yeah.



Greg Hughes: Yeah, exactly.

Susan Bradley: "Geez, Is there any way to get that cheaper?" Now a lot of people have been looking at Windows Home Server because it's a cheap operating system.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: The only problem is you can't do a DC, you can't do like normal server stuff.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: It's a very nice box to play with and my goodness, they do all sorts of things with it but if you really want to do server-ish things with it, you start hacking it up to places where it really shouldn't go.

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Richard Campbell: It really is a brilliant product for the home.

Susan Bradley: Yes. Well, we shouldn't just say home. We should say home and it's SOHO as well, small office, home office.

Greg Hughes: Yup.

Richard Campbell: Okay, I'll believe that.

Susan Bradley: It really fits in nice with the guys that are doing businesses out of their home.

Greg Hughes: Yup and that's exactly what I do with my home server.

Susan Bradley: Yeah. So people complain that it has a really rotten name for this small business in that 1 to 5 range that wants to run a business out of their home where they have a very small shop.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: So, with that in mind that you've got this product that's really nice for home and very small businesses but it's got a really lousy name because the business owner looks at that and says, "You're putting a home product in my business?" So, they looked around and went, "We need something kind of in between, you know, kind of "Goldilocks and the three bears." Home Server's not quite right. Small Business Server's not quite right. We need something kind of in this middle especially kind of when we're in this kind of mid-cloud *where are we at* kind of stage."

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Susan Bradley: So what Foundation Server is, is this kind of in between. First off, here's what it is, it's limited to 8 gigs. It is Windows Standard Server. You can make it a DC. The things you can't do, make sure you get all the restrictions right, you can't make it like in a child domain. So, it's got to be in one of these small offices where you need to set up a DC.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: It can be in a branch office so let's say you have a small business server already in one office and you need to do a branch office in a another location, guess what, cheap operating system now.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: It's much, much cheaper than the Windows Standard Server. The limitations are it can only support 15 users or devices. It doesn't count CALs. It just has a EULA limit on it.

Greg Hughes: Gotcha.

Susan Bradley: So, you don't have to buy CALs for it, you buy it but it is Eula capped at 15. So, what you can do is you've got an office that really likes hosting email, Gmail, BPOS, Exchange Online, all these kinds of things.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: But they still need something on premises for DC or line of business app or whatever. This is the cheaper, a little bit restrictive like I said but the cheaper version of it so that you're not having to buy Windows Standard Server. So that when you buy the \$1000 server, you're not buying a \$2000 operating system.

Greg Hughes: It's really interesting to me. I was speaking with a friend of mine, they have a small business, a moving company. Just last week, they're moving into a new location and looking at buying a new server from Dell and were looking at Small Business Server but it felt like and looks like a bit of overkill that use outsourced email but they need to do something better just in terms of having a centralized -- they have a really, really old Windows 2000 domain that's not been maintained very well and they want to start from scratch, it sounds like this might be a good way to go.

Susan Bradley: Yeah because you can put the blend of the -- you've got to have something these days, show me a small business and there's still



usually a line of business app that needs something on premises.

Greg Hughes: Yup.

Susan Bradley: We're not yet to the point where everything is in the cloud and all fluffy and wonderful.

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Susan Bradley: We still have something local and then not to mention you have, usually the business owner is a little bit hesitant as to having that key business data off somewhere. You've got two kinds of small business owners these days. One business owner is very happy with having the cloud handle his stuff and the other one says, "Where's my data?"

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: "I want to know where my data is." So, you still have that on premises server. Many small businesses are comfortable with the exchange being out in the cloud, they can handle that. So, you kind of can then build your on-premises boxed and then hook it up with your hosted exchange. Here's the caveat, it is only and only, so it's not something that you can if you're a white box manufacturer that you can go build. You're going to be going to Dell and you're going to be looking through their server catalogue and it's going to be on certain models.

Greg Hughes: Gotcha.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Greg Hughes: Now, is that already available or is that in the future?

Susan Bradley: It should be. It was supposed to be out kind of right at the end of April to May and I'm expecting it out any day. Honestly, I haven't looked at the Dell website in a while.

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Susan Bradley: I've been busy with TechEd, so...

Greg Hughes: So, by the time this show airs, maybe it will be available, just check there and see what's available.

Susan Bradley: Exactly but look for Windows Foundation Server. So, I was going to tell you a funny story behind that. Like I said, Steve Ballmer kind of did the oops and let it out early in this Wall Street talk that he had. Well, the funny thing is I kind

of knew about it about a week or so before there was a Windows Server 2008 Service Pack 2 escrow test that we were doing and as a Small Business Server tester, they told us, "Don't install it on your Small Business Server box because it will cause a branding issue," and I'm going like, "Well, what is the branding issue? What does that mean?" So, curiosity being what it is, I installed it and when you logged in, it said Windows Foundation Server. I didn't even think anything of it because there was a base operating system underneath SBS that if you go into the console of SBS, I think it's a WinSBS or something like that, didn't even dawn on me that this was a brand new product, so I go and do a quick blog saying, "Oh, don't worry about it. It's just a name. If you uninstall it, it will take it back off." Well, then somebody pointed out to me that, "You know, we don't think of that as a..." first off, a public beta that I was blogging about, so then I went, "Oops, you're right. I'm still officially under NDA so let's take that off." So, then a couple of weeks go by and this thing comes out with Steve Ballmer and I'm like, "Oh, okay. Now, it makes sense." So, that would be a funny story that I inadvertently knew about Foundation Server and didn't know that I knew about Foundation Server at the time, so...

Richard Campbell: By doing something you weren't supposed to do or they told you not to do.

Susan Bradley: Yeah, I know.

Greg Hughes: Violation of the beta NDA, there we go.

Susan Bradley: Yeah, I know.

Greg Hughes: That never happens.

Richard Campbell: And don't install it here.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Richard Campbell: I'm still trying to figure out, if I don't have Exchange, it's outsourced, and obviously I don't have SQL server, why would I even run a DC? Like why would I want this product?

Susan Bradley: Well, it doesn't have to be at the main controller. I'm a control freak. I like to have the domain. The reason why I like to have a domain even in a small business is that I can control the antivirus, that I control the group policies.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, it's all about group policy.

Susan Bradley: Group policy preferences, have you taken a look at the cool group policy preferences in Server 2008?



Richard Campbell: Oh, yeah.

Greg Hughes: In 2008, there's some great stuff.

Susan Bradley: You can do so much under those policy preferences and as long as you have an XP or a Vista and then ultimately when Windows 7 comes out, you have that, you can push out mapped drives, you can push out printers. There's so much you can do from that console without having to sneaking it around.

Greg Hughes: Yeah. So, for the small business that has maybe a remote, a person that handles their IT remotely, they can remotely connect to that and then handle all the policy remotely too...

Susan Bradley: Exactly.

Greg Hughes: And connect the burners and set them and push them out, that's pretty valuable.

Richard Campbell: And of course it's a file server so I mean...

Susan Bradley: You got it.

Richard Campbell: And printing services.

Susan Bradley: Mainly what they are trying to do is get somebody off of using XP as a file server.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Susan Bradley: I mean how many times you go into an office, small office and they say, "Oh yes, we have a file server. We have a server. It's right over here," and go over there and it's an XP.

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Susan Bradley: And they're like, "That's not exactly what we want you to be running. When you say file server, we want you to be running a dedicated server operating system, what it's supposed to be doing, not an overgrown desktop that you just happen to call a file server." So, the goal here is to wean you off that XP as the file server and put you on a real file server operating system.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: One that has things like RAID and nice good back-ups and things that normal servers have that you don't get in the desktop operating system.

Greg Hughes: Sure.

Susan Bradley: And honestly, to get you up to a little bit better server quality hardware too because even though it's a cheap server, I found that you can get a cheap server that has usually better parts than the cheap desktop.

Richard Campbell: So, the question is how much cheaper is it actually? I know we can only get it OEM with the machine. When you think like a regular 2008 Server Standard 5 CAL is what? \$700?

Susan Bradley: Right. Now, rumor has it and I don't have exactly number because honestly I haven't looked it out at Dell, the rumor was it was going to be in the range of like under \$200.

Richard Campbell: Right, okay.

Susan Bradley: Your mileage may vary. Check local prices.

Richard Campbell: But that's literally down to the price of a Windows Vista Ultimate.

Susan Bradley: Right.

Richard Campbell: That to me seems pretty compelling. Once you get down to that kind of number for a server, yeah, there's no excuse for you to run XP as your file server anymore.

Susan Bradley: You got it.

Richard Campbell: It's a steal and only the basic services. You could be running SQL Express on it if you did want to have a database on the machine.

Susan Bradley: You got it, yeah.

Richard Campbell: Because that has no restrictions at all.

Susan Bradley: Like I said, other than the size limitation, the fact that it -- oh and you can't virtualize it. That's one thing you can't do.

Richard Campbell: Oh, okay, no virtualizations.

Susan Bradley: That's OEM so it's on the box. You can't like lift up the license and virtualize it.

Richard Campbell: Okay.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: But, again, for small offices that are used to the XP peer to peer sitting in the corner, you know, that works.



Richard Campbell: It does sound like they're setting themselves up to sell this like they sell Home Server, pre-canned, pre-configured machine, small, and you stick it in the corner, it just works.

Susan Bradley: And then if you happen to grow and grow into their big server, it's migrateable. My understanding is, I haven't tested it, my understanding is to migrate it from the Foundation Server up to Windows Standard Server, you stick the Standard Server CD-ROM and you lift it up, kind of like going from Vista Home Premium to Vista Ultimate.

Richard Campbell: Right, it's a triviality to do the upgrade so at least they can get in.

Susan Bradley: You got it. They want you in on that bottom floor so that they can go, "Here, take a look. Grow. See what we got up here."

Richard Campbell: Yeah, so you can propagate the mistakes you made in Active Directory from the very beginning all the way to the end.

Susan Bradley: Exactly, exactly. You got it.

Richard Campbell: Not that I'm cynical or anything but I mean that would be my concerns especially starting that small is what did I do wrong in my domain configuration?

Susan Bradley: That's the nice thing about what I said the less than 10, the 1 to 5 range. There are times when you look at the migration past between SBS 2000 and SBS 2003 and SBS 2008, you kind of go, "You know, that's really gunky and ucky."

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Susan Bradley: You only have five users. That's not going to hurt that bad to start over and there's nothing wrong with that. Usually, I mean in that space you do tend to go, "Okay, do I really want to save this?" and especially if you've got like an AD that's been upgraded in place from like NT 4.0.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Susan Bradley: You look at 2008 and you can't do an in-place when you're going up to 64-bit because it is 64-bit, so keep that in mind if you've got an existing 32-bit. There is no in-place upgrade between that and Foundation Server, it is 64-bit.

Richard Campbell: Oh, interesting.

Susan Bradley: So, it is a good time to go, "You know what? That is really crappy. So, why don't we do clean?"

Richard Campbell: Yeah, time for a clean jump. Remote access services as well?

Susan Bradley: It is Standard Server.

Richard Campbell: Okay.

Greg Hughes: So you get all that stuff in.

Susan Bradley: So if anything you wanted, turn on and enable and just think of what's in the Standard Server SKU, if you want to turn it on and enable it, it's there.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, the ability for my users to come in and use several services in their work stations, all that sort of thing?

Susan Bradley: If you want to make it a TSbox on an existing domain, absolutely. The only thing you need, caveat, like any other TS installation, you need the TS CAL.

Richard Campbell: Right. It's the client CALs you have to have.

Susan Bradley: Yup.

Richard Campbell: But the services itself will be just fine.

Susan Bradley: Everything you would need is on the box because it's Windows Standard Server 2008. You only need to add CALs, stir, that's all you need if you have the TS CAL on that box, but yeah, a lot of people are looking at it too in an existing SBS network because the TS in 2008 is really cool both from the sample to the normal, what I call the normal remote desktop services as well as the TSremote apps where you push them out through like a web gateway so there's lots and lots of interesting things that we can put in the existing networks as well as set it up in a standalone network.

Richard Campbell: Right, right,

Susan Bradley: Yeah, you can set up a TSbox, not a problem.

Richard Campbell: You know, this is a bit of a sideways shift but I'm thinking now from a small office perspective and maybe folks listening to this has got a small office and they're thinking they'll go this way, what do you recommend for printing solutions in the small office scenarios? Should they just get network printers or should it be plugged into the server or everybody gets separate workstations kind of thing? What do you think?



Susan Bradley: In our office, we do both ways. We have a local printer and it's usually a cheap HP Laser Jet less than a hundred bucks, cheapest thing you can get at the local work for doing the one-off sheets and then we lease them, they are copier-scanner printers. So, they are hooked into the network. They've got an IP address coming in from the network, you can stand from them to your desktop, you can email out from them. What else can I do from them? You can either save to the box which we normally don't do but we save directly to the network. There is a scanning place that we use them for attempting to take all of our lovely paper that we accumulate over the course of the year and scan it in and turn it into a PDF document.

Richard Campbell: Okay.

Susan Bradley: And they're attempting because we kill trees like crazy in this office.

Richard Campbell: Oh yeah, well, what is a printer but a high performance tree-killing device, right?

Susan Bradley: You got it.

Richard Campbell: But I find that an awful lot of those relatively inexpensive multi-function printers have terrible network drivers and terrible drivers for the machine unless you can plug it in directly.

Susan Bradley: Which is why I'd say go for the leased printer, copier or scanner because they are more network based. The cheaper ones, keep them on the workstations.

Richard Campbell: So, better to lease your printing solution and get a better one that can actually work properly on a network.

Susan Bradley: Yup.

Richard Campbell: That's very good advice, Susan. I like that for a business perspective just that it solves the issue and the thing goes away after a while.

Susan Bradley: And the other thing you keep in mind too is that when you scan, it does not turn the counter, it does not cost anything.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Susan Bradley: Printing, there's counter that you send to the copier companies and they charge you on a little maintenance fee on it. Printing cost and copying cost, but scanning does not turn the counter. So you scan an entire force and it does not add any additional cost on that.

Richard Campbell: Right, interesting point. So, yeah, that's a great story and if you're in love with the \$200 printer plug it into a work station.

Susan Bradley: Yup, especially nowadays and I'll tell you the reason why we're in this a little bit awkward transition between 32-bit on the workstations and 64-bit on the server...

Richard Campbell: Yes.

Susan Bradley: And finding those lovely drivers to share the space up on the 64-bit printer that will also publish out as a 32-bit, it can be a little bit fun.

Greg Hughes: Oh, it can be.

Richard Campbell: Oh, I feel like we're in printer driver hell right now.

Susan Bradley: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: And I blame the vendors to some degree. They're just not taking drivers all that seriously it seems.

Susan Bradley: We've got some major vendors that if they do it right, a 32-bit and a 64-bit driver named the same and then the systems go, "Okay, no problem. I'll just pick it up." If they name it a little bit differently, we have to go around and manually add the driver to the 32-bit workstations. So, it's a little bit rough right now. We're in this kind of trough of printer driver stage right now and then some of the printer drivers want to be printer drivers notification, color, you name it, and you kind of go, "Guys, can you turn down the code a little bit guys? We just want you to print. We don't need like you to make it show for me every single time you do something. Yes, they're getting a little bit too rambunctious."

Richard Campbell: And do you see any scenario anymore where we would plug a printer directly into a server and share it that way?

Susan Bradley: I mean I still do that. We still have a, gosh, how many years old HP 8000 has just keeps chugging, does die.

Greg Hughes: If it ain't broke, huh?

Susan Bradley: I have three devices straight into the server, two of them are RICOH, the leased scan copy machines that I have, and one of them is just an old HP 8000 with a 2000 sheet paper tray and it keeps chugging. So, if you've got one that is a network quality, true network quality, absolutely stick it on the server but that's the key. Make sure it's the true network quality and sometimes you have to ask around because these days some of the printers are



kind of been this they say they are network quality but they really aren't the true network qualities. So ask, get on the listserv, get on the community and ask, "Hey, do you guys have any experience with this particular printer? What's it like?"

Greg Hughes: Yeah. How does it work in the real world, huh?

Susan Bradley: Yeah.

Greg Hughes: So, maybe we can transition a little bit. We've had a number of questions related to migration paths for Small Business Server both in terms maybe migrating from SBS 2003 to 2008 but also what happens when you outgrow Small Business Server and in particular we have a recent email from Mattias Carlsson over at Sweden who's been, I think, Richard, he's been listening since day 1.

Richard Campbell: Wow.

Greg Hughes: And in a nutshell, what Mattias was asking had to do with what are the possible migration paths. Are there gradual ways to do it or is this one of those rip the Band-Aid off type of things? He recently did a migration of a customer from sort of like a one box SBS 2003 to a multiple machine, multiple role type of thing and it sounded like it he got it done but it was pretty rough. What's your experience Susan in that area? What should people be thinking about and what are the migration paths these days?

Susan Bradley: You're asking about the migration paths and I'll first talk about SBS 2003 which was one method and then I'll talk about SBS 2008 which is similar but it's a little bit differently. SBS 2003 in particular had what's called a transition pack where it was a bit of code that you would install on the SBS 2003 and it would basically break the licensing back to its original parts. You had to watch a couple of things. If you had a backup .exe for SBS already installed on the box, there was a little glitchy thing where some registry key that it's had in place would cause an issue. So, he might have -- you talked about a gentleman that tried to migrate from SBS 2003 out to the parts and had had some issues. He might have had hit that issue and there were some instances where if you had some prior software on that box, you have to be a little bit careful. In the SBS 2008 era, they're not doing the transition pack in the same way and basically it's no different than any other migration when you are migrating from one system to the other now. You just add that, and in fact the migration path between SBS 2003 and SBS 2008 uses this methodology where you basically you add the AD together, you add another box on there and you let the AD replicate over to that new box. In the SBS 2008 or if you want to move off, you just stand

up in normal server 2008, stick it on that domain, replicate the AD across, break that connection and now you've got the AD information over on your brand new box. I'll be quite honest in saying migration is not easy. You are taking a functioning working network, a functioning business and you're putting a lot of constraint on it. So, always when you go into the situation, be prepared and what I mean by that is have back-ups. Have not just only the built in back-up that is included in the box but do invest in image-based back-up so that you can roll yourself back just in case everything goes weird. We do have resources out in the independent third party resources. There are two companies that help people with migration. One in particular has been doing it longer than anybody else. It's a gentleman by the name of Jeff Middleton runs SBS Migration and the name is a bit misleading because it's called SBS Migration but he really does help migrations both into SBS, between SBS, and as well as out of SBS.

Greg Hughes: Gotcha.

Greg Hughes: So, if you need help and you get stuck or you want to brain storm kind of, you know, how am I going to approach this, by all means check out www.sbsmigration.com.

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Susan Bradley: I'll give a plug for Jeff. He's been doing migrations for years and helping people through it because it is a big change to a firm so somebody shouldn't take this and think, "Oh, it's a walk in the park." It does need planning.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: We also have, there's the community resources, the Microsoft Managed Newsgroup. If you're a partner, absolutely sign up for that. There's also another entity that's recently started that helps -- if you need third party help, these are partners, they're all MVPs and it's a company called thirddier.net. So, if you need like an extra pair of hands or an extra pair of eyes on a project, check out their site as well. One of them is an Exchange MVP. There's an ISA server, Essential Business Server MVP, another one is a Small Business Server MVP and central migration as well. Bottom line, there are resources out there because sometimes when you are in a migration and you're sick of it, you need another brain.

Greg Hughes: Yup.

Susan Bradley: You need another person that can step back and go, "Okay, we're here, the road is here, the map looks like this, now what?"



Greg Hughes: Exactly.

Susan Bradley: Because sometimes having another brain out there that says, "Okay, let's take another look at this and let's go from there."

Greg Hughes: So, if you have a company of say 15 people, 10 or 15 people, I mean I can't tell you how many different small businesses I walk into and they have some ancient piece of server hardware that has maybe an old DAT drive in it that hasn't been used in three years and super old hard drives in it, one of those 3-foot tall towers sitting on the floor somewhere, running Windows 2000, somebody set up a domain and left. What's your approach for, you know, let's move into the modern world, say we're going to buy a new server, we need to run QuickBooks, we want it around the network so we can share it with a couple of people. Small Business Server and it sounds like Foundation Server are sort of the prime candidates for doing that but how do you kind of get from point A to point Z? What's the process of doing that? Do you have key steps that you follow along the way? Are there like the ultimate most important things to think of in that migration workflow?

Susan Bradley: We always start out, you know, you make sure you look at the key line of business app and you see what the support paths for that is. If that line of business app is not supported on a Windows Server 2008 64-bit, full stop, we need to go to plan B. Plan B may include virtualization. If that line of business app is, and let's be honest and face it in small businesses sometimes the line of business apps are old, unsupported, the vendors long gone and they still made it working, you may end up virtualizing that line of business app onto that Windows 2000 than sitting on top of a Hyper-V Windows Server 2008 in which case Foundation Server would not be a good choice.

Greg Hughes: Right, because it won't run.

Susan Bradley: Maybe Premium Server of SBS because it includes an additional copy of Windows Server 2008 that you can use as a second server Hyper-V box.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: So, look first, do the inventory and what's the key critical, what makes the money in the business and we do not touch that and we make sure that that keeps going and is that supported on Server 2008. If it's not supported on Server 2008, then you fall back to can it go on to Server 2003 because let's maybe virtualize the Server 2003 box.

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Susan Bradley: If it can't go on Server 2003, then we go back to, "Okay, we're going to virtualize that system as is and put it on new hardware." The advantage of that too, is if your hardware underneath died, you just move that VMware to someplace else. So, virtualization these days is a very, very nice building block to include in the pile of things that we can choose from to give us more flexibility when we're migrating.

Richard Campbell: It can certainly decrease pain moving from hardware to hardware for upgrades as well.

Susan Bradley: Yes.

Greg Hughes: Yeah, legacy systems, yeah.

Richard Campbell: I was definitely thinking about this whole migration of SBS, I would always want to migrate to new hardware so that I always have the old hardware there just in case too.

Susan Bradley: Yup.

Richard Campbell: And once you start playing in the VM world, it spoils you. That just becomes a non-issue. The hardware dies, you move the VM to a different machine, you're back and running again, that's it.

Greg Hughes: Right.

Susan Bradley: That is a key difference between the foundation server and the SBS 2008. SBS 2008 is fully supported on virtualization.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Greg Hughes: Right, right.

Susan Bradley: So, if you want to build a Hyper-V and have your SBS 2008 running on that Hyper V, absolutely supported. Foundation Server OEM has to go on real metal.

Richard Campbell: Right. So, that is the sort of dividing line there and the interesting thing that happens, as soon as you start playing the virtualization model is now you can talk about outsourcing your VMs. There are plenty of companies out there that will provide you with VM space remotely as well if you don't even want to run your server yourself.

Greg Hughes: Yeah.

Susan Bradley: Right.



Richard Campbell: We didn't even mention it, we've had other shows around this but now there's a big brother to SBS as well. Is it EBS?

Susan Bradley: EBS, Essential Business Server, yeah, and that basically takes the roles of the network and puts them off into three servers and now in this case it doesn't necessarily have to be three physical servers, it can be virtualized as well. HP has a Blade server out there that they've got all three of the servers on a Blade server so it's virtualized and what you do on that is the first box is the DC then you have a messaging server which is running the Exchange and third box is the Edge and it's running the firewall out there, it runs TMG, Threat Management Gateway, as well as all of the Exchange filtering is on that Edge role.

Greg Hughes: Okay.

Susan Bradley: They too have a standard version which is three boxes as well as a premium which adds the SQL on the 4th box. It's the same kind of concept as SBS in the fact that it's got wizards to help you set things up. It's got user wizards. It's got a console that allows you to run everything. The major difference is it is separated out to the different servers. So, if you've got a situation where you've got a larger firm because it does support -- it starts to 25 users, goes up to 300. So, when you hit the 75 limit of SBS, EBS is the next logical model up because it goes up to 300 and even if you aren't 300 users, let's say you're in that small 25 and you go, "You know, for compliance reasons I need to be separated out on servers," EBS is another option you can do.

Richard Campbell: Right and relatively inexpensive solution to that compared to a lot of other choices for compliance.

Susan Bradley: Yeah. When you're used to the SBS price tag and you look at the EBS, you kind of go, "Ooh, gee," but then when you compare it to if you bought everything individually and you go, "Okay, that is a discount." You have to go out to the shop and kind of add up all the pieces and you go, "Whoa, okay, that is a big deal."

Richard Campbell: Yeah, get that different strata of pricing but bit by bit, Microsoft is raising the bar for what is a full install of Windows Server look like these days. I always wonder if standard is something you just won't buy. You'll stay in the EBS realm until you finally go directly to Enterprise.

Susan Bradley: That's what they want you to do.

Richard Campbell: There are worst problems in this world.

Susan Bradley: What they're trying to do is make -- because they've gone out to small businesses and they've gone out to mid-market businesses and realized that it ends up with a real hodge-podge of servers and solutions and especially like the mid-market guy, it's usually one guy running 300 desktops and he's putting out fires.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Susan Bradley: So, what they're trying to do is make that infrastructure of the network as solid as he can for him so that he's not putting out fires on that server anymore and he's got a base to control the workstations from.

Richard Campbell: Right and even at the Foundation server level you've got that ability so that's awesome. Susan, we're about out of time. Any final shout outs? Hi moms?

Susan Bradley: Hi to the gang, hi mom, hi dad. The main thing that I'd just let everybody know is when it comes to migration, do research. There are whitepapers out there on this. Take your time. Ask questions. I already talked about some of the resources sbmigration.com, thirtier.net. Come out to the newsgroups, come out to the community, ask. It is big to migrate, don't make any mistakes about that, but it's doable.

Richard Campbell: Susan Bradley, thanks so much for coming on the show.

Greg Hughes: Thanks for talking with us again.

Susan Bradley: Thank you very much.

Richard Campbell: And we'll talk to you next week on RunAs Radio.