

## Do you faint and don't know why?

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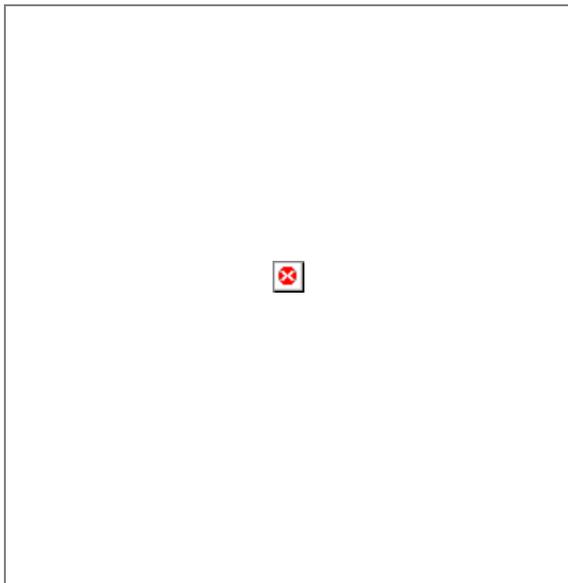
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### Lyons' Den

#### MacOS X Server, Where's the Machine to Match?

It is with great sadness that I have to admit this, but if I had to replace my network server tomorrow, I could not justify replacing it with a Mac OS X Server (OSXS) based system.

It's not that I wouldn't prefer the reliability and power of OSXS. And it's not because I like it when NT 4 Server shuts down my mail server for no discernable reason. My problem isn't with software at all, if there was an Intel version of OSXS, I would be happy to install it on our server ditch NT (there isn't but that's a topic for another day). My problem is that there is no true server machine offered by anyone that will run OSXS.



While Apple's putting a server OS



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onto the same case that they use for their Professional line of systems is a good solution for a small, static workgroup, it does not satisfy anyone with a large or growing network. In fact, were Apple to include Servers on their product chart, their current servers would fall closer to the iMac and iBook families, an iServer, if you will. I think that it is about time for Apple to produce a PowerServer to meet the needs of the rest of us.

The current line, the iServers, could continue as they are now utilizing cases produced on the same assembly lines as the PowerMac line. This would allow for lower production costs for Apple and provide a Workgroup Server for smaller networks that do not need the functions of a full PowerServer.

I would even extend the iServer line with a compact iServer utilizing the iMac. This compact iServer would be great for a small office that only needs basic file serving and backup functions. An iServer bundled with a OSXS, a FireWire DAT drive and Retrospect Backup could be had for under \$2000. Imagine a silent file server that fits neatly into the corner of your office, it could even come in the standard iMac colors to compliment any decor. Apple could even market an iServer base that would sit under the compact iServer that incorporates a UPS and DAT drive in one package, color coordinated, of course.

If I were to design Apple's new PowerServer line, I would start with the current G4 enclosure, remove the handles and remold it in a more corporate-friendly black with silver

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highlights. I've simply used a modified and photographically reversed image of a G4 for the sample product chart, the case front and Apple logo would both be in a silver similar to that of the G4's handles. Imaging walking into a server room and the first thing that you see is a large silver apple. The case plastics could be translucent, but that would not be a major selling point for a professional server. The case would still have the fold out side that makes the G4 case such an easily accessible system, although I would consider putting a locking mechanism into the front of the case for security reasons. I would widen the case to allow for a row of six hot swappable drive bays along the front of the machine. I might even include the option of hot swappable power supplies to make the system more suitable to run essential systems.

In this age of Linux and the Microsoft Monopoly Litigation, the public seems ready to accept some serious competition for the currently dominant NT Server. With the right machine to back it up and the Mac's reputation for ease of use, OSXS could be that serious competition. Lets hope that Apple sees this and is preparing a PowerServer that will revolutionize that market just like the iMac did for the consumer market.

[Talkback](#)

### ***The Lyons' Den***

*Daniel J. Lyons started with the Mac back in 1989 laying out a High School newspaper on an SE and was immediately hooked.*

*Now, several computers later, he is hoping to share his thoughts and experiences and maybe even a few gripes with anyone who will listen.*

*Daniel has worked in several computer labs and built and maintained numerous office networks over the past ten years. He is currently employed as a Technology Manager and has experience with both AppleShare and NT networks.*



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