

SOS

Standby Server

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to know Linux in order to install and manage SOS Standby Server?

No. Installation of Linux is easy, and complete instructions are provided. The setup of users, permissions, etc is all automated via menus; therefore it is not necessary to know any Unix commands. Free tech support is available.

2. What types of servers will SOS Standby Server provide backup for?

SOS Standby Server can mirror any Windows machine: 95/98/NT/2000.

It can mirror another Linux machine acting as a main server.

It can also mirror older Novell 3x and 4x servers running IPX, provided an NT Novell Gateway is setup on an NT Server.

It has not been tested with newer Novell servers running TCP/IP, however if the Novell server provides a share that can be seen from a windows platform without running IPX, Standby Server can mirror that share also.

3. I don't have Linux. How can I get it?

If you purchase SOS Standby Server, we will be happy to mail you the Linux CDs.

You can also download RedHat 8.0 for free from

http://www.redhat.com/download/howto_download.html

You can also purchase RedHat 8.0 personal edition for about \$40.00 at your local computer store.

4. Why is SOS Standby Server built to run on Linux instead of Windows?

To save you money. If it ran on Windows you would have to pay Microsoft for another copy of 2000 Server, plus licenses for all your users. Linux is basically free and you can run an unlimited number of users off of it.

5. Is Linux a stable reliable business-class operating system?

Yes, Linux is basically an improved version of Unix. Unix has been around for many decades (even before the PC was invented) and is the foundational operating system for the Internet. Independent tests have shown that Linux is more stable and has a much longer "up-time" than NT/2000

6. What sort of services does SOS Standby Server provide fail-over services for? We are running SQL and Exchange. How does your product handle that?

SOS Standby Server provides a more reliable and robust backup system than can be provided by tape. An added bonus is that it also provides *automatic* fail-over services for “file serving”. That is, if the main server fails, all the data can be made immediately available to users, plus there is no loss of a day’s data as is the case with tape backup. You have your data backup current to within a few minutes of failure. That is something you can’t get with tape backup.

Additionally Standby Server can provide DHCP services to the network and can take over as the Primary Domain Controller (PDC) for the network

However Standby Server does not provide *automatic* fail-over of Exchange mail services, SQL services, or other proprietary Microsoft NT services. Nevertheless, it is possible to configure a setup that will allow for *manual* fail-over of these services. This can be done by setting up a second NT/2000 server with the needed service (SQL or Exchange) installed and configure SOS Standby Server as a gateway to mirror data from the main server to the secondary server. In the Installation/Operation manual see the section: *Selecting Mounted Shares for Archive Locations* for details on how to set this up.