

OLS.Switch Hardware / System Software Configuration

The following information is provided on an “advisory-only” basis to give OLS clients a feel for the relative size of server hardware purchases recommended to install a production-class instance of OLS.Switch. The implementation of these recommendations at each OLS client is subject to the influence of the following forces:

- **Enterprise standards** – We recommend that all OLS.Switch customers adhere to their internal corporate IT policies (e.g., “all production databases should be located on Storage Area Networks”) when implementing our solution. We’ve worked diligently to make OLS.Switch flexible and standards-based in order that our customers can adapt it their corporate policies. This approach is designed to garner acceptance and support for OLS.Switch from our customers’ key internal stakeholder groups like telecommunications, database administration, store systems, corporate IT support and line-of-business application owners.
- **Enterprise support agreements** – Our customers’ OLS.Switch implementations are mission-critical applications; it’s imperative that all hardware and associated system software involved in the staging of OLS.Switch be backed by 24x7 support with the highest possible service levels for emergency call response and parts replacement.
- **Enterprise buying programs** – OLS.Switch is specifically designed to take advantage of mainstream computing resources, e.g., Intel-based server platforms and SQL-based relative database management systems (‘RDBMS’). To the extent possible, we urge our clients to take advantage of pricing efficiencies afforded by enterprise buying programs. For example, some of our clients have “seat-based” RDBMS agreements in place that have allowed them to install SQL instances on OLS.Switch servers without incurring incremental costs.

Here is a typical proposed production configuration for a production instance of OLS.Switch:

Application Server

- 4-way Intel Xeon (or equivalent) processor; processor speed 3.0 GHz or higher
- 2 GB (or more) of memory
- Java-enabled OS, such as Windows Advanced Server 2003 Enterprise Edition or Red Hat (Linux) Advanced Server)
- Redundant Power Supply
- RAID 1 (2 x 73 GB) for system and application content areas

Comments:

- OLS recommends an implementation consisting of ***two or more replicated application servers*** (a.k.a. ‘nodes’), which provides hardware redundancy and the ability to install software updates without network downtime.
- May want to add RAID 5 (3 disks x 73 GB) in production if extensive extracts, batch info, etc. are performed and maintained on this server.

Database Server

A proposed production configuration is as follows:

- 4-way Xeon (or equivalent) processor; processor speed 3.0 GHz or higher
- 4 GB of memory
- RDBMS like MS SQL Server Enterprise Edition, MySQL, Oracle, DB2 (etc.)
- Redundant Power Supply
- RAID 1 for System (2 x 73 GB)
- RAID 5 for Database [Recommended size is dependent on whether extensive transaction repository is maintained on this server or migrated elsewhere. We advocate an intelligent approach of keeping a relatively “thin” transaction log and replicating older data to an extensive transaction repository elsewhere in order to not encumber online performance.]

Comments:

- OLS recommends an implementation in which **two database servers are configured as a ‘virtual cluster,’** with one server defined as the primary node and the other as alternate/failover node. OLS.Switch would connect to the virtual address.
- Assumes client’s database administration team will be actively involved in the project and will take production-level responsibility to tune, cull, and backup key database tables (OLS will provide initial recommendations for specific backups, replication strategies and cull policies).