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If you have BlackBerry's, use a BES Server

BlackBerry Server deployment can be quite cost effective with the most recent changes.

BlackBerry Server software provides BlackBerry users with full wireless synchronization for their devices. This means that the device never has to be plugged in to synchronize. What's better is that the server can be implemented and the BlackBerry's wireless synched without ever returning the unit to the office!

The BlackBerry server software does this through wireless activation. During setup a wireless activation password can be established that is valid for a limited time. The user receives this password on their device and can activate it using the Enterprise Activation of the Setup Wizard - depending on the version of BlackBerry used.

Recently, RIM added a version of the BlackBerry server software called the BlackBerry Professional Server. This version joins the two existing versions. The key features of each version as it pertains to this article are compared below:

Feature	BlackBerry Small Business Edition	BlackBerry Professional Server	BlackBerry Enterprise Server
Max Number of Users	15	30	Unlimited
CALS Used	SBE CALS	Enterprise CALS	Enterprise CALS
Cost (with 5 CALS)	\$1,099 USD	\$499 USD	\$2,999 USD
Platform	GroupWise	Exchange, Domino	Exchange, GroupWise, Domino
Separate Server Required?	Yes	No	Yes

Previously, to install a BES server would have required the purchase of an additional server beyond your email server, the Windows Server 2003 operating system, the BES SBE Edition software and CAL licenses for your BlackBerry's - a cost of nearly \$3,000 for the smallest server configuration.

With the introduction of the Professional server, a new server is no longer required and the cost of the software is half what it was. Thus, you can now wirelessly enable up to 30 BlackBerry's for \$499.00 plus the cost of CAL licenses for the remaining units. This makes the decision to put in a BlackBerry server very easy for any firm.

There is one caveat to a BES Server of which you should be aware. If your firm uses Public Folders and wishes to synchronize those folders with the BlackBerry, you have no choice but to use the BlackBerry Desktop Manager software. Public folders are being phased out of Exchange and thus, RIM will not support them with the BlackBerry.

If you have been pondering using a BES Server, there has never been a better time to act! We recommend that the installation be completed by an authorized BlackBerry Server installer. While it is

possible to implement the system yourself, there are technical details that can cause a lot of frustration if not done correctly.

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