

HIGHLIGHTS: WORKGROUP FILE SERVERS

DRIVE BAYS: You'll need at least five drive bays in almost any server for devices such as a

- **DISK SUBSYSTEM.** Boost your server's performance by spreading data across multiple disks, or *spindles*, so that time-consuming head movements are minimized.

- **DOUBLE-SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE.** Since you'll use the CD-ROM drive primarily to load software, a double-speed model will do.

- **DAT TAPE-BACKUP DRIVE.** The most efficient backup solution for a few gigabytes of data is DAT. A DAT drive will add about \$1,000 to a server's cost.

PROCESSOR: CPU speed isn't critical in I/O-intensive server environments; the HP NetServer proves that a 486 chip will suffice in a well-tuned design. But six of the seven servers tested use Pentium CPUs, providing a hedge against future demands for CPU power.

POWER SUPPLY: Since servers often get loaded down with expansion cards and hard disks, consider a 200-watt supply to be a bare minimum.

RAM: Consider at least 32MB. More RAM will let NetWare use larger disk caches, which can boost performance.

UPS: An uninterruptible power supply will keep your server running—or allow it to shut down gracefully—

MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE: Good server management software such as Compaq Insight Manager and HP NetServer Assistant 2.0 will keep your network running smoothly.

ETHERNET NIC AND EISA/PCI BUS: For a network of a dozen or so users, a single Ethernet segment should be adequate. To keep CPU utilization at a reasonable level, opt for a bus-mastering EISA or PCI NIC.

SCSI CONTROLLER: Servers invariably use SCSI rather than IDE because of its greater expandability and better support for multitasking operating systems.

