



## Centralized Storage and Redundant Disks

### Centralized Storage

A server or Network Attached Storage (NAS) unit can provide a central place to store files that everyone can easily share. Both devices are usually always on and accessible directly on the network without having to go through someone's computer.

### Redundant Disks

Storing valuable data on a standard desktop or notebook computer is not a good idea due to the lack of multiple hard drives working together to prevent any data loss in case one of the drives fails. Servers and NAS devices typically come with some sort of redundant hard drive system or RAID. RAID-1 is a simple and reliable way to write the same data to multiple drives at once, but since you lose 50% of the disks to redundancy, it isn't always practical when you need a lot of storage space. RAID-5 sends the data across 3 or more drives and allows for larger virtual disks.

### Server vs. NAS

Servers often have advanced security features and the ability to run server based applications and databases directly on the server, but typically cost more and are harder to support than a NAS device.

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