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# READY NET GO ... NEWS

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<http://www.readynetgo.net>

610-856-0990

## Tip of the Month

**Twitter** – <http://www.twitter.com>

Many websites come and go but some seem to grab the attention of millions of people. Twitter is such a website and due to its increasing popularity, we thought it would be helpful to give a brief description of this site.

Twitter is a **micro-blogging service** that enables people to keep in contact with their friends, colleagues, family members and anyone else with whom they wish to communicate.

In short, Twitter is a cross between sending an email and updating a blog. A user logs in to the Twitter site either through the website or their mobile phone or PDA and creates a short text entry (called a **tweet**) that everyone on their list can read.

Since Twitter only allows up to 140 characters per entry you need to be concise. This paragraph is about all you can type at one time.

**[Word count:** 137 characters with spaces]

### Who should use Twitter?

1. For people constantly on the go, Twitter can provide a quick snapshot of other people's lives in order to stay connected.
2. For emergency situations, Twitter is proving invaluable for getting your location and status out to a large group of people immediately.
3. Emergency relief organizations, likewise, are finding the service to be highly useful in organizing and informing large groups of people (used in the CA wildfires).

## Home Servers

*They're Not Just for Businesses Anymore*

Are you struggling with managing multiple computers in your home? Do you run a small office/home office and are expanding? Are you running out of space with all the movies, music and photos you've been downloading and storing?

If so, installing a home server may be just what you need. A Home Server can be used by individuals and home-based businesses to manage multiple computers and peripherals as well as store and access large amounts of data quickly and efficiently.

### Reasons to Implement a Home Server

Two areas that households and small businesses struggle with are linking multiple computers and storing the increasing amounts of video, music and data that are constantly being generated. While a home network connected via a router is a great start to being able to access data on different machines, the network is still limited by the size of the hard drives installed on each PC. And without a central management console, the data on each PC must be maintained and backed up individually.

Home Servers seek to address these concerns by removing the data stored on each PC and housing it in a central location accessible by all computers and peripherals that are attached to it. Adding hard drives is easy if the server you purchase has expandability built-in. With open drive bays, you can easily add a hard drive and not stress about transferring your current data to a larger replacement drive when you need more storage.

### WWW (Websites Worth Watching)

1. [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) – Search engine with a cause! Select your charity and search as you normally would. Good Search will donate proceeds to your favorite cause just by using their search engine.
2. [www.wordspy.com](http://www.wordspy.com) – Are you intrigued by words? Have you heard a word or phrase recently that has left you perplexed? Check out this site for answers.

## Advantages to Home Servers

1. Home servers store the data that would normally reside on individual PCs. This significantly reduces the amount of hard drive space an individual PC needs which frees up system resources to carry out tasks efficiently.
2. Provides the means to backup and maintain all of your data through one interface. Backups may be made to an internal location on the hard drive(s), online or on external drives or media.
3. Allows better management of the entire network by providing a **central management console** accessible on-site and remotely.
4. Restore any of your individual PCs to a previous point in time or restore deleted files or previous versions of files.
5. Add more storage (hard drives) as needed since expandability is built into home servers.
6. Provide **data redundancy** with special software similar to RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) – prevents downtime associated with a hard drive failure or corrupted data. Depending on your needs, data is either duplicated when created or it is striped across multiple drives so that if one drive fails, the other drive(s) keep your data accessible and give you time to replace the failed drive with no data loss.
7. Access your files both internally and **remotely** (inside and outside the home).
8. **Stream music and photos** to any TV or computer in the home. Example: Your son recently married and had a video produced. Put the DVD in your home server and watch it on your TV with the entire family rather than crowding around your computer screen. [Note: you must have a media receiver such as a Media Center Extender, Slingbox, Apple TV, Xbox, etc. in order for the signals from the server to be read on your TV.]
9. Manage your home remotely with home automation controls (best run on an always-on computer such as a server). Home automation features include regulating heating/cooling, turning lights on/off, viewing security cameras and much more all remotely.
10. Ability to connect **up to 10 computers** with Windows Home Server

For those who enjoy setting up their own systems, you can **build your own basic home server** by assembling hardware components such as a dedicated computer with multiple hard drives, a NIC (Network Interface Card), and an Operating System such as Windows Home Server. If you choose an OS other than Windows Home Server like Windows XP, Windows Media Center, the upcoming Windows 7 (OS replacing Microsoft Vista) or any version of Linux, additional management software would also be needed to effectively integrate all of your computers and components.

A cost effective alternative is to purchase a **ready-to-go server** from a major retailer which includes both the hardware and software already assembled with clear instructions and support. Marketed as a HomeServer, MediaSmart Server or Storage Server, you can be up and running in no time.

Give us a call if you're interested in setting up a Home Server. In the meantime, as always ...

**Don't forget to back up your data!**