

Summer VTC Q&A
FreeNAS - A Great Choice for a Home Server
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Question: Will FreeNAS run on Linux? Or do we really need FreeBSD?

Answer: Great and timely question: FreeNAS currently requires and includes the FreeBSD distribution along with FreeNAS, so you don't need to get anything else. The next major version of FreeNAS, which be renamed to TrueNAS Core, will give you a choice of using FreeBSD or Linux. I imagine that a Linux version would be included like FreeBSD is now. The benefit might be that in those rare circumstances when you need to enter an OS command, you might prefer to use Linux commands if you were more familiar with them. And, I guess, any additional software that you might want to run in a jail (~VM) would use Linux.

Question: Are the backups on the FreeNAS server read-only from the clients -- i.e. protected from client malware attacks?

Answer: Backups would be generated by software running on the clients, so the files/folders would need to be RW to allow the initial writing. (Remember that backups are not a function native to FreeNAS – I chose to use Veeam Agent for Windows for my backup software.) This would be true for any software and any NAS system. If you configure snapshots, you will essentially be protected from ransomware because a snapshot contains a picture of the current dataset. If ransomware strikes and rewrites all of your data in an encrypted form, you will still have the original (unencrypted) data. This is because ZFS is a Copy-On-Write system – it always writes new blocks using blocks from the free block collection; the previous blocks are still intact and un-freed because a snapshot is still marking them in use.

Question: I'm having terrible lack of success retaining and recreating my MS Password. Only specialized people will provide password assistance and they don't answer the phone. The automated version doesn't seem to work, I never get a return email. Any suggestions?

Answer: I am sorry, but that is beyond my area of expertise. I did do a search and came up with quite a few articles on the subject. Try searching on the following terms: "Microsoft account password issues and errors"

Question: Can you import a .pst from a PC to the Outlook online?

Answer: The online version of Outlook does not use traditional .pst files, but I did find an article on how to import a .pst file to Office 365.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Import-PST-Files-to-Office-365>