



Supermicro, Intel, or ASUS-Based Servers? How Can You Decide?

The primary challenge for IT professionals today is to sort through all of the server building block options:

- What does each offer?
- Why should I choose one over another?
- Given the purpose of my project, what is the best configuration for a purpose-built-server?
- One brand was good for my last project, but is a different platform better for my current project?

Selecting the right server for your needs involves weighing the interplay of a number of factors. To begin with, you must balance minimum performance requirements with budget limitations. From there, decisions and constraints range from component choices and physical space requirements to the server's environmental impact and long-term total cost of ownership (TCO).

Supermicro Servers

One brand that provides a strong mix of options is Supermicro, whose servers are known for their environmentally friendly and cost-efficient performance.

Supermicro servers deliver:



Energy Efficiency: Supermicro servers use minimal power, which decreases operating costs.



Low Carbon Footprint: Using less energy equates to a reduced carbon footprint and less impact on the environment—an important consideration for your corporate sustainability efforts.



Flexibility: Supermicro servers can be selected in a wide variety of form factors, from 1u and 2u rackmounts to towers and 4u multi-node configurations.



Quality and Performance: These systems have a long life, cost little to operate, and meet the most stringent performance requirements, all of which reduces the total cost of ownership.

Intel and ASUS Servers

Intel and ASUS are two other brands that provide common-off-the-shelf (COTS) motherboards, chassis, and other components for customers designing their own servers. Intel is one of the most innovative manufacturers on the planet and arguably understands server design better than any other company.

ASUS is one of the largest server contract manufacturers and builds servers for the biggest brands in the business. Their scale allows them to offer server components at a very aggressive price point with a high level of quality.

Depending on the server configuration you need, one of these suppliers may offer just the right options.

Collaboration, Not Just Configuration

While all of these suppliers are good, selecting the ideal server for your performance needs and budget is not always as straightforward as checking some boxes on a configurator, for three reasons:



First, IT managers have numerous responsibilities, and it can be difficult to keep up with all the latest server technologies. The sheer number of configuration choices can be daunting.



Second, budget constraints are usually a critical determining factor in the purchase of a server. Price is important, but return on investment and total cost of ownership should be factored in, too. Assessing the multitude of variables that impact ROI and TCO isn't easy.



Finally, it can be challenging to determine performance needs in the future, and equate those with the scalability potential of the server you're considering purchasing today.

All of these factors point to the value of a collaborative, consultative sales process with a server supplier that can balance your needs and constraints.

The Ideal Server Supplier

As an IT buyer, you should select a trustworthy server supplier that can support you now and in the future. The supplier should have deep knowledge of your business and IT objectives, including a picture of where your company is headed.

The server supplier's reputation, history, size, and support processes all play an important role in determining the best provider match for you. The supplier you choose should also have an efficient production process that ultimately reduces server prices and delivery times, and enough purchasing power to negotiate advantageous pricing from its component vendors.

You should also look for a supplier whose recommendations are not overtly influenced by financial incentives from server component vendors, or by a desire to clear their inventory of "off-the-shelf" systems. You should seek a supplier who truly wants to engage in a long-lasting business partnership with you—a partnership based on trust.

Whether you select a Supermicro server, an Intel server or a different brand, building a robust, scalable IT infrastructure for your company is a long-term endeavor. A collaborative server supplier will help ensure you make the right hardware purchasing decisions along the way.

Servers Direct is a premier provider of advanced build-to-order server and storage solutions for use in enterprise, data centers, education, government, and the private sector. For more than 10 years, IT professionals have relied on Servers Direct expertise to help develop custom matched solutions with uncompromised quality and support.

20480 East Business Parkway
City of Industry, CA 91789
1.800.576.7931
www.serversdirect.com

