

Letter to the Editor

Free Space

I read your feature article "Stepping Up to Netware 5.1: Performing a Server Upgrade" (*NetWare Connection*, Nov. 2000, pp. 6-18). You left out one critical piece of information in the hardware requirements. You mention that the disk space on volume SYS requires 1.3 GB. The information would be more clear if you would have stated that NetWare 5.1 requires 750 MB of free space on the SYS volume. If you don't have that amount of free space, you get a message asking you to free up space on SYS, the installation fails, and you have to restore everything from tape and start over. The words *free space* are a much clearer term than "disk space." Your statement could be interpreted as volume size, not free space available during the upgrade. I hope this is helpful.

Thank you for your clarification. The 750 MB of free disk space to which you refer is the minimum amount of free disk space required on volume SYS if you don't plan to install WebSphere Application Server. If you do plan to install WebSphere Application Server, you need a minimum of 1.3 GB of free space.

However, the amount of space required to perform a server upgrade with or without WebSphere doesn't appear to be your point. When listing system requirements, the computer industry often uses the term disk space to refer to disk space that does not contain any data. Your point is that this convention can be confusing.

I followed this convention in my article without considering that someone may confuse the requirement for available disk space on volume SYS with the volume size requirement. By taking the time to write, you may have prevented a reader from doing just that. In the future, I'll specify that the minimum amount of disk space required to install or upgrade software must be free (or available) space. Thanks for suggesting that I disregard convention for clarity's sake.

Cheryl Walton, author

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