

Benefits of SMB Digital Transformation: Setup, Configuration, and Deployment

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IN THIS PAPER

In the age of digital transformation, small and midsize businesses (SMBs) face increasing pressure to grow and improve by implementing new technologies. This paper explores how HPE can help SMBs achieve digital transformation across the entire technology lifecycle by simplifying setup, configuration, and deployment of new technology assets.

Digital transformation is the evolution of business activities, processes, competencies, and models to fully leverage the opportunities and capabilities of new digital technologies. Modern businesses, including small and midsize businesses (SMBs), are under considerable pressure to grow and improve by implementing such new technologies. The overall goal is to bring customers, partners, and suppliers together in real time, and empower employees to maximize their productivity.

The processes involved in setup, configuration, and deployment that don't involve hands-on assembly or moving equipment are quite amenable to automation.

HPE drives three primary outcomes for its customers: efficiency, agility, and innovation.

- **Efficiency** comes from task automation that drives technology costs down, freeing up funds for other projects and activities.
- **Agility** comes from process orchestration, which improves timely execution and reduces the time necessary to respond to business requirements.
- **Innovation** occurs when the gains from improved efficiency and agility free people, time, and resources to identify, pursue, and implement new or improved business processes and capabilities.

HPE can help SMBs achieve their own digital transformations across the entire technology lifecycle. To that end, HPE can help SMBs deal with issues related to device setup, configuration, and deployment.

About Setup, Configuration, and Deployment

When new technology assets—particularly hardware, but often various software components, as well—are acquired, SMBs must set them up, configure them, and

deploy them into their intended use locations. To make sure you appreciate the nuances that distinguish these terms, here are some definitions:

- **Setup:** Assembling the physical pieces and parts that comprise equipment, applying power for basic testing, and ensuring all ordered components are present and working
- **Configuration:** Adding appropriate settings, preferences, and options to make a device and its software ready to function, including network addresses, access to local directory services and admin accounts, proper access controls and filesystem structures, and so forth
- **Deployment:** Staging equipment to its intended use location, making all necessary connections (logical and physical), and testing to make sure that setup and configuration are valid and working and that the equipment and its software are ready to use

SPEED UP PROCESSES AND ELIMINATE ERRORS WITH AUTOMATION

The processes involved in setup, configuration, and deployment that don't involve hands-on assembly or moving equipment are quite amenable to automation. This means that admins can create scripts or make use of tools to perform most of the work. This helps to speed up the process because it replaces tedious, manual, individual entries and user interface (UI) navigation with a series of well-tested equivalent instructions. It also helps avoid error because it eliminates nearly all opportunities for human operators to make mistakes.

What kinds of SMB scenarios might lend themselves to automation? Consider two brief examples: First, automation can help an SMB select the right server model, equipped with the processing, networking, and storage capabilities to suit its intended purpose. Upon delivery, that server can be readied for use through judicious interaction with provisioning and setup tools designed to deliver working, reliable systems in short order. Second, an SMB might choose to deploy a database or some kind of application service running on a server. The same set of tools—and the same productivity boost—again applies.

HPE Solutions Wizard
 for Small and Midsize Businesses

*This webpage is not supported on Internet Explorer

Welcome to the HPE Solutions Wizard.

In less than **2 minutes** we will help you find the right-sized cost-effective server, storage and network solutions that will solve your business needs and get you prepared for future growth.

Use Case
☐ File
☐ Virtualization
☐ Backup / Archive
☐ Small Office Deployment

☐ Application
☐ Database
☐ Shared Storage
☐ HCI

Optimization ?
☐ Performance
☐ Balanced
☐ Cost

Expandability ?
☐ High
☐ Medium
☐ Low

Operating System
☐ Microsoft
☐ VMware
☐ ClearOS

Form Factor
☐ Rack
☐ Tower
☐ Micro Tower

[Instructions](#)
[Reset Filters](#)

SMB Solution Description	Solution Components	CPU # Sockets Installed Frequency # Cores/CPU Brand	Memory Installed (Maximum)	Drive Bays Installed/Available/Maximum* (* Requires Optional Hardware)	Total Data Storage Internal (External)	Networking	Details
ML30 File Solution	ML30 Gen10 8SFF Server	1 Socket(s) 1 CPU(s) 3.4 Ghz 4 Cores Intel	32 GB (64 GB)	8 / 2 / 8 Internal 0 / 0 / 0 External	4.8 TB (0 TB)	2x 1GbE	6d
ML30 Archive Solution	ML30 Gen10 4LFF Server	1 Socket(s) 1 CPU(s) 3.4 Ghz 4 Cores Intel	16 GB (64 GB)	4 / 0 / 4 Internal 0 / 0 / 0 External	4 TB (0 TB)	2x 1GbE	6d
		1 Socket(s) 1 CPU(s)					

Figure 1: The HPE Solutions Wizard helps SMBs select the right solution in as little as two minutes with helpful filters that refine the solutions search

As this paper will explain, HPE offers powerful, usable tools and technologies to help SMBs deal with typical setup, configuration, and deployment scenarios like the ones just described.

HPE Solutions Wizard

HPE has heard from its customers that all too often sizing a business’ technology needs can be complicated and overwhelming when trying to find the right solutions. The HPE Solutions Wizard takes your needs into account with a few simple filters and gives you the right solution in as little as two minutes. The HPE SMB Solutions presented are tested and validated configurations that simplify the selection process by providing a complete configuration right-sized for many SMB use cases.

First, navigate to <https://www.hpesmbolutions.com/smb/> to access the Solutions Wizard. When you first arrive, there are simple instructions that guide you through the two-minute process. The column headers have been designed to give you the most relevant, technical information about the hardware’s internal components (see Figure 1).

Once you’re ready to begin you can see a list of filters at the top that let you refine your solutions search. Start by selecting a use case that fits your business needs.

From there, select an optimization that fits your need. Performance servers are the best of the best, Balanced finds the sweet spot between performance and cost, and, finally, Cost is focused on providing the most value for your dollar. These optimizations are compared to all other solutions that we offer in the same use case.

Generally, more expandable systems have a higher cost than systems with low expandability.

Next, choose expandability, which is the degree to which the solution can be expanded from the default Solution configuration. This takes into account CPU, Memory, Storage, and Networking. Generally, more expandable systems have a higher cost than systems with low expandability.

Choose an operating system (OS) and form factor to further refine your selection.

To get more information on your new, sized solution you can select the eyeglasses icon underneath the details header on the right-hand side. Once you click on it you can see what components are included with the server, required additional hardware and software to satisfy the use case, and recommended hardware and software to help you maximize your new solution.

The wizard also gives you the functionality to visit the solution in the HPE store, open the solution in iQuote to work with your favorite distributor, or export the bill of materials (BOM) to send to a colleague or preferred partner.

HPE is focused on getting you back to what matters most—your customers.

All SMB Solutions have key resources that help you deploy your use case or view a solution brief that gives a high-level overview of the system. These documents are listed along with a link to QuickSpecs to get more technical information on the server.

In a matter of a few minutes, you can successfully size and select an HPE SMB validated solution that can be fulfilled through [iQuote](#) or the [HPE store](#). When you're ready to start again, reset your filters and refine your ideal settings to see a solution that will best suit your needs. HPE is focused on getting you back to what matters most—your customers.

HPE Intelligent Provisioning with Rapid Setup

Once a server is delivered to your premises, HPE helps automate and expedite the rest of the setup-configure-deploy triad with two highly automated and intelligent tools: [HPE Intelligent Provisioning](#) and HPE Rapid Setup. Following are descriptions of each tool.

HPE Intelligent Provisioning is a single-server deployment tool embedded in the HPE Integrated Lights Out (iLO) management utility of ProLiant servers and HPE Synergy compute modules. It simplifies server setup,

providing a reliable and consistent way to deploy servers. HPE Intelligent Provisioning features the Rapid Setup tool described in the next section, but also includes an Always On Intelligent Provisioning facility, maintenance utilities, firmware updates, improved installation wizards, advanced Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) settings, and Enhanced Secure Erase to safely and completely delete all data on hard drives.

The Always On feature allows access to Intelligent Provisioning from the iLO browser UI anytime without having to reboot your server. It provides ready access to advanced BIOS settings to enable, disable, and configure devices at a low level on the server, even before an OS is loaded.

Intelligent Provisioning enables complete custom server setup from start-up to installing the OS. This is ideal when you need special configuration of the server to prepare it for a unique use case. But for common single-server and SMB use cases, Intelligent Provisioning also provides HPE Rapid Setup for even faster deployments.

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HPE Rapid Setup now appears as a server and OS deployment option within the HPE Intelligent Provisioning environment (requires 3.31 release or higher and works with all HPE ProLiant 10, 100, and 300 series Gen10 Servers).

Rapid Setup automates server deployment by inventorying the installed components and then presenting a recommended configuration based on best practices. If the recommended configuration is accepted, all that's needed is to provide the OS installation file location and Rapid Setup will automatically configure the server RAID configuration and install the OS, and even update drivers and server firmware if desired.

Of course if the recommended configuration doesn't meet the your requirements, Rapid Setup will provide the opportunity to manually configure the server using a simplified interface that's easy to use.

HPE Intelligent Provisioning and HPE Rapid Setup make it as simple and straightforward for SMBs to work through the setup, configuration, and deployment processes as modern technology will allow.

Rapid Setup also supports or includes the following to help with setup, configuration, and deployment:

- Windows OS, along with Hyper-V and VMware virtualization environments
- ClearOS
- BIOS configuration utility
- Hardware validation tool
- Tools for updating software and firmware
- Integrated ability to access HPE support and other online resources

Start Your Digital Transformation Today

All in all, HPE Intelligent Provisioning and HPE Rapid Setup make it as simple and straightforward for SMBs to work through the setup, configuration, and deployment processes as modern technology will allow. Seeing is believing: Ask HPE to provide a demo and you'll be able to watch it work for yourself. You can also watch the [HPE ProLiant Gen10 Rapid Setup](#) demo on YouTube.

Check out the [HPE ProLiant Server Solutions Wizard](#) for yourself. Then, visit the [HPE Intelligent Provisioning](#) home page for more information, downloads, and resources. It's never been easier to start your SMB operation down the path to digital transformation.