

Re: Create backup w2k domain controller

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Certification/microsoft.public.cert.exam.mcse/2005-01/0446.html>

From: Steven L Umbach (*n9rou_at_nospam-comcast.net*)

Date: 01/09/05

Date: Sat, 8 Jan 2005 18:21:29 -0600

First of FYI there is a big difference between a domain controller and a file server. If you are indeed using a Windows 2000 domain controller [as shown in My Computer/properties/network identification] then proper dns configuration is a must and domain controller needs to be a dns server, point to itself as it's only preferred dns server in tcp/ip properties and as show by Ipconfig /all , and the domain members that are Windows 2000 or XP Pro must point to your domain controller as their ONLY preferred dns server. If that is not the case you will experience a lot of problems on the network and looking in Event Viewer on the domain controller will probably show a lot of errors. The article from Microsoft in the link below explains this more and also how to resole internet names using an internal dns server via a forwarder or using root hints.

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb%3Ben-us%3B291382>

A Linux server can be used as a file server. I don't know what the ability is as a "domain controller" so I can not comment more on that. As far as your server being on it's last legs. Well you could replace the tape backup and you can use nbackup to backup data and you should do that ASAP for the System State. When you use nbackup, you have the option to backup to a network drive to a .bkf file or you can backup locally to your hard drive and than copy to a network drive or burn to a DVD. Ntbackup can also schedule backups. Maybe our server is repairable or upgradeable. Often a bad power supply or clogged CPU fan/heatsink can lead to poor performance and reliability. Memory [RAM] is a cheap upgrade as may be larger hard drive or drives. If you have networking problems a new high quality network adapter [Intel] may be in order. Of course a virus scan should be done using the latest virus definition from your vendor if the computer is not working right and a scan for parasites with something like the free AdAware SE. Often backing up the System State and important data, then reinstalling the operating system [with the same Windows components – dns, wins, DHCP, etc as used now] to a formatted system drive using the same tcp/ip address, installing the same service pack, restoring the System State by booting into Directory Services repair mode, then installing your applications and data [after scanning for viruses on restore media] , and going to Windows Updates to install critical updates will do wonders for a sluggish computer. If you would try that I would definitely do a Ghost image first just in case things

don't go as planned. Also beware that if you have any Encrypted EFS files, make unencrypted backups BEFORE you try to reinstall any computer or you may lose permanent access to them.

As far as a Ghost image. If your goal is to move your domain controller to a new computer, then the method I described in my first reply is the best way to go by far. A Ghost image would work if for instance you wanted to put a bigger hard drive in your current computer. If you want to use it to build a new domain controller that can be a risky proposition. I have had instances where a Ghost image installed in a different computer did boot up and work. It depends on how well plug and play works. You may also be able to try it and if it fails, then boot from the Windows 2000 install disk to try an inplace upgrade [repair option after the EULA agreement] which may then get it to work but require that you install first the service pack and then all critical updates. If you are moving to a new server with a raid array, I seriously doubt it would work and you may have to proceed with the disaster recovery on dissimilar hardware route using a System State backup. If you do try a Ghost rebuild [nothing to lose to try] to a different server make sure it is done off the network and that the new and old computer are never connected to the network at the same time as big conflicts would arise with two identical domain controllers with the same computer SID and IP address on the network. Also you would want to shut down the old domain controller and disconnect it from the network right after the Ghost image while you attempt to build the new one from it and if successful then place the new one on the network keep the other one in a safe place for a while until you are sure everything is working right. --- Steve

"Bill" <mailsupport@aeropharmaceuticals.com> wrote in message news:1b1101c4f5b9\$b90676e0\$a601280a@phx.gbl...

Thank you for your advise. I mentioned our server was on it's last legs and part of that is the tape unit stopped working, so no backups... which is driving me nuts. As an alternative we have been copying win2K files over to our linux box. We moved the DNS services off and use a netgear router with our telco provider handling DNS. I would prefer to put Domain Controller on samba (linux) but not sure what other issues I would discover. We easily got off exchange and use a linux product called bynari. We need help but having a tough time fining qualified Microsoft folks in our area. Would something like Ghost work if I'm forced to stay with win2K? thanks again.

>-----Original Message-----

>Either using your backup software or with the built in backup do a backup of

>your domain controller including the System State which is very important as

>the System State contains Active Directory data.

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><http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;240363>

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>Install your new server. Point it to the existing domain

controller as it's

>preferred dns server, then dcpromo it to be an additional domain controller

>in an existing domain. Active Directory will replicate to the new dc during

>dcpromo. Go to AD Sites and Services and make the new dc a global catalog

>server. Configure your new dc to point to itself as it's preferred dns

>server with the old dc as second in the list after at least thirty minutes

>have gone by. Check Event Viewer to make sure things look good with no dns

>or replication problems and verify that the domain dns zone and the _srv

>records show on the new dc in dns mmc. You can use the support tools

>netdiag, dcdiag, replmon, and gpoutil to verify health/configuration of the

>domain and domain controllers. Change to other domain members to point to

>the new dc as their preferred dns server either by changing their tcp/ip

>config if statically assigned and changing dhcp scope option for dns server.

>Once you are satisfied that the new dc is working well you can either

>transfer the five fsmo roles to the new dc either via GUI such as AD Users

>and Computers/Domains and Trusts/Schema mmc, using ntdisutil utility, or by

>dcpromo to demote the old dc to member server if you do not want it to be a

>dc anymore. Ideally you should have at least two domain controllers and a

>backup plan to backup domain controllers including System State on a regular

>basis. Good luck! --- Steve

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><http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb%3Ben-us%3B263532>
--- hope

>you don't need this, but just in case.

><http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=/servicedesks/webcasts/wc031902/wcblurb031902.asp>

>

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>"Bill" <mailsupport@aeropharmaceuticals.com> wrote in message

>news:0f8e01c4f578\$c5ccca0\$a301280a@phx.gbl...

>> Our primary w2k server is on it's last legs. We need to

>> create a backup and than fail the primary over. Any

>> pointers to getting this done quickly?

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microsoft.public.cert.exam.mcse: Re: Create backup w2k domain controller

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