

Re: Connection to a SAMBA Active Directory

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange.connectivity/2006-06/msg00073.html>

- *From:* "Al Mulnick" <amulnick_No_SPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 12 Jun 2006 21:29:03 -0400
-

That's likely true, although SAMBA will make it look it's just another Winnt4 domain controller machine and does have some interactions with Active Directory and has some LDAP (which in theory can hold whatever schema it wants to); can be pretty slick actually. Newer versions of Samba look even more like AD. Good enough to let some deployments have mixed mode multi-functional etc domains/forests, etc, that include some Active Directory components but not enough to deploy Exchange. Exchange requires (requires; as in it is not an option whether or not to include Active Directory) Active Directory. It's recommended that it be native mode/DFL 2003, whatever the latest marketing message is able to handle universal groups.

If you were to have a deployment that had an Active Directory DC that held all the roles etc, and off that a sub-domain or child domain of that parent that was SAMBA, I'm not sure anybody would care. Sure it's not supported, but... But if you tried to have AD be in the SAMBA domain, I'm thinking you'll run into the issues as John points out and won't be able to deploy and maintain SAMBA in that domain. SAMBA's a hack designed to let you run NT 4 style domains. It was updated, but....

I don't think you're a moron (original poster) for what it's worth. It's very confusing what will integrate and how. There's a ton of documentation about all of this, but it's not typically very clear especially coming from the direction and background you're coming from. I suspect years from now somebody from Microsoft will come out with a great set of bluebooks and say something along the lines of, "Yeah, the documentation around this was horrible in the past. That's all fixed in this 1.0 release of" Or something similar.

Here's an example of the confusion that gets caused, "

A more scalable domain control authentication backend option might use Microsoft Active Directory or an LDAP-based backend. Samba-3 provides for both options as a domain member server. As a PDC, Samba-3 is not able to provide an exact alternative to the functionality that is available with Active Directory. Samba-3 can provide a scalable LDAP-based PDC/BDC solution. " Clear right? I got that from

<http://us5.samba.org/samba/docs/man/Samba-HOWTO-Collection/FastStart.html#id2524167>

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In the end, you'll have deploy Active Directory. You would be best served to use a fresh installation—and–migration approach vs. trying to install in the same SAMBA domain. It's a little more work yes. However, it allows for your clients to learn the product (they think they know now I'm sure, but then, why bother with you? :) and it allows for a clean start. Believe me, with Exchange and Active Directory, you'll want that especially in an environment where they're likely to be hostile towards Microsoft products at some level or at the very least, wary and wondering why they are told to deploy it.

A domain trusted domain might work, but I'd strongly suggest they just consider one for simplicity sake. And be sure to recommend that they deploy at least two DC/GC's! The use of Centrify or Vintella software might ease the integration somewhat as well.

Good luck.

Al

"John Fullbright [MVP]" <fjohn@donotspamnetappdotcom> wrote in message news:ejn9YsRjGHA.4716@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I suspect it's the ldap server that ships with Linux and other eunuchs. You often see it in combination with sendmail.

Not a chance.

"Paul Goldman" <paulgoldman1948@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:VODig.10186\\$Z67.790@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:VODig.10186$Z67.790@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Sorry to sound like such a moron, but I've never heard of this environment. I'm strictly a Windows person.

Are you saying that you don't think I can add into that environment a 2nd domain controller on a real Windows box and have it replicate? And then change the schema via ForestPre and DomainPrep?

Thanks.

"Al Mulnick" <amulnick_No_SPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:egy4eAjGHA.1276@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Wow. Such a contradiction in terms it's really hard to know where to begin. There is no such thing as a SAMBA active directory. SAMBA is an emulator and as such will emulate to the best of its ability. It will be deficient in some areas.

I would not suggest to the client that this is OK. Far from it

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because
if you get it to work (doubtful) you'll leave them in an
awkward state
where they can't get support. Exchange is only supported on
Active
Directory. That's it. Nothing else. Not ADAM, not LDAP,
but Active
Directory.

That said, you *might* have some luck with option 4: create
a new AD
forest, deploy Exchange into it and allow them to logon by
presenting
credentials at logon to the mailbox data. RPC/HTTP is a
likely protocol
to explore.

The reverse could also be done, and by that I mean migrate
their
workstations, servers, mac's, and nix boxes to the AD and
then install
Exchange in there.

Al

"Paul Goldman" <paulgoldman1948@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote
in message
[news:oiig.10090\\$Z67.5300@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:oiig.10090$Z67.5300@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I have a new client who wants me to install
an Exchange server in their
infrastructure. They currently have a
simulated AD using Samba to front
end a Linux-based LDAP directory. They
have about 50 XP Pro workstations
that log into the domain. There are also 2
Windows member servers in the
domain. In addition, they have about 5 Macs
and 10 Linux desktop
machines.

Does anyone have experience in this area.
Will I be able to install an
Exchange server in the existing
infrastructure? I figure I have 3
options.

1. Install Windows 2003 Server. Join the

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existing domain. Install AD on the new Windows 2003 Server. See if it replicates. Try to install Exchange 2003 Server. If the domainprep and forestprep work, then everything should be OK (theoretically).

2. If the above fails, install Windows 2003 Server, create a new domain. See if I can create a 2-way trust between the SAMBA domain and the new domain. If that works, then proceed with Exchange installation and migrate accounts over via ADMT.

3. If 2 fails, install Windows 2003 Server, create a new domain. Create new accounts on new domain either manually or via LDIF export from existing LDAP. Have users give new domain credentials when they launch Outlook or Outlook Web Access.

Am I on the right track? Does anyone have any different or better ideas?

Thanks.