

# Problem getting Exchange 2000 to see AD 2003 GC

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange.design/2005-05/msg00028.html>

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We are trying to decide the best way to upgrade our AD 2000 & Exchange 2000 domain to 2003. I can't upgrade the AD servers because they're off the HCL, so I want to replace them with newly built Windows 2003 servers, dcpromo'd into the tree (after the prerequisite adprep and mangle prevention tasks ....). We're working all of this out in the testlab first. For the full story and proposed migration plan, see [http://x220.win2ktest.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=13776](http://x220.win2ktest.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=13776)

The problem is we can't seem to get Exchange 2000 to work after doing that. It can not see the newly created Windows 2003 AD as a Global Catalog. It does appear to actually be a GC, repadmin /showreps says IS\_GC, and it's listed in DNS as a GC as well. But in Exchange System Manager on the Directory Access tab it does not recognize the 2003 server automatically. If we set it to manual and force it to that new server, the message stores don't mount and it complains that there is no GC. All the Microsoft literature I've read says that Exchange 2000 will work just fine with AD 2003, but they usually are talking about an upgrade path.

When we ran through the scenario of doing it as an upgrade after DCPROMO, the 2003 server does work just fine with Exchange. Only when it's a clean build of Windows 2003 fresh (which is what I'd prefer for many reasons) does it cause Exchange grief.

Can anyone confirm that this should work, promoting a Windows 2003 server and using it as a GC for Exchange 2000? Or will I need to keep a Windows 2000 GC available until Exchange 2003 has replaced Exchange 2000 completely in our environment ?

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