

Re: Disaster recovery – Big Time!!

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange2000.general/2004-05/0121.html>

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Date: 05/04/04

Date: Tue, 04 May 2004 08:17:22 -0400

On Mon, 3 May 2004 23:01:01 -1000, "Marcus Smaby" <mrsmary@@@msn.com> wrote:

>Issues:

>

> *Original drives that were recovered were SCSI, data was returned on IDE drives.*

> *Exch5.5 was not shut down*

> *NO BACKUPS – destroyed (both on-site and off-site)*

> *How can I move this to Ex2003*

>

>My thoughts:

> *Image the drives for safety*

> *Mount the drives in my old server*

> *Attempt to boot (the HAL won't match – but can that be worked around?)*

> *ExMove off all the mailboxes.*

> *Copy the ExMoved mailboxes to the new server*

> *ExMove them back in.*

>

> *I need to keep this simple.*

Simple? Oh boy...

If this were my project, I'd first make sure that Windows NT or Windows 2000/Active Directory was in place. Since you want to move to Exchange 2003, I'd go ahead and get Active Directory/DNS up and running.

I'd then install Exchange 5.5 on a member server that has the same drive letter configuration as the original server (doesn't matter if the drives are IDE or SCSI) using the same Org Name, same Site Name (server name won't matter). Apply the same Service Pack/hotfixes that were installed on the original Exchange 5.5 server. After installation finishes, use Performance Optimizer to move the databases and log files into the same disk locations as the original configuration.

Next, stop the Information Store service, rename all instances of MDBDATA folders, and create new/empty MDBDATA folders in their place. Copy the recovered databases into the locations you specified in Performance Optimizer. Open a command prompt and navigate to the Exchsrvr\BIN folder and run the command ESEUTIL /MH <path to database> for both the private and public information stores. This will produce a report which contains the word STATE: which will either be CONSISTENT or INCONSISTENT. If the state is inconsistent, you will need to run ESEUTIL /P <path to database>. Next, you will need to defragment the database(s) by running ESEUTIL /D <path to database>. After that completes, run ISINTEG (-pri or -pub) -fix until there are 0 fixes remaining.

259851 XADM: Ramifications of Running the ESEUTIL /P or EDBUTIL /D /R Command

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=259851>

Now, attempt to start the Information Store service. If you get an error -1011, don't sweat it. This database belonged to a different Exchange server, so you need to patch it, which can be done by running ISINTEG -patch. Do not do this unless you're prompted to do it. You should now be able to start the Information Store service. Open the Exchange 5.5 admin program and drill down and open the properties of the Server object. Click on the Advanced tab, then click the Consistency Adjuster button. I would then place checkmarks in the first, second, and fourth boxes (not the third – never the third (which can reset the home server value on all of your public folders) unless instructed by Microsoft PSS). Then choose to filter on all inconsistencies. After this runs, it *should* create all new Active Directory accounts for each of your mailboxes. You should also be able to log into each mailbox now with the Administrator account.

Which brings us to a crossroads:

Do you now install Exchange 2003 into this site and do a migration of mailboxes?

Or do you simply ExMerge all the mail data from this Exchange 5.5 server to PST files, install Exchange 2003 clean and new in a new forest, and ExMerge the data in?

For me, it would depend on just how big my Information Store is. If it's 60 gigabytes, with a thousand users? Maybe I'd do the migration path. If the store is 6 gigabytes with 30 users, then maybe I'd ExMerge.

Installing Exchange 2003 into a Exchange 5.5 site and performing a migration preserves one little thing – single instance storage. In Exchange if I send a message with a four meg attachment to 10 users on the same mailbox store, then only one copy of the attachment is saved to the database and a pointer to the message is sent to all 10 users.

microsoft.public.exchange2000.general: Re: Disaster recovery – Big Time!!

If I ExMerge, I will be taking 10 copies of that attachment to PST files, then putting 10 copies of it into the new database when I ExMerge the data in. If I move the mailboxes as part of a migration, I should retain single instance storage without inflating the size of my database.

Either way, there are plenty of migration white papers out there, and the Exchange 2003 green books can help you through the installation should you choose to install it clean and go with the ExMerge process.

Again, this is how << I >> would recover. You, however, may want to consider downloading the Exchange 5.5 Disaster Recovery white paper found here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/exchange/techinfo/administration/55/backuprestore.asp>

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