

## Re: DFS replication of user profiles and home directories

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.active\\_directory/2004-08/1530.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.active_directory/2004-08/1530.html)

---

**From:** Dave Shaw [MVP] (*dhshaw\_at\_NoSpam.msn.com*)

**Date:** 08/18/04

Date: Wed, 18 Aug 2004 06:35:43 -0400

<Inline comments>

"Gordon Fecyk" <gordonf@pan-am.ca> wrote in message news:eeT4W0MhEHA.140@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

- > *Back in May 2004 a gentleman named "ptwilliams" game me some pointers on*
- > *setting up roving user profiles that can rove between locations, ie:*
- > *between*
- > *branch offices. I was able to create a DFS root share, replicate it*
- > *between*
- > *two DCs, and set up a user's home directory and profile on it. The user's*
- > *profile and home shares looked something like this:*
- >
- > `\\example.com\dfsroot\users\%username%`
- > `\\example.com\dfsroot\profiles\%username%`
- >
- > *When I create a user using these folders, it creates the folders with the*
- > *correct permissions. I checked each DC's copy of the dfsroot share and*
- > *everything gets replicated properly including the permissions. The trick*
- > *now is to ensure that workstations (All Win2K Pro SP4) use the nearest DC*
- > *for copies of the dfsroot, and therefore its profiles and home shares.*

This is done by creating sites and placing the workstations and preferred DCs in the same site. Once done, the workstations will select (by cost) the closest DC.

- > *So far, so good, but ptwilliams recommended that I restrict the number of*
- > *DCs to "one per site." Right now, the domain which I'll keep calling*
- > *example.com has just one site, the "Default-First-Site-Name," and I've*
- > *added*
- > *a subnet for each office to this site. In this case the subnets are:*
- >
- > `10.0.1.0/26`
- > `10.0.1.64/26`

This will work, but what you should really be more concerned about is the inter-site traffic. Once the content has arrived at the DC in a remote site, the hard work is all done. Since a site is defined as a collection of subnet objects sharing relatively high bandwidth, you could very easily extend the DFS to other DCs in that site without issues.

- > *Once I've replicated everything I need, I'll move the new DC to*
- > *10.0.1.64/26. The first DC, which happens to be a SBS2000 machine and is*
- > *"king of the DS forest" as such, is in 10.0.1.0/26. Routing is taken care*
- > *of through VPN routers.*
- >
- > *Now, do I need to create a new site in Active Directory Sites and Services*
- > *for each office, and in turn each subnet, and then move each DC to its own*
- > *site? Or is it adequate to define these subnets in a single site and just*
- > *have one DC in each subnet? All I need to make sure of is the*
- > *workstations*
- > *use the closest DC for their logon server, logon scripts and local DFS*
- > *replica.*

Create a site for each area that qualifies as a "LAN" or area of relatively high-quality connectivity. Create subnet objects that match the network for that area. Computers with IP addresses that fall within the scope of the subnets you create will automatically be associated with the site those subnets are in.

You really only need to have one DFS in each site to accomplish what you want. Any client within that site will automatically prefer the DFS in its own site. Failing that, it will prefer a DFS in the next closest site (according to cost – and as long as the AD is 2003).

Keep in mind that you don't necessarily need to use a DC for this. DFS will replicate to member servers in an Active Directory.

- > *Each DC at each office will have its own DHCP services, and settings which*
- > *point to itself as the primary DNS server, so the machines on a given*
- > *subnet*
- > *should use that subnet's DC as its primary DNS server.*

This isn't necessary either. You could mount 2 DHCP servers in the central office that could serve the entire enterprise and simply enable BootP across your routers. All clients will gain addresses from a much simpler and more manageable source. Ensure the leases are long enough to ensure clients keep leases for at least as long as any perceived WAN outages.

–ds