

Re: Windows NT 4 domain to AD

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There are pros and cons to each. If your old NT4 DC is "ghostable", I'd do that first. If not, do backups to the point that you can re-install and restore if all else fails. Hopefully, this is a DC-only or/DC-fileserver and not an application or exchange server. If you can, you could also bring up an NT4 BDC as an off-line backup box. I'll tell you, as most will, that upgrading the DC as the starting point for your new AD domain is the easiest. Then, as you say, bring up a new DC from scratch, transfer the roles and demote the old one. I'd download the 180 day eval from MS for the upgrade or borrow a CD from someone else to make sure it hasn't been modified by Dell. Migration from a live NT4 domain to a new AD is a lot tougher, and more prone to failure IMHO. But the advantage is that if it fails, your Old PDC is still around. Anyway, good luck and spend some time researching all of the pros and cons of each method as they relate to your particular business needs.

....kurt

"Will Kubly" <wkubly@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
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Hi

I am starting to look into converting or migrating a Windows NT domain to a Windows 2003 SP1 AD and had a few questions.

It looks like to preserve our current domain setup I can upgrade the NT domain controller to Windows 2003 to get our first AD controller on. However this is a 5 year old box that I have replaced with a new box. I only want to convert it so I can then bring up another AD from our new 2003 servers and then shut this old box down.

1. Can I use a Windows 2003 CD from one of my new Dell server to upgrade this box and then once I have transfered the roles etc to another licensed server drop it? Or will using the software CD from another server cause an issue?
2. I am not sure what DNS to use on this box. When I deal with new AD domains the DNS is often company.local. However as this is an NT domain its Company_bender which does not strick me as a DNS name I can use.

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Internally my DNS is company.local.

Or I could migrate the NT domain over to one of the 2003 boxes. The tools and documentation look good. It about 80 IDs and 60 PCs with about 20 PCs setup across a Site to Site 786 VPN.

It just seems to me that converting is easier except for the software and DNS issues that I am unsure about. Or is it easier to migrate?

Thanks

Will