

# RE: How do I create a Backup Domain Controller?

---

*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.file\\_system/2006-09/msg00006.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.file_system/2006-09/msg00006.html)

---

- *From:* v-adapan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Ada Pan [MSFT])
  - *Date:* Mon, 04 Sep 2006 07:51:53 GMT
- 

Hello Bob,

First I recommend you refer to the following information to your questions:

1. I guess I should start with the basics by asking if it possible to have one DC back up another?

A: Yes.

2. By backup, I mean that if one DC is shutdown, can users still log on to the domain by somehow automatically finding another DC?

A: Yes.

3. I'm thinking this is possible by configuring another machine using the "configure your server" wizard called "Creating an additional domain controller for an existing domain".

A: Yes.

4. I would think DNS must be in place on the BDC so that client machines can find the BDC when the PDC is shutdown.

A: You can install DNS on the second DC.

5. I suspect that my GC is not being fully replicated (if at all) to the BDC because when the PDC is shutdown, I'm unable to use AD-U&C to change user passwords or create new users. When I try this, I get messages that the global server is not operational. Using "AD Sites and Services" and viewing "NTDS Settings" properties of each DC, I see that the connections tab has the other server listed for replications to-and-from. I notice however that the "Global Catalog" check box on the "General" tab is only checked on the PDC; not the BDC. I don't know if that is good or bad.

A: If in a single Forest, a single domain, you needn't worry about GC as GC only is used in a complex AD environment. You can leave GC alone.

Regarding your scenario, I recommend you setup the shares for Roaming Profiles and Redirection Folders on a File Server rather than DC.

In the meantime, I recommend you first read some articles to have a clear idea about AD and DNSR knowledge before you configure the servers:

RE: How do I create a Backup Domain Controller?

Active Directory Collection

<Windows Server TechCenter > Windows Server 2003 Technical Library >  
Windows Server 2003: Technical Reference > Windows Server 2003 Technical  
Reference > Technologies Collections>  
<http://technet2.microsoft.com/WindowsServer/en/library/7cb7e9f7-2090-4c88-8d14-270c749fddb51033.msp?mfr=true>

DNS Design for the CDC Scenario

<Network Services > Network Services Planning Guide>  
[http://www.microsoft.com/technet/itsolutions/wssra/raguide/NetworkServices/ignspg\\_2.msp?mfr=true](http://www.microsoft.com/technet/itsolutions/wssra/raguide/NetworkServices/ignspg_2.msp?mfr=true)

Other Info

=====

The following articles describe the mechanism that Windows XP Professional/2000 uses to locate a domain controller in a Windows-based domain:

How Domain Controllers Are Located in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US:314861>

How Domain Controllers Are Located in Windows

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/247811/EN-US/>

I hope this helps.

Regards,

Ada Pan

Microsoft Online Partner Support

Get Secure! – [www.microsoft.com/security](http://www.microsoft.com/security)

=====

When responding to posts, please "Reply to Group" via your newsreader so that others may learn and benefit from your issue.

=====

This posting is provided "AS IS" with no warranties, and confers no rights.

.