

Re: ** Please Advise ** NT4 -> 2003 Upgrade Plan !!

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Hi there,

As far as the error you're receiving, this is expected behavior. The computer has changed its machine account password on its schedule (usually every 30 days), and now it has a different password than when it was in the NT4 domain.

I've answered the rest of your points inline below.

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--Brian Desmond
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> 1) Install new nt4 BDC and promote to PDC. Synchronize domain and remove
> former PDC (now BDC).
> 2) Upgrade to 2003 AD on current PDC.
> 3) Install fresh 2003 Server on a brand new pc and join domain. Run
> dcpromo
> to make as DC. Enable as Global Catalog. Force Synchronize both DC's.
> 4) Run dcpromo on first DC (pc upgraded in step 2) to demote and force all
> roles to newly installed 2003 machine in step 3.
> 5) Install fresh 2003 Server on another new pc and join domain. Run
> dcpromo
> to make as DC. Enable as Global Catalog.
> 6) Remove Global Catalog from pc in step 3 since it will be the
> infrastructure master.
If this is a single domain environment, you do not need to do item 6, just
mark all your DCs GCs. This is only relevant in a multidomain environment.
>
> Result: 2 freshly installed 2003 DC's with all user and computer accounts
> intact.
>
> My questions are:
> 1) Is there anything wrong or missing with this plan?
>
> 2) Should I use the NT4Emulator registry entry on all pc's that are going
> to
> be 2003 DC's for purpose of fallback plan? If so, when is it ok to remove
> the setting to force clients to append the domain suffix? I need the
> fallback plan to work in case it is called upon. It's useless to remove a
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microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory: Re: ** Please Advise ** NT4 -> 2003 Upgrade Plan !!

> BDC for a fallback plan just to have all client pc's to not work or have
> invalid computer accounts when used with the old NT4 domain, per my
> experience in first paragraph.
The NT4Emulator reg key is not a fall back option. It is to prevent all your
2k/XP/2003 clients from immediately swamping the new DC. See this KB for
more info <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;0284937>.
>
> 3) What will remote office users/computers experience when they log onto
> network after upgrading domain to 2003 AD? Their local DC will still be a
> NT4 BDC for some time. Will they authenticate successfully to their local
> BDC or will they go across the WAN link to authenticate with the new 2003
> DC's, even though they will NOT be using AD dns servers? The AD dns
> structure will expand to remote offices as each office BDC is upgraded to
> 2003. In other words, the remote office clients will still use their
> current
> dns server entries and not point to the new dns servers in AD. WINS will
> still be used on network to resolve server names. Only the local clients
> to
> the new 2003 DC's will use the new AD dns servers.
My experience is that sometimes the clients need a reboot after the upgrade.
Not always, though. Without the NT4Emulator, the PCs will go across the WAN
to a 2003 DC. Your clients need access to the AD DNS infrastructure whether
they'll be talking to a BDC or not. You need to fix this right away. 2k+
clients will need to locate the PDC emulator, global catalogs, site
information, etc.
>
> 4) If using NT4 Emulation on DC's, will Pro and XP clients local to the
> 2003
> DC's still process group policies? Remote office XP/Pro clients will NOT
> process group policies regardless of NT4 Emulation since they don't know
> about the AD dns servers, correct?
GP will not be processed unless there is a NeutralizeNT4Emulator reg key on
teh client. See above about DNS, you can't do what you're planning as far as
skipping the DNS goes.
>
> Thanks in advance for any response, tips, assistance with this post.
>
> SG
>
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