

RE: NetBIOS Question...

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This is an interesting question. We upgraded to W2K3 from NT4 domains last summer and it is our intention to completely remove netbios from our networks. Since migrating we have a couple of PC's and servers that appear to running fine without netbios (one of the test machines is a DC). However I discovered the other day that Exchange 2003 will not function correctly without netbios!!! (If you have more than 1 Exchange server).

So I wonder if we are safe to turn off netbios on everything except the Exchange servers?

"Will Gillen" wrote:

- > *Our organization is planning our first Active Directory upgrade from NT4.0*
- > *Domain to Win2003 Active Directory.*
- > *In our test environment we have done the following:*
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- > *1. Removed a BDC from the live domain.*
- > *2. Isolated the NT4.0 BDC on an isolated test network.*
- > *3. Promoted the BDC to PDC.*
- > *4. Upgraded PDC to Windows 2003.*
- > *5. Upgraded the Functionality to Full Windows 2003.*
- > *6. The "old" NT4.0 NetBIOS domain name is still active on the Domain (so*
- > *that all the computer objects can authenticate against the "new" AD Domain).*
- >
- > *In our tests, all permissions, computers, and user objects appear to be*
- > *intact, and we are quite satisfied with the test. Except for one thing:*
- >
- > *We have disabled NetBIOS over TCP/IP on all test DCs, Fileserver, PCs.*
- > *Users are still able to login to the "old" NetBIOS domain name alias.*
- > *However, our isolated test network is one LAN with no routers or complex*
- > *switching. I'm worried that the only reason users are able to still login*
- > *to the "old" domain alias is that a NetBIOS broadcast is locating the DC for*
- > *authentication. I feel that in a more complex network environment with*
- > *routers and switches (that do not forward NetBIOS broadcast traffic), the*
- > *PCs will not be able to locate the DC. We are planning a test with a router*
- > *in between the PCs and the DC and DNS server to see if PCs are still able to*
- > *locate the DC. I just wanted to see if anyone knows of some real good*

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- > *in-depth documentation on the NetBIOS vs. DNS DC locator, specifically in a*
- > *situation where we are upgrading a NT4.0 PDC to Active Directory on Windows*
- > *2003.*
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