

# Re: Domain Functional Levels and Trusts

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[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active\\_directory/2006-01/msg00484](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2006-01/msg00484)

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- *From:* "Herb Martin" <[news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 10 Jan 2006 14:00:20 -0600
- 

"Adam" <[no@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:no@xxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:eLyD5VhFGHA.3728@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:eLyD5VhFGHA.3728@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> Herb -

>

- > Thanks for the response, but I dont quite understand your explanation.
- > First you say, "You can always (in any mode) use EXTERNAL trusts between a
- > pair of domains which are not in the same forest.Those two domains may be
- > in any mode or may even include an NT domain." Then you say,

But you left out the CHANGE of CONTEXT; there was an intermediary paraphraph in which this appeared:

other type of trust, i.e., Forest Trust

A Forest Trust and an External trust are TWO DISTINCT types of trusts, often confused by those who are fairly new to Win2003.

And the following paragraph was actually offered in parentheses for a full explanation of the (now missing) intermediary paragraph:

- > "Yes, indirectly this requires the domain to be in the Win2003
- > Server-native mode, but that is not the KEY requirement." It seems
- > contradictory.

Here is the missing intermediary paragraph (with it's parenthetical elaboration):

<<<

In fact, the domain mode is only peripherally relevant to the other type of trust, i.e., Forest Trust, since this requires both FORESTS to be in Win2003 Forest Functional Level.

(Yes, indirectly this requires the domain to be in the Win2003 Server-native mode, but that is not the KEY requirement.)

>>>

- > So, can I form a trust between my Windows 2003 Functional Level Domain and
- > a Windows 2000 Mixed Mode domain? Thanks!!

Re: Domain Functional Levels and Trusts

Yes. You can form an EXTERNAL trust between ANY pair of DOMAINS which are not in the same forest. Including NT domains.

You cannot form a FOREST trust ONLY between forests when both forests are in Win2003 Forest Functional Level.

Again parenthetically:  
(In this latter case, the domain mode is only peripherally related to the Forest trust which requires the correct FOREST functional level. The indirect relationship is due to the Forest functional level requiring the Win2000 Server-native Domain level for ALL of the forest's domains.)

I think your confusion may have been due to equating or confusing EXTERNAL versus FOREST level trusts.

External trusts are possible in any MODE, and are always between precisely TWO domains.

Forest level trusts have (very) special requirements, and are (in some sense) between ALL of the domains of each forest due to their transitive property.

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>  
> Adam  
>  
>  
> "Herb Martin" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
> [news:uE6ncpgFGHA.3280@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uE6ncpgFGHA.3280@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>> "Adam" <no@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
>> [news:%230CIBhgFGHA.3780@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%230CIBhgFGHA.3780@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>> Hi Everyone -  
>>>  
>>> I need to build a trust between two domains in separate forests. One  
>>> domain is Windows 2000 Mixed Mode and the other has a Windows 2003  
>>> Domain Functional Level.  
>>>  
>>> I just want to confirm that because one of the domains has a Windows  
>>> 2003 Functional Level, I will need to upgrade the other domain to the  
>>> same level before the trust can be built, correct?  
>>

## Re: Domain Functional Levels and Trusts

>> No.  
>>  
>> You can always (in any mode) use EXTERNAL trusts between  
>> a pair of domains which are not in the same forest.  
>>  
>> Those two domains may be in any mode or may even include  
>> an NT domain.  
>>  
>> In fact, the domain mode is only peripherally relevant to the  
>> other type of trust, i.e., Forest Trust, since this requires both  
>> FORESTS to be in Win2003 Forest Functional Level.  
>>  
>> (Yes, indirectly this requires the domain to be in the Win2003  
>> Server-native mode, but that is not the KEY requirement.)  
>>  
>> --  
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>>  
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### • *References:*

- ◆ **Domain Functional Levels and Trusts**  
    ◇ *From:* Adam
  - ◆ **Re: Domain Functional Levels and Trusts**  
    ◇ *From:* Herb Martin
  - ◆ **Re: Domain Functional Levels and Trusts**  
    ◇ *From:* Adam
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