

Re: Flat domain to start off?

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2006-03/msg01393

- *From:* "John" <nomailaccount@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 17 Mar 2006 07:53:24 -0500
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Hi Brian,

Thank you very much for your response. We have about 800 users at the moment. I was told I need to assign each domain controller as a GC server.

So with a flat domain, everyone will belong to company.com similar to our existing configuration. I think this is the easiest way to do. However, if I do need to move computers/users to a sub-domain, would it be too difficult to do?

Thanks again for your help.

John

"Brian Delaney" <BrianDelaney@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:13FD20BB-CBCB-4ECF-A017-64E361D7B973@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Whenever possible a single domain is the way to go. Replication in 2003 is also much more efficient and configurable than NT4. You can easily create Sites with schedules to allow replication to your overseas offices during offpeak hours. Also, with the configuration of subnets you will be able to control the DCs that your client computers authenticate against to prevent authentication from crossing slow WAN links.

If you do however have a substantial number of users (>50,000) you may want to consider additional domains based on geographic location to further reduce the replication. But I suspect since you are using a single NT4 domain you do not have nearly that many users.

One important thing to watch for when moving to 2003 is that XP and 2000 clients will not authenticate against NT4 BDC once they have authenticated against a 2003 DC. So you may want to have a look at

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the
article: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/298713/en-us> which dicusses how
to
prevent overloading your first 2000/2003 domain controller by utilizing
the
NT4Emulator registry key.

Hope this helps,

Brian

"John" wrote:

Currently we have NT4 domain structure across our sites – 2 main offices
and
few small remote offices overseas. Each office location has a different
IP
address range such as:

office 1 – 10.1.x.x

office 2 – 10.10.x.x

office 3 – 10.20.x.x

At the present time, it's one flat domain. Can we start off with
upgrading
our existing NT4 PDC to AD 2003, keeping the same structure and same
domain
name as our existing NT4 domain. Down the road, create sub-domains and
migrate users and computers to these sub domains? One sub-domain can be
like office1.company.com and move all computers/users that belong to
office
location 1 to that domain.

One thing I'm concern is we have slow links between oversea offices. At
the
present time, these offices have local BDCs but we have to block the
traffic
between PDC and BDC, or else it kills the link. Would keeping a flat
domain
doable?

Appreciate your comments.

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