

Re: Default tombstone lifetime

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2006-08/msg00320

- *From:* "David Chadwick" <david@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 23 Jul 2006 13:16:43 +1000
-

Hi Joe,

I have looked into this further. Thanks for your help so far.

What I have found is that the schema.ini file on the Windows 2003 SP1 disc has the tombstoneLifetime=180 line set.

However, on the R2 disc (disc 2) there is also a schema.ini file with a LATER date. This file does NOT have the tombstoneLifetime=180 line in it.

When installing R2, the schema.ini file that ends up in the C:\WINDOWS\System32 directory is the one from the R2 disc, which does not specify 180 days.

This is the case with my genuine VLK R2 discs (x86 Standard and Enterprise, I checked them both).

I believe all the forests I have tested this on were begun from an R2 machine. I suspect if I didn't have R2 on there, but only had SP1 then the older schema.ini file would be present and this would set the TLS to 180 days.

Can you confirm this on your R2 discs?

Cheers,
David

"Joe Richards [MVP]" <humorexpress@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:u3lH6TcrGHA.4324@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

That is extremely odd because this is done via the schema.ini file that is used when building a new forest and it isn't like that is buggy. I have built I don't know how many AD SP1/R2 instances and ADAM SP1/R2 instances and the TLS is always set.

I would recommend dumping your schema.ini file and look for the line

tombstoneLifetime=180

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If that is there and it still doesn't look like the forest has a TSL of 180 days triplecheck the object you are looking at for the value and make sure you don't have any word ACLs set.

joe

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<http://www.joeware.net/win/ad3e.htm>

David Chadwick wrote:

Hi Joe,

This isn't what I am seeing.

I have built many Windows 2003 with SP1 integrated forests (from scratch) and the value is always "<not set>". I just built one 10 minutes ago using the VLK Windows 2003 R2 media and created a new forest, and the value is "<not set>".

I have 6 or 7 other test forests (in virtual machines and test lab scenarios) and every single one of them says "<not set>", yet all of them were built from genuine SP1 integrated media.

Cheers,
David

"Joe Richards [MVP]" <humorexpress@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:eV3SNBPrGHA.4032@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Nope, "not set" should not occur if the forest was built initially with K3 SP1, it actually sets the value in the Directory Service object to 180 during the forest build process. Ditto for SP1 and R2 ADAM. So any time you see "not set", the value being used is 60 days.

I will contact Microsoft to see about getting the documentation

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corrected.

joe

—
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David Chadwick wrote:

Hi,

This is a question out of curiosity rather
than a desperate need to
know. :)

The following Technet link explains what
the default tombstone lifetime
for a domain is:

<http://technet2.microsoft.com/WindowsServer/en/library/f3df8a52-81ea-4a1d-9823->

The default value for "tombstoneLifetime" is
"<not set>".

The thing I find strange is that "<not set>"
could either be 60 days or
180 days, depending on whether your forest
root was initially created
on Windows 2000/2003 RTM or Windows
2003 SP1.

My question is where does AD ultimately
pull this information from?
What I am trying to ask is – imagine you
create your forest root with
Windows 2003 RTM. It is now years later
and all your DCs are Windows
2003 SP1. Your tombstoneLifetime is still
"<not set>", and in this
particular instance "<not set>" means 60
days.

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How does AD "know" that "<not set>" means 60 days rather than 180 days? There must be another attribute somewhere which defines this default, surely? How does AD determine whether it was "initially 2003 RTM" and therefore decide that the tombstone lifetime is 60 rather than 180 days.

I'm really curious about this. :)

Cheers,
David