

Re: Default tombstone lifetime

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2006-08/msg00380

- *From:* "David Chadwick" <david@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 22 Jul 2006 11:14:55 +1000
-

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 corrected.

joe

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

Re: Default tombstone lifetime

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-9823-4e51fbd3422a1>

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.

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