

# Re: Need Advice

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[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active\\_directory/2006-08/msg01861](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2006-08/msg01861)

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- *From:* "Al Mulnick" <[amulnick\\_No\\_SPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:amulnick_No_SPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 12 Aug 2006 12:11:40 -0400
- 

Shannon, sites are used to define local, high-speed networks. i.e. LAN connected devices, vs WAN connected devices. With sites, you can easily let a pc know that it's preferred domain controller is ServerXX so that it first tries that before traversing a WAN connection for that data. This usually results in faster logon and information retrieval etc.

Something I'm not seeing in your post is information about what your definition of a DR event is. Conceivably, you could configure the two site topology and configure your primary site to be used for all clients. In the event of failure, you \*could\* continue to work because the DR site is the only site left. In the meantime, it is possible that some clients would pull from the DR site, but that would be the exception vs. the rule and would likely indicate a configuration issue you could easily remedy. However, this does not address issues with data integrity failure. Hence the question regarding your scenario definition.

One other thing to be aware of: VMWARE and Virtual Server are useful technologies. However, in the case of Active Directory, you should use with caution and completely understand the trade-offs vs. physical machines and the implications it will have on replication etc. It can be done, but you need to ensure you are familiar with and account for the differences. It's important.

When you describe your DR scenario, please also talk about the way the clients are expected to utilize the remote site and resources. That's also important to understanding the bigger picture.

Al

"SEgerton" <[SEgerton@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:SEgerton@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:AA8068BA-A206-46DC-B589-A95A1E08C40B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:AA8068BA-A206-46DC-B589-A95A1E08C40B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

In Addition, All servers are Windows 2003 Servers.

"SEgerton" wrote:

## Re: Need Advice

Im relatively new to Active Directory. I've been posting questions in here for the last couple months and things are coming along slowly. Things are working out well, you guys have been of great help. But before i go too far; I just want to make sure im running things correctly.

I need advice about my configuration of my Active Directory domain and its structure. What im in the process of doing is, converting our Novell Network (that is used only for File and Print share) to Active Directory. Im not concerned at the moment about the conversion; I've already done test runs on this and know how to do this. At the same time that im building this new Active Directory domain, im also setting up a Disaster Recovery Site for this domain. We have purchased all our equipment and are using VMware ESX software to build our servers. Our Production site and our Disaster Recovery site are in different states and are connected by way of a T1. Both networks are also in different Subnets. We have also purchase NSI Double Take software to replicated our file server.

This is what i've done so far. I've built two Active Directory Domain Controllers in our Production site and a File Server that is a Member Server of the domain. Both Active Directory Domain Controllers are also Active Directory Intergrated DNS Servers.

Then I built two additional Active Directory Domain Controllers in our Disaster Recovery site. I just added them to the same domain. These additional Active Directory Domain Controller are also Active Directory Intergrated DNS Severs. Then I also built an additional File Server that is a member server of the same domain.

All Active Directory Domain Controllers in both my Production site and my Disaster Recovery site are Global Catalog Servers. I have the NSI Double Take software installed my both my File Servers for replication. I've also tested this software and it is working out well.

No roles have been moved from any servers. Therefore, my understanding is that my first Active Directory Domain Controler is holding all the roles.

I set up the network this way, so in the event of a disaster; my network will be replicated in my Disaster Recovery site. I've done some test

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runs  
and things worked, but not 100%. After I shutdown my Production Site, the Double Take software notice the network went down and took over. That part worked great. But for the Active Directory Domain, logins took longer; logon scripts seem to take a long time to map and they didn't seem to work correctly. I used IFMember commands in my scripts and it didn't recognize this command when the Production site went down, but it did see all the Net Use commands and Mapped all drives for all groups for one user. Even mapping for groups the user isn't in. (At the moment everyone has rights to all files on the File Server. I will change this later). But when the Production site is up, the IFMember command works and they only get their assigned mappings. When I placed the IFMember command in the Netlogon folder on the first DC, I did notice it replicate to the other servers. So why wouldn't this work?

Today I notice that I was getting errors in my event logs of my first domain controller. These errors were posted at times when both sites were up and everything seemed to be working well. The error ID's were  
Type: Error  
User: NT Authority\System  
Computers: MY First Domain Controller  
Source: Userenv  
Category: None  
Event ID: 1030

Type: Error  
User: NT Authority\System  
Computer: My First Domain Controller  
Source: Userenv  
Category: None  
Event ID: 1058

Then on a final note. My manager would like to use our Disaster Recovery site as our only source of redundancy for our VMWare Server. I didn't mention this before, but All three servers in our Production Site Reside on a Storage Array connected to only one server running VMWare. So if this server should fail, then all three servers will go down, and he would like our users in our production site to connect over the T1 to the remaining two Active

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Directory servers and the File server in our Disaster Recovery Site. Another scenario I can think of would be if only the File Server in the production site went down, then users would connect to the File Server in our Disaster Recovery site.

After having all these issues and thoughts; I got to thinking, about Sites; but im not familiar with them. All my server are in the same domain and the same site. Should i have created two different sites within the same domain. This is what got me thinking to open this post.

From all my reading about Active Directory, i believe i setup the domain correctly; but im unsure whether or not i should have created two different sites under the one domain. I am unfamiliar with this.

Any comments on my configuration of my Active Directory Domain and its structure will be appreciated.

Thanks in advance.  
Shannon