

Re: Disaster Recovery – Virtualized environment

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2007-01/msg00642

- *From:* "Jorge Silva" <jorgesilva_pt@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 11 Jan 2007 00:13:34 -0000
-

If I understood correctly, this isn't about running VM, but imaging an existing DC, or create an equal one, take it off the network, and place it online in case of disaster recovery.

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I hope that the information above helps you.
Have a Nice day.
Jorge Silva
MCSE

"Erik Cheizoo" <echeizoo.XenD.nl@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:0075F82C-961D-4F2A-835F-B946615055FA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Jorge,

although Microsoft did not support DCs in a virtual environment, they have seen the light and actually do support it at present: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/888794>

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Kind regards,

Erik Cheizoo
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Always test in a non-production environment before implementing
Guidelines for posting: <http://support.microsoft.com/?id=555375>
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"Jorge Silva" <jorgesilva_pt@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:AB7302C1-5608-467D-844A-6B94A61A97B5@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Inline

What if I brought up one of the virtualized DC such as DC01
which I took
from an image of the physical server using VMware
converter as mentioned

Re: Disaster Recovery – Virtualized environment

earlier.

But I do not configure it to connect to DC04 virtual network and leave it on its own virtual network.

The following operations are not supported:

1. Starting an Active Directory domain controller whose operating system was restored to a hard disk by using an imaging program.
2. Starting an Active Directory domain controller whose operating system resides in a virtualized hosting environment such as Microsoft Virtual PC, or EMC VMWARE
3. Starting an Active Directory domain controller that is located on a volume where the disk subsystem loads using previously saved images of the operating system without requiring a system state restoration of Active Directory.

The only supported way to roll back the contents of Active Directory or the local state of an Active Directory domain controller is to use an Active Directory-aware backup and restoration utility to restore a system state backup that originated from the same operating system installation and the same physical or virtual computer that is being restored.

Microsoft does not support any other process that takes a snapshot of the elements of an Active Directory domain controller's system state and copies elements of that system state to an operating system image. Unless an administrator intervenes, such processes cause a USN rollback. This USN rollback causes the direct and transitive replication partners of an incorrectly restored domain controller to have inconsistent objects in their Active Directory databases.

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/875495>

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/885875>

I then restore the system state from the last good backup (Veritas), this system state is from the physical DC01 which has been lost due to the disaster but restored on the virtual DC01. Then connect it the virtual network that DC04 is using.

This process is like restoring a System state backup to a different hardware configuration, all you have to do is to test it regularly, and make sure that is an option in case of hardware disaster recovery; you don't need to have an image of an existing DC to do that.

Would that work?

My advice (if that means anything to you), is: don't play with fire, you can burn yourself out, by believing that you have a valid System recovery but at the end will cause more problems than resolutions.

Re: Disaster Recovery – Virtualized environment

I hope that the information above helps you.
Have a Nice day.
Jorge Silva
MCSE

"TonyP" <TonyP@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:ABF6F29C-E9FA-43D0-8690-4145123D24D8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"Jorge Silva" wrote:

Hi
Not sure if I understand you correctly but...
Imaging is 1 of the backup
methods that isn't supported in Active
Directory domain, or you'll end up
with USN ROLLBACK, another aspect is
that all DCs need to replicate within
your tombstonelifetime forest value.
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I hope that the information above helps you.
Have a Nice day.
Jorge Silva
MCSE

"TonyP"
<TonyP@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
news:52F11986-ECE6-4490-B0C7-A7DAF53C65E1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

- >
- > What I intending to do is:
- >
- > 1) Install VMware Infrastructure 3 on a
server at my disaster > recovery
> site.
- >
- > 2) Configure a 4th Virtualized domain
controller (DC04 – Windows 2003 > SP2
> R2
> license) which replicates with my physical
Domain Controllers at my > main
> Data
> Centre site.
- >
- > 3) Take P2V (VMware Converter Beta)
images of my 3 Physical Domain
> Controllers and bring them into

Re: Disaster Recovery – Virtualized environment

Virtualized Environment

>
> 4) Leave the copies of virtualized physical
Domain Controllers > inactive ,
> no
> need to license again (using R2)
>
> In the event of loss to my physical Domain
Controllers (serious > disaster
> the
> site is down long-term) at my main Data
Centre.
>
> I intend to bring online and make active
the 3 virtualized domain
> controllers (DC01, DC02, DC03) on the
VMware Infrastructure > environment.
> They will be identical to physical servers
in always such as IP , > name etc
>
> Issue is there Active Directory Databases
will not be current due to > the
> P2V
> images be taken on a monthly basis.
>
> 4th Domain Controller (DC04) will have
the last current and good copy > of
> the
> AD Database.
>
> Active virtualized Domain Controllers
(DC01, DC02, DC03) should now
> synchronise there databases with the DC04
> ? and become current?
>
> Is my logic ok ?
>
> Any issues I have not foreseen?
>
> Advice greatly appreciated?
>
> Tony
>
Umm missed that one .. just read about it ..
there goes that plan .

Would this work:

What if I brought up one of the virtualized DC such as DC01
which I took

Re: Disaster Recovery – Virtualized environment

from an image of the physical server using Vmware converter as mentioned earlier.

But I do not configure it to connect to DC04 virtual network and leave it on its own virtual network.

I then restore the system state from the last good backup (Veritas), this system state is from the physical DC01 which has been lost due to the disaster but restored on the virtual DC01. Then connect it the virtual network that DC04 is using.

Now wouldn't the virtual DC01 have a system state restored from Active Directory aware backup program.

"So the invocation ID is reset before Active Directory starts. Therefore, the domain controller is identified to its replication partners as a new instantiation of an existing domain controller. This situation prompts other domain controllers to reset their replication high-water marks and update the restored domain controller with changes that occurred because its system state backup was performed."

Would that work?