

Re: workgroup vs domain

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2007-06/msg00386

- *From:* "Danny Sanders" <DSanders@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 8 Jun 2007 12:18:00 -0600
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In my scenario, would a domain server be best or would workgroup be all I need?

Domain is the way to go. But don't take this lightly. If you've never setup a domain before a production environment is not the place to learn.

What other questions do I need to ask myself before I continue networking?

Not meaning any dis-respect, but you might think about hiring a consultant to come out and setup the domain. Depending on how much money is involved, he could come in and setup the domain on the server and show you how to join the client computers to the domain. Or if money is not a problem he can do the entire setup and then hand the keys to you.

If a consultant is out of the question I would suggest you take some time and do some reading up on setting up an AD domain. You can setup a "lab" of 3 cobbled together computers for this. Doing this in a lab first will give you a chance to get familiar with domains and if everything goes belly up, you can take your time and learn what happened instead of having everyone looking over your shoulder because the network is down and you have to read a couple of chapters to get the problem fixed.

Reading?

The addition of AD to your Win 2k3 server will make it a domain controller.

See:

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/324753/en-us>

Don't run dcpromo on your existing Win 2k3 server now, it will loose all the configured users on it.

For an AD domain to work right you need DNS also

See:

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<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/814591/en-us>

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/825036/en-us>

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/323380/en-us>

hth

DDS

<arodri3@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

<news:1181325223.362576.284550@xx>

I work at an elementary school in Los Angeles and our school just purchased a Windows Server 2003 R2 64 bit. I have 36 computers in a lab which I would like to connect to the server as a file and print server. I want the students to be able to access the file server from any computer in the lab to access their teachers shared folders where they work and save their documents. I want to do this with as little passwords as possible.

Currently all the computers and server are in a workgroup where they can see each other. When I try to access any computer from the server or any other computer, I am unable because it asks for user and passwords.

On the server, I've set up file server and print server only, but I cannot connect between computers. Is this an issue having to do with domain vs workgroups and do I have to set up user accounts in workgroup. Or can the computers connect and access the shared folders on the server?

In my scenario, would a domain server be best or would workgroup be all I need?

Do accounts and passwords need to be set?

What other questions do I need to ask myself before I continue networking?

Any help is greatly appreciated.

1200 elementary students at my school would greatly appreciate any help.

Yes, we are a huge elementary school!