

# Software raid problem

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Hello –

I have a two Dell PowerEdge 4600 servers w/ Perc 3/dc and a Dell PowerVault storage (300gb) box on a raid-5.

Server A is a primary node and Server B is a secondary node. Both are running Windows 2003 and are clustered. Also in this cluster we have SQL Server 2005 clustered setup. Both servers have 2 36gig physical disk raid-0 which was setup on Windows Disk Management. The OS is installed on the 36gig Raid-0 on both nodes.

Couple nights ago, the server B which is a secondary node, had a one of the 36gig disk space failed. After running Dell Open Manager, it indicated drive is going bad. While server B was running, simply removed the bad drive, waited about 10minute, and sticked the new 36 drive. I ran the Dell OM and still reported the problem. I rebooted the server and it took about 3 hours to come back to control-alt-del window. I ran the Dell OM and it shows healthy signs on both drives. I ran the Windows Disk Management, it couldn't identify the new drive which was Disk 2. I converted it to Dynamic again. Then I rebooted the server and it took 3 hours to reboot! It hangs pretty much in Windows where it stating..Applying computer settings...Security settings. You can see te progress bar moving extremely slow. I ran the Windows Disk Management again and noticed in Disk 0 which is the primary drive, there is a yellow explanation mark and has a (error) word next to drive 1.

I also noticed the drive ID 2 which is the new drive is online but it is not allocated. However the windows box is not recognizing the Raid drives and my clustered drives which is drive Q and S. Also Windows Cluster Services have stopped running on the 2nd node. In Windows Disk Management, ther is also another disk id which has red mark on it as it is unknown. If I right click on the disk id 0, I can see reactivate option available? Do I need to reactivate that running disk? Do I need to run chkdsk /f and reboot? Do I need to do windows 2003

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recovery, or reinstall the OS?

If I have to do windows 2003 recovery, will all the cluster settings will be perserved?

According to Dell Engineer I should never use Windows 2003 software raid since it does not provide true rebuild cases with bad drives. How can I recover this secondary node to full normal server again?

Thanks in advance