

Re: Primary + Secondary DNS

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"Chris" <Chris@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
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Hi,

I have two server 2003 servers. One is hosting Primary DNS and one secondary DNS server using the primary for its zone records.

We did a test recently where the primary server was taken offline to see if DNS still worked. It didnt!

Two concerns: Registration and Resolution.

When the ONLY Primary is offline not dynamic registration will be possible, so generally it is best to use multiple AD Integrated DNS Servers instead of a single primary (single point of failure for dynamic registration).

You also get the advantage of being able to use "secure only updates" in this case.

For RESOLUTION, every machine needs to be set with BOTH (all) INTERNAL DNS Servers listed in the NIC->IP->Properties.

NO external DNS Servers (e.g., the ISP or an external firewall server) may be listed -- only those which can resolve all internal (and external) records needed by the internal DNS clients.

Our name servers for the domains we tested with are the same as the external IPs for the two DNS servers. I would have thought that if the primary was taken offline the 2nd nameserver would be used to check the host record and then access the host file on the secondary DNS server.

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At this point would I need to change the host file on every zone record for the secondary DNS server to ensure each zone is then accessed?

What host file? Host files have nothing to do with DNS resolution — and would be use prior to DNS if available on the client machines.

Host files would generally be a poor practice for AD domain machines unless you use them for very specific purposes and understand the implication clearly.

DNS clients can have multiple DNS servers listed on the NIC->IP properties.

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