

Domain Controller Certificates and removing them or moving them to a new DC/cert server.

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I need to demote & remove a DC from the domain. However, it has certificate services loaded on it, and it's the cert server for the Domain Controllers. I've never seen a domain controller need a certificate before! The server was Windows SBS that was upgraded to Windows SBS R2 and then used the transition pack to go to Windows 2003 Standard server.

My questions are

1. What happens to our Domain controllers and our domain if I just remove the certification services from this old server? Will they stop functioning? (I don't want to revoke them, right? Just remove the certificate services from the server.)
2. Do I need to load certificate services on a different DC? If so, how can I transfer them to the new server (NOTE: it has a different name than the old server so I know I can't just move them) or do I just load cert services, remove it from the old one, and the DC's will request and get new certs from the new server with certificate services automatically?
3. I know from searching this group that DC's are "Hard coded" to ask for certs, but do they need them? I've had plenty of domains with no cert authority in them.

Basically, the crux of my questions are

1. How do I remove this certification authority without screwing up my domain?
2. Do I need to create a new cert authority on a different DC?

Thank you in advance for any help on this.

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