

Re: Logon/rename via VPN

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- *From:* Brian <Brian@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 16 Jun 2007 13:04:01 -0700
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1. I have only one user on the remote LAN because she works from her home. Definitely not worth setting up another server.

2. I know my method works, because I have another client who has a T-1 at their host site (35 LAN stations) with two remote sites on < 1Mb DSL's and 4 remote LAN stations each. The remote users are able to work without a problem, other than the obvious delay opening files from the shared folders on the DC. The difference in my current case may be that the host site has a DSL that averages about 600k (the remote site has a cable connection at 6 Mb/768k).

3. I need a VPN for two reasons

- a. The remote user needs to print to her house from the host LAN (using MAS90, a ProvideX-based accounting package), hosted on the DC, to a multi-function laser printer at the remote office (her house). As I am sure you are aware, support for many multi-function printers is very shaky or nonexistent via RDP, so I elected to have the TS print directly to her IP-based networked printer. This works just fine with no delays.
- b. The user needs remote access to both Outlook & shared files hosted on the server. I know I can leave off the domain membership & just write a batch file for the user to map the drives (instead of using the AD login script), but I'm not sure that would be much different.

4. She does run MAS90 via a terminal server at the host site, but I don't really want to get into trying to license Word & Excel for the terminal server, and she needs realtime access to those types of files in her home folder & shared folders on the server.

The bottom line? Everything works fine except the logon process. Internet access using the DC as her DNS server is perfectly fast; file access from the DC is slow but adequate. The logon process, though, takes a good five minutes. At the moment, my first step may just be to get the host site upgraded to a cable connection at over 1Mb.

Someone told me there is a way to have "authentication lite" for remote stations to speed up the logon process, but I have been unable to find anything on this.

Re: Logon/rename via VPN

"Lanwench [MVP – Exchange]" wrote:

Brian <Brian@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

This is an SBS2003 single-server domain.

I have a problem with a remote workstation. I added it to the domain when in the office, then moved it to its remote site. It is connected now via a hardware VPN box at each end. It has a static IP with DNS pointing to the LAN IP of the server. I can successfully ping the server (at about 100ms turnaround time per packet) and any other workstations on the office LAN via DNS, but I have two problems:

1. Logon is generally extremely slow when logging onto the domain (but fast when logging onto a local account) and, in fact, is entirely failing this morning, so the user cannot log onto the domain.

I don't know how many users/computers you have in this remote location, but generally speaking, unless you have a huge fat leased line connecting the two offices (no DSL, no VPN) this isn't going to work well.

it would be a good idea to stick a local DC/DNS/GC box on this network if you want the users in this location to log into the domain at all. You can use a cheapo workstation box running Win2k3 server for this purpose.

If you aren't going to have that in place, don't have these workstations belong to your domain at all. You could install a Terminal Services box in your main office, and have them access everything on the network that way. In fact, even if you do install a local DC, note that accessing files across a VPN connection just plain stinks, most of the time.

2. I tried to rename the computer (standard method – local logon to the workstation, then rename, then authenticate to AD when requested), but I get the "error attempting to rename the computer. The user name could not be found" error after a couple of minutes.

Don't try that unless your computer has a good, reliable connection to a DC at the time.