

Help with Swing Migration

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- *From:* "yodrun@xxxxxxxxxxxxx" <yodrun@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 1 Oct 2005 14:20:03 -0700
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This is extremely long and I apologize for that. I am looking for help from anyone who has used Jeff Middleton's Swing Migration Kit. Jeff has been unreachable for a while due to the problems in New Orleans, so I'm hoping others who have used his kit might be able to answer some of my questions. I bought the Swing Migration Technician's KIT (it includes the tools) to do a SBS 4.5 to SBS 2003 migration to new server hardware. This is a slightly revised copy of a letter I sent to Jeff about 10 days ago.

1. Is there an addendum for the tools that come with the kit? Specifically I am looking for instructions on how to use the DNSpurge tool but can't find them anywhere in the stuff you've sent me. Is it on your web site maybe? If yes, how do I navigate to it and download it?
2. I don't think I have the addendum for doing an Exchange fork lift. Can you send that to me or direct me to a place where I can download it?

Background info before I launch into my next set of questions: I'm migrating from SBS 4.5 to SBS 2003. SBS2003 will be installed on new server hardware. I am using your SBS 4.5 to SBS 2003 Migration instructions. So far I have completed Phase I, Phase II, and most of Phase III.

3. I have found Phase III to be very confusing in places. I think it is primarily because I'm having trouble translating the server names and references from Phase II to Phase III, do you know what I mean? I think Phase III really ought to have its own full and complete documentation: even if the most of the procedures are the same, the names and references are different. It would make things a lot less confusing (at least for dumb 'ol me). Problem is, because you tell the user that Phase III is a repeat of Phase II only using different machines, you can't use your server name references consistently in the Phase II/III document. On page 11 of the "Overview: How to perform a Swing Migration" you take pains to explain that the kit documentation uses four server name references, and they are: "Existing SBS",

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"MigrationDC", "SBSnameDC", "Final SBS". Yet Phase II/III is filled with references to "new machine", "the machine", "established DC", "existing DC", "established SBS server", "opposite server", "original domain controller" and many more. As an example, look at Phase II.A.6 (on page 29): you write "the next steps that follow require this computer to communicate with the existing DC for this domain"...well, if I'm in Phase II and I use your naming convention, then "existing DC" should be translated to "Existing SBS", right? If I'm in Phase III, then "existing DC" should be translated to "MigrationDC" right? I know your arrows down below this try to clarify this, but they come 4 paragraphs later and are therefore out of context (you need to move them up so they sit immediately under the above referenced text). And even the arrows that attempt to clarify this use inconsistent naming in that the top arrow refers to the "Existing SBS" machine as "the established SBS server", which, again, deviates from your naming convention. I'm not trying to be critical about this...I'm just trying to follow your documentation to the "T". As I'm going through the instructions step-by-step, if I hit a paragraph or a particular instruction that seems confusing or incorrect, I stop right there and try to figure out why it seems wrong rather than just guessing at your intent and plowing ahead and hoping for the best. I need to KNOW that what I'm doing is correct at each step along the way --- I'm too fearful that one incorrect move will land me with a server that exhibits quirky, unpredictable, and unstable behavior for the next 4 years of it's life; I provide tech support on a flat monthly fee no matter how many hours I have to put in – the last thing I need is a server that is unreliable from the first day of its life because I built it wrong! I mean, these things are quirky enough even when you build them perfectly! I certainly don't want to make them more so by misinterpreting any of your instructions!

4. See Phase II.A.4.6: This step tells me what IP address I should plug in to the Primary DNS Server field when configuring the server's Internal NIC. Your arrows underneath this instruction are very confusing – the top arrow says that if I'm configuring the internal NIC of the MigrationDC, then the IP address for the Primary DNS Server should be a unique, available IP – that's wrong, isn't it? Shouldn't the DNS IP address be the address of the "Existing SBS" server? The arrow beneath this one says that if I'm configuring the internal NIC of the SBSnameDC, then the IP address I should enter into the Primary DNS Server field should be the same as the "original SBS server's" primary LAN IP...which machine are you referring to when you use the term "original SBS server"? Is it the "Existing SBS" (per your naming convention)? In any case, this statement is also wrong isn't it? Doesn't the DNS Server address for the SBSNameDC NIC need to point to IP address of the MigrationDC at this point in the procedure? Once replication from the MigrationDC to the SBSnameDC is completed, THEN I should change the DNS Server address for the SBSNameDC NIC to point to the IP address of its own internal NIC, right? Only then will the DNS server address of the internal NIC of the SBSnameDC be the same as the DNS server address of the internal NIC of the "Existing SBS", right?

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5. See the NOTE under Phase II.B.2: The NOTE says I must be logged on as a Domain Administrator to do this. Which domain? If I'm working on the MigrationDC, I should be logged on as an "Existing SBS" domain administrator, right? If I'm working on a SBSnameDC, I should be logged on as a "MigrationDC" domain administrator right? As a suggestion, I think you should add "Existing LAN", "Migration LAN", and "Final LAN" and "Existing Domain", "Migration Domain", and "Final Domain" to your naming scheme.

6. See Phase II.B.3.5 and the associated NOTE in the Technical Background: After I complete II.B.3.4 should I wait 15 minutes before restarting (step II.B.3.5) or should I restart and then wait 15 minutes before performing the next step (II.B.4)?

7. See Phase II.B.3.5 and the associated NOTE in the Technical Background again: the NOTE states "...before you remove the global catalog from the original domain controller..." What are you talking about here? This statement implies that I am supposed to remove the global catalog but no where in the documentation (that I could find) does it when this is supposed to be done, how it is done, or unambiguously which machine it is supposed to be done on. Am I supposed to remove the global catalog from the original domain controller? Which one is the "original domain controller"? Where are the instructions for doing that? At what point in this sequence of tasks is that supposed to be done? Where in the kit does it explain how do this? I can't find it.

8. See the technical NOTE under Phase II.B.3.5 – It says "allow sufficient time for the account and the schema information to replicate to the new global catalog server...". You say 15 minutes is typically sufficient. Isn't there some way to force the replication to occur? And isn't there some way to verify that the replication has occurred? I don't want to assume 15 minutes is sufficient. Neither do I want to wait 15 minutes if I don't have to.

9. See Phase II.B.4 and the two bullets under Phase II.B.5: Why are these bullets under II.B.5? Don't they simply elaborate on the instructions given in step II.B.4? And if so, why are they under II.B.5? Again, I ask this not because I want to point out simple mistakes you've made in your documentation (assuming this was a mistake), but because I want to understand the process and the logic involved in these steps – maybe you purposely placed these bullets under II.B.5 instead of II.B.4 but if you did, then I clearly don't understand what's going on which worries me and causes me to think maybe I should stop trying to decipher the Swing kit, give up on it, and use some other method for performing this migration.

10. See II.B.4 and II.B.5 again: Your instructions say I should confirm that DNS replication has occurred. I should probably know how to do this, but I don't, and your instructions for doing so aren't

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clear to me. I'm not exactly clear on how I am supposed to perform this confirmation. It sounds like I'm supposed to compare the server DNS entries for the two machines. Exactly which entries am I supposed to compare? All of them? There are many sub-folders in the forward and reverse lookup zones – do I compare them all? What about the entries in the DNS Cache folders – am I supposed to compare them too? And if there are any differences, does that indicate a problem?

11. Do the Adpurge and FSMOstat tools exist yet?

12. See II.E.3: It says "when you reinstall DHCP Server later..." Well, DHCP service is not installed now...should it have been by now? Earlier in the process, step In II.A.5 to be specific, you say to "ensure that DHCP Service is disabled, or not yet installed". I therefore did not install it. Then I get to this step II.E.3 that talks about re-installing DHCP later (it was never installed in the first place, so how can it be re-installed?) and about deleting "DHCP authority reference objects" that don't even exist in my SBSnameDC (at least not that I can find). No where in the documentation could I find WHEN I'm supposed to install DHCP service. Please explain.

13. See II.E.4: The first sentence of this step refers to "...local machine matching the Servername they were created for originally". I have no idea which machine or machines (plural) you are referring to in this sentence. Nor can I decipher which machines you are talking about in the subsequent paragraph in which you refer to "a DC you have removed", "a new server", "the current server" and "a new IIS server". I'm totally lost here. All I can tell you is that I have an "Existing SBS", a "SBSnameDC" (to which I've given the same name as my "Existing SBS", which is "Server1"), and a MigrationDC. Being unable to decipher this task, I simply deleted ALL IWAM_Servername and IUSR_Servername accounts in my SBSnameDC. Sometime later I rebooted SBSnameDC and noticed a yellow warning in the Application event log stating that IISadmin had recreated the IWAM_SBSnameDC account and the IUSR_SBSnameDC account. Does this indicate a problem? Did I screw up this task?

14. See II.E.5 DNS Records cleanup: I can't figure out what I'm supposed to do here. I'd use your DNSpurge tool expect there are no instructions on how to use that tool.

15. See II.E.7: DHCP Service is not even installed...I can't perform that task. Should DHCP have been installed by now?

16. See II.E.8: again, DHCP service is not installed. Since I'm actually working in Phase III, does the "retired DC" you mention refer to "MigrationDC"?

17. I tried using the technician kit tools on my SBS 4.5 machine but they don't work – I get error messages when I run them. Are they incompatible with SBS 4.5? Are they intended for use only on SBS 2000

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machines. I found nothing in the documentation that would indicate so.

Jeff, sorry to inundate you with all this. Maybe these are really dumb questions I'm asking. Maybe someone with more knowledge than I have would be able to easily understand what you "meant" to say. Maybe you assumed the reader of your kit has a greater understanding and knowledge of this material than I. Or maybe in my anxiety to get it right, I am parsing your words to the extreme, reading too deeply, and over-analyzing. Whatever the case, I need your help. Please get back to me as soon as you can.

- ***Follow-Ups:***

- ◆ ***Re: Help with Swing Migration***

- ◇ *From:* Frank McCallister

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