

# Re: Migration from SBS to 2003 Enterprise Server – Exchange Disast

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-01/msg02711.html>

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- *From:* "Jeff Middleton [SBS-MVP]" <[jeff@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jeff@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 15 Jan 2006 13:47:15 -0600
- 

Alan,

somehow I managed to get this thread marked as read, and in going back looking for something else I discovered that I missed your reply.

I'm hoping that we either got to this offline or you found a resolution. I apologize if I wasn't helpful enough and then disappeared.

Let me know if you are still working on this same issue.

– Jeff

"Alan Schwartz" <[AlanSchwartz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:AlanSchwartz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:DA2BA850-C9D3-48F9-99B6-85904411D14F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:DA2BA850-C9D3-48F9-99B6-85904411D14F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

>

> Jeff, thanks so much for wading through my wordy post...As I was writing I went for the broad and seedy history just to ward off the faint of heart, and

> because I was pretty sure that the difficulties were exasperated if not caused by the history.

>

> Clarifying, the current status is:

>

> Three live servers

>

> – 1 'Fileserver' server running DHCP, Shared Directories and Printer Shares,

> a member server in Domain1.local running Windows 2003 Server Enterprise

> – 1 'DomainController' server running Windows2003 Server Enterprise as the

> sole DC (Global Cat, etc.) for Domain1.local.

>

> – 1 'Temporary Mailserver' server running SBS2003 with Exchange/OWA, DNS,

> and running as the sole DC for Domain2.local.

>

>

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- > I am attempting to retire the 'Temporary Mailserver' (and Domain2.local)
- > once I've successfully installed Exchange on the 'DomainController' and tied
- > the existing user sign on accounts to the mailstores on the
- > 'DomainController' machine.
- >
- > I am perfectly content to backup all mail by hand to PST files (from the
- > working Domain2,local server) and restore the mail after the user accounts
- > are reconfigured to use stores on the new server.
- >
- > Users are presently logging in to the network via their user accounts on
- > domain1.local and accessing their email on the domain2.local, connecting via
- > Outlook to Exchange at the internal 192.168...IP –or– via web browser to
- > Exchange OWA at the mail.domain.com/Exchange IP.
- >
- > Users have been experiencing some disconnects on the internal network since
- > I've installed the Exchange services on the Domain1.local DC. (Probably
- > unrelated, I have two workstations where Outlook simply refuses to stay
- > connected to the exchange server...at the moment my suspicion is that there
- > are some stranded /invisible machine accounts, or something else that is
- MAC
- > address or CPU S/N sensitive?) I will deal with the workstation problems
- > once I know there's a stable network/server environment. Just mentioned
- in
- > case these W/S problems are some manner of clue as to the rest of the
- ailment.
- >
- > I share your one sense that I must have been very close to working several
- > times now. (unfortunately, I've had that feeling for a week now LOL.) It
- > appears at the moment that if I could simply change the mailbox store
- > pointers for the live sign-on accounts to an appropriate empty place on the
- > new server (same machine ) I could shut the domain2.local SBS server down
- and
- > import the user's PST files and be good to go. Perhaps it is as simple as
- > using the A/D editor and typing in the alternate paths...I am just NOT an
- A/D
- > expert and wasn't inclined to go directly tweaking live user accounts from
- my
- > level of understanding. I would also like to change whatever needs to be
- > changed so that the New account creation would use the appropriate path
- going
- > forward. (Quaintly, when I used the migration tool and created a second
- set
- > of accounts from the domain2.local server THOSE accounts came in with the
- > appropriate mail store paths (a.k.a. on the same machine.)
- >
- > I think I would like to try the ADsiEdit approach on a test user before I

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> run the risk of damaging the live domain sign-on accounts via any bulk  
> process...perhaps forcing the new information store, however, is the best  
way  
> to get the proper default store to show up in the Add user dialog?  
>  
> What say you?  
> --  
> Regards,  
>  
> Alan  
>  
>  
> "Jeff Middleton [SBS-MVP]" wrote:  
>  
>> Hi Alan  
>>  
>> You have covered a lot of ground there, so that in itself is pretty  
>> impressive. I find myself wondering why you didn't obtain support from  
MS on  
>> this last bit of Exchange trouble, as it would appear to me that you  
>> probably were within moments of being done several times. I not offering  
>> that as a criticism of you work ethic, just that you clearly were at the  
>> point it should have worked and wasn't.  
>>  
>> I'm thinking that at the point you had users and connected mailboxes  
from  
>> the old domain, and only needed to get the mailboxes working on the  
users  
>> from the new domain...this should have been pretty simple based upon  
this KB  
>> (I'm offering this in case it still has value to you):  
>>  
>> <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/274343/EN-US/>  
>>  
>> As I have read your post, I shudder to think that you are considering  
>> reinstalling all of this again from scratch. And yet I'm also not sure  
how  
>> clean a solution you accomplished there. I have the sense that you used  
ADMT  
>> or mailbox moves at some point, but I'm also really not clear if you  
have  
>> your users/computers from the original domain preserved, or if you have  
a  
>> clean new domain, or if you have a a new domain with SIDhistory  
preserving  
>> migrated users. Given that you don't (with good reason) know how the  
>> original domain could have fostered a pair of SBS servers in one domain,  
I  
>> understand why you might not be sure of the status either. :)  
>>

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>> As for your solution from here, I read your post and began to ponder which  
>> of the following circumstances best describes your condition now:  
>>  
>> 1. You performed all the steps as outlined correctly, and you have a well  
>> configured server in a condition that needs a minor bit more of information  
>> in order to declare it finished.  
>>  
>> 2. You perform most all the steps as outlined, but missed something along  
>> the way and therefore we would need to troubleshoot the path to the current  
>> condition to locate what was wrong in your process.  
>>  
>> 3. In the process of adds, removes and reconfigurations, you have created a  
>> situation that sort of defies understanding.  
>>  
>> I generally think of most any SBS server as being fixable, sort of an  
>> attitude I have about these things. However, the thing that leads me to have  
>> the most direction on what to do next is to ask what level of functionality  
>> exists over all?  
>>  
>> Are all the users working but only without email?  
>>  
>> Are the workstations connected to the domain and the users are all content  
>> with the changes to their profiles that have occurred, if any?  
>>  
>> I think I would like to understand better what the exact status in total is.  
>>  
>> As I would like to leave you with some steps to try for progress as opposed  
>> to just asking questions, I have this suggestion. Regardless of what  
>> condition your Exchange Server installation and Information Store is in at  
>> this time, you have the option to:  
>> – stop all the Exchange Services  
>> – make a copy of the MDBDATA folder contents (and the system logs if they  
>> aren't in that folder as well)  
>> – then restart the Exchange to create a new Information Store from scratch  
>> when prompted.  
>>  
>> With a clean and new Information Store, you could then see if you can

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make

>> the new user establish a new mailbox based upon the KB I provided above.

If

>> you can, then you have an option in front of you to Exmerge the previous

>> Information Store to PSTs and import it back if that's a reasonable solution

>> for you.

>>

>> If you don't want to do the PST process, rather you want to try to preserve

>> the mailboxes in the existing Information Store, at least if you confirm

>> that you can work with a new store with new mailboxes, you will be able to

>> confirm the functional condition of your Exchange Server configuration, if

>> nothing else.

>>

>> Once you have confidence in the Exchange Server, you could then return to

>> look at the Information Store you dismantled with the mailboxes in it and

>> see if you can delete all the mailbox attachments for all the users while

>> running the new empty store, then mount the previous store full of mailboxes

>> and disconnect any user connections using the cleanup agent. From there,

>> reconnect the users to the correct mailboxes.

>>

>> The remaining possibility is that in some manner, you have mailboxes in the

>> store that are not homed to the current Exchange Server at all, therefore

>> you might need to be using ADSiEdit to modify the attributes of the users or

>> go into the mailbox store in Exchange to edit those references.

>>

>> I don't think you need to reinstall the servers to address the Exchange

>> problem, that determination would be only based upon other issues you didn't

>> cover in you original post.

>>

>> I still see that your best option for a quick resolution in something as

>> complicated as this scenario is would be to establish direct support contact

>> to get this resolved, such as calling MS PSS for support. As an alternative,

>> I provide support to IT Pros directly for disaster recovery and migration

>> scenarios, and I could help you directly if you prefer that.

>>

>> Jeff Middleton SBS MVP

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>> YCST@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
>>  
>> "Alan Schwartz" <AlanSchwartz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in  
message  
>> [news:05541C7A-DEEA-4471-AF73-C1E4EA1E7241@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:05541C7A-DEEA-4471-AF73-C1E4EA1E7241@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>> The company I've been working with has had a pair of servers running  
SBS  
>> for  
>>> several years. I am at a loss to understand how they got two SBS  
servers  
>>> running on the same domain in the first place, but when I came into  
the  
>>> picture that is how it was. One was the domain controller and file  
server  
>>> while the other was the exchange server.  
>>>  
>>> A hard drive failed in the mail server and the system was physically  
>>> unrecoverable.  
>>>  
>>> I immediately built a new server using the second SBS license creating  
a  
>> new  
>>> domain and hand recreating the user accounts...as an emergency way to  
get  
>>> their email back in service. This worked with little difficulty for 2  
>> months  
>>> (minor inconveniences in terms of workstation configurations since  
>> connecting  
>>> to a second domain for email, and hand synchronizing password  
changes.)  
>>>  
>>> Meanwhile I had them buy and built a new domain controller using Win  
2003  
>>> Server Enterprise. I joined the new machine to the old domain as a  
>> secondary  
>>> DC, promoted to primary (transferring the GC, etc.) and demoted the  
old  
>>> domain server to a standard server.  
>>>  
>>> Next I had the damaged machine repaired and had the vendor install  
Win2003  
>>> Server Enterprise as a standard server. I transfered all the user  
files  
>> and  
>>> shares to the rebuilt machine and powered down the old demoted DC.  
>>>  
>>> So far so good. Now I'm attempting to add the Exchange Server 2003  
>>> functionality to the NEW PDC. The intention is that I will retire the  
>>> temporary/emergency email server that I put together.  
>>>  
>>> As it stands the primary domain user accounts have exchange settings

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>>> pointing to the long gone email server that failed (for example:  
>>> OLDFAILEDSEVER/First Storage Group/Mailbox Store (OLDFAILEDSEVER)).  
So  
>> I  
>>> attempted to migrate the matching accounts from the working SBS server  
in  
>> the  
>>> other domain...I ended up with a set of new accounts complete with the  
>> email  
>>> from the working server, and mailbox stores on the new server (for  
>> example:  
>>> NEWPDC/First Storage Group/Mailbox Store (NEWPDC)). From reading the  
>>> directions it seemed that it would be possible to map the migrating  
boxes  
>> to  
>>> existing user accounts, but THAT option was never presented by the  
>> utility.  
>>>  
>>> I only have about a dozen email/user accounts, so after pulling my  
hair  
>> out  
>>> for days I decided to that I would simply create new accounts from  
scratch  
>> if  
>>> necessary. I attempted to create one new test account but when I go  
>> through  
>>> the new user dialog it forces me to use the 'olddeadsver' mailstore  
>>> location. Likewise the mailstore field on the A/D user edit screen is  
>> 'VIEW  
>>> ONLY'. I assume this is driven from some registry key / A/D value  
tucked  
>>> away somewhere, and that even if I searched it out there would be  
multiple  
>>> unhappy reprocutions from attempting to change it by hand.  
>>>  
>>> In exasperation, I decided to attempt uninstalling Exchange (AGAIN,  
tried  
>>> this several times already and while it went through the motions  
without  
>>> errors, major pieces were left in tact.) NOW I can not uninstall as  
it  
>> tells  
>>> me there are active email accounts. I must be careful as the machine  
I'm  
>>> attempting to get the Exchange functionality working on is our live  
PDC.  
>>>  
>>> I know I've left out lots of details along the way...for instance,  
I've  
>>> painstakingly stepped through measures at:  
>>> <http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=823159>,

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>>> and at: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/837285/> (even though I wasn't yet running windows firewall.)  
>>>  
>>> Given my level of knowledge, my next step is to start from scratch with two new servers and never let them see the old servers...this seems a bit drastic. I'm hoping that the problem is imminently solvable by someone more knowledgeable here...Please help.  
>>>  
>>> --  
>>> Regards,  
>>>  
>>> Alan  
>>  
>>  
>>

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• **References:**

- ◆ **[Migration from SBS to 2003 Enterprise Server – Exchange Disaster?](#)**  
    ◇ From: Alan Schwartz
- ◆ **[Re: Migration from SBS to 2003 Enterprise Server – Exchange Disaster?](#)**  
    ◇ From: Jeff Middleton [SBS–MVP]
- ◆ **[Re: Migration from SBS to 2003 Enterprise Server – Exchange Disast](#)**  
    ◇ From: Alan Schwartz

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