

Re: Swing Migration from SBS 2003 to new SBS 2003 box

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-08/msg00806.html>

- *From:* "Jeff Middleton [SBS-MVP]" <jeff@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 4 Aug 2006 13:17:12 -0500
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Al,

I wanted to jump in to comment about the recommendations you are receiving to your request. SBSmigration.com is my website, the documentation being discussed is my product, and the unique aspect of this conversation as I read it is that I see you could conceivably feel like you are being pushed in a direction you aren't interested in going. Therefore, I want to offer some additional detail to what has already been posted.

First, you posted a request for Swing Migration, but perhaps you didn't know that this is a term that had no meaning relative to SBS deployments and replacement until 2 yrs ago when it became de facto a moniker for the process that I fully documented for the first time. Up to that time, Microsoft offered nothing like this in the form of documentation, nor would they then or will they now provide you support in doing a "Swing Migration".

You could gain a little perspective on this topic if you simply go to Google and search for SBS Migration and Jeff Middleton as author. You will find that I have been talking about this process in the public newsgroups going back 5 yrs. I have been pushing MS to embrace this idea for that long, and always without success. You might note that I became an MVP in 1999 primarily because of the time I spent posting answers to questions in the newsgroups on many topics, not the least of which was migration and DR strategies.

When MS released SBS 2003, they documented the following migration methodologies:

In-Place Upgrade
Clean Install/OEM Install (related concepts)
ADMT Migration

After reviewing how that worked and the impact of it, I decided that I would write a whitepaper on how to do an SBS migration by a different and more sensible manner, what is now well known as Swing Migration. I accumulated my own experience, combined it with authoritative KB references from my research and sent it to MS for technical review, comment, and the request

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that they publish it for free as an MVP whitepaper. After they reviewed it, they commented back to me favorably about the concept and thanked me but declined to publish it. The reasoning in a very short summary is that they did not want to support the process I had outlined, even though that was not a comment about the viability of the process. In fact, in general, if you ask someone knowledgeable within MS about the process they will likely tell you it's a pretty cool concept, and pretty neat that I actually included reference to all the MS Kbs I researched to document the process. In other words, they thought it was neat that I could frame the concept based upon a wide range of documents that have nothing to do with SBS, nothing to do with domain migration, Exchange migration, websites, etc....and yet build a cohesive strategy document that is repeatable for people worldwide with the widest variety of systems and situations.

The curious point is that like any project of this scale, sometimes things don't go right, and sometimes things are in bad condition before you even get started. Therefore, part of the logic of MS in their decision not to support publishing a completed documentation outline is that they already had documented how they would encourage folks to approach this topic.

So at this point, I next took the manuscript to a friend who is a book publisher, and the original draft of the process was published in a book with 15 chapters, including two that I wrote. One is on Disaster Recovery, the other is on Swing Migration. That is where the name came into existence, when I called it that and explained it that way.

Mind you, many people who are sharp and studious have developed a lot of the same concepts in their own trial and error testing over the years, but I've yet to find anyone who found that to be trivial. I also haven't met anyone who compiled it into a unified, start to finish, all referenced project guide like I have. I'm not saying I invented something nobody else could think of, but I did try to put it into common use by writing original methodology and combining it with well defined tasks outlined by MS KBs to encourage people to have trust in the work.

So having added my two chapters to the work of 13 other people, if you can justify \$45 at Amazon, you can have a good book, an original draft of the process, and my best regards. It's not like I didn't realize that I was making that information available for a pretty cheap prices. In fact, here's a real kick: I don't make a dime if you buy the book. But it's out there for you, and most people can afford a book if they really appreciate that it could be useful to them.

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"Microsoft Small Business Server 2003 Advanced Best Practices"

The next thing I did was to recognize that Swing Migration is a process that is far more complex than most people realize. Why? Because it covers a lot of ground, and it deals with not only building a new server, it potentially deals with left over issues from the old server and domain. Having already

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submitted the draft to the book publisher, I was suddenly overrun by requests from people who wanted me to provide support for this concept...in case they had problems. So now I'm facing the problem of having done all this original research, documented a process that isn't supported by MS, and now I'm supposed to support it. Now I ask you, should I do that for free? There's a point at which I have to eat and pay my own bills, and it's not like I'm trying to be unfair.

You can go to my website and see right there a step outline of what we are talking about:

<http://www.sbsmigration.com/migration-projects.php#what-is-a-swing-migration>

You can see a complete outline of many aspects of what it can and can't do, and you will not find that information anywhere on the MS website....all of that is what I introduced to explain why this can work.

In order to give people confidence in this process, and to assure them that I'm totally serious about giving the best support I can, I created a website to allow people to order the Kit and pay for a lifetime license to use the materials including the custom script tools I have written. You buy it one time, and you are personally licensed to use this forever on as many servers, domains, customers and projects that you want. I expect you will bill for that. I expect you will make a lot of money from using this process because it is ridiculously better than what MS is offering you as a process. I provide with the purchase of the \$200 Technician Kit a 90 day period during which you can obtain unlimited tech support toward completion of your first project by email. That's direct support, unique to your project, and I don't constrain the scope of that to "one SBS to one SBS". In fact, I have provided support to people with a couple of Exchange Servers, and as many as 5-6 DCs. I've assisted people moving entire business operations to another location where a swing of new servers was involved, and I didn't change them anything above the cost of the \$200 Kit because I never saw questions from them that seemed to me to be outside the scope of replacing one or more servers in exactly the manner and outline that I had already covered in my documentation.

I want to make sure you understand that my scope of project support is that if I've covered in my documentation, I'm supporting to the best of my ability when you contact me. You might want to double-check your impression of what MS provides as support when you pay them \$245 for a support incident call. They cover one ISSUE, not the PROJECT. There's a pretty big difference there.

The vast majority of people who value their time realize that once they look at the Migration Projects page on my website, and do the math, they will find that they probably save as much time on the first project and as much headache for their customers that the Kit pays for itself before you finish that job. From there, it's just more income for you to keep on earning and skill for you to keep developing from your experience.

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I am not offended if anyone decides that it's not worth \$200 to have unlimited tech support for presales, project planning, and full transition to a new server deployment that works transparently at this level. If that seems not to be worth it to you, I encourage you to go take a glance at the book instead.

The reason you will find so many people endorsing the use of this process is because it works, I support it, I continue to improve it, and it's a good value for you, your customer and even for MS that I'm helping people learn their way through the first job they take. Some people come back and subscribe to obtain all of the scenario documentation I've written and am continuing to update. Many people will never use the MS documented approaches again.

Rather than just taking the word of a couple of people on this list, MVPs or not, go search google for sbsmigration.com, or even "sbs migration" and see if you don't find a lot of honest endorsements for this all over.

The Technician Kit includes the 200 pgs of documentation discussed on the website, plus an additional 200 pages of reference information specific to this type of project. it's intended to provide the only references you need. I hope I will have a chance to help you learn this process so that you can spend your time billing customers for the skill you will have learned, rather than spending time trying to research what is already authoritatively demonstrated by people using my documentation to be a great solution to use. Supporting people who want to learn Swing Migration is pretty much my full time job, and I enjoy the opportunity it has afforded me to make a lot of people happy and more successful in their business. I really am offering an alternative to MS methodology, and I put my time and reputation behind what I do.

– Jeff Middleton SBS–MVP

YCST@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"Al Mucci" <AlMucci@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:1050BCC0-9740-4AB5-A532-8909450B7968@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Do you have any articles/how to guides on this process? I have an SBS 2003 running Exchange and I would like to setup a temp server, copy the AD to

it,

bring down the original, bring up the new server with the SAME NAME as the old server.

If there are any other ways of doing this, I would like to know.

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Any help is appreciated.