

Re: Server inaccessible

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In article <1157642746.143624.252430@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, erik.r58c@xxxxxxxx says...

OK, let me make sure I've got this right:

* You are running a 3rd-party firewall (F-Secure) on the workstations only (not on the server). [With SBS2003 Standard, the only valid firewall which you may be running on the server is the RRAS Basic Firewall, which should be configured by the CEICW.]

* The "Security Configuration Wizard" is also something you are running on the workstations, right? Because there is no such thing which you should be running on SBS2003. The Windows Server 2003 SP1 Security Configuration Wizard is *only* intended to be run on plain Windows Server 2003, *not* SBS2003. If you run it on SBS, all kinds of problems can happen. With SBS, the SBS-specific wizards – like the CEICW – handle security configuration.

If the preceding is the case:

As you surmised, you should not be running two firewalls on your workstations because they can interfere with one another. You should disable the F-Secure firewall and use the Windows Firewall, which is managed centrally by GPO [generally the most easily managed approach] –or– modify the "Small Business Server Windows Firewall" policy so Windows Firewall is disabled and rely on the F-Secure firewall. [See Computer Configuration | Administrative Templates | Network | Network Connections | Windows Firewall | Domain Profile => Windows Firewall: Protect all network connections.]

— Owen Williams (SBS MVP)

A week before this happened F-Secure was upgraded from v.5.52 to 6.02, but I unloaded it on the workstations during all my testing the past week and didn't think it would be a problem.

Today i ran the Security Configuration Wizard and immediately lost

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contact to the Internet. The DNS had stopped passing request on to the root servers. I then rolled back the settings but the DNS still had problems. I also could not use remote desktop from the Internet, but from the local client PCs it still worked.

I also updated the Intel 1000 CT network driver on the server. The old one was from 2003. The clients was running realtek chips on the motherboard (Shuttel PCs). No drivers was updated in months.

During all this rebooting I suddenly noticed that the client hadd intermittent connection to the server when the server booted. It managed to synchronise its documents for a short time and then lost contact again.

This led me to look at det GPOs since they are aplied late in the boot process. I have little experience with GPOs and ended up with disabling all of them. Now I had some access although very slow.

I reenabled the Default Domain Controllers Policy and the Default Domain Policy.

After the SCW problems I noticed that a lot of services was disabled (inkluding the plug & play and event log services). Exchange was also down and the services complained about dependencies when I tried to start them. It would also not show the dependencies. This might be the cause for the slowness.

I then changed all the disabled services to manual (excluding the ones I obviously didn't need) and started everything. The DNS however got stuck in a "Starting" state.