

Re: Need help restoring after failed hard drive

have to rebuild this box (and yes, you're going to have to rebuild this box)
I suggest that you do it right and get hardware RAID in there (even SATA, although I prefer SCSI/SAS). Also make them buy some decent hardware for their backups, and make sure you've assigned a tape changer in SBSBackup so that someone is monitoring the backup logs. Also, someone needs to be monitoring the server's health in the future. If they weren't getting successful system state backups *and* proper online Exchange backups, you're in for some data loss if the drive is completely hosed – but maybe they weren't using Exchange much. In the future, note that running `chkdsk /f` on a possibly failing server hard drive is not a good idea. You might have been able to salvage more off the drive the last time it booted (even with imaging software).

Anyway – not trying to sound like the Voice of Doom. Re your user's profiles – you can do the following on each workstation:

Create a local user called something obvious: TempJoe (or something), for the domain user Joe whose credentials/profile is cached on that workstation. Log into the local machine as TempJoe once
Log out, and log back in as an account with local admin rights.
Go to control panel, system, advanced, and find the profiles settings
Find Joe's cached domain profile, and select it, and click "copy to..." and browse to the new TempJoe profile path (\documents and settings\tempjoe)
Log back in as TempJoe and make sure it looks like he's got the domain user profile settings you expect – test thoroughly.

Then:

Make sure you know the local admin password, and then take the workstation out of the domain
When you've got your new server built, join the workstations again using `/connectcomputer`
Select the new domain user Joe, and when prompted for the local user profile to copy, pick TempJoe.

Some things may not work right (shortcuts, etc) but you should be good to go overall. Hope this will prove a valuable learning opportunity for the client. I'd also suggest you start using folder redirection so there is really no data to speak of stored on the workstations, esp where My Documents is concerned. I also like to use roaming profiles so they're all backed up as well, but that isn't mandatory.