

## Re: Need help restoring after failed hard drive

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2007-01/msg04348.html>

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- *From:* SolRodriguez <SolRodriguez@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 26 Jan 2007 09:44:01 -0800
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Everything's intact including profiles, etc. The real challenge is going to be to get them to actually check the backups consistently (or pay me to check them :).

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"Lanwench [MVP - Exchange]" wrote:

In [news:C8012B94-2F6E-4831-AA0E-114B565204CD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:C8012B94-2F6E-4831-AA0E-114B565204CD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx), SolRodriguez <SolRodriguez@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> typed:

Thanks for the tips. This was a valuable lesson learned.

I hope it proves helpful, and that you managed to get this taken care of without too much fallout.

In [news:B4EBB15F-2DC4-45EA-85A8-6A84CA94530C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:B4EBB15F-2DC4-45EA-85A8-6A84CA94530C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx), SolRodriguez <SolRodriguez@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> typed:

This will be my first restoration and I want to make sure I get it right.

The only hard drive failed on a client's SBS 2003. It's a small network with 2 client computers/users and the SBS. Their main business app data is backed up daily and stored on the local drive and on a zip drive. I'm confident that it is in good shape.

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However, the system state was only stored on the local hard drive. I got the drive to boot up one last time (even though when I ran chkdsk there were hundreds of lines of errors...) The problem is that I checked the backup log, and all the backups of the system state that they have were failed backups according to the log. Key files/dlls etc. were unreadable so the backups quit and just failed.

I've resolved that we're ok to reinstall SBS 2003 on a new drive, reconfigure, and put the main business app and data back on. My question is: since the client machines were "married" to the original Domain/server, if I install it from scratch and add the client computers to Active Directory, will it create new profiles on the client machines when I join them to the domain, or will they think it's the same domain and simply log in as normal. How can I keep the existing profiles so the users don't lose their MyDocs, Desktop, etc. if their machines think they are joining a new domain and they create new profiles?

Thanks in advance for any help.

Sol

Ouch. This doesn't sound like fun, sorry. Restoration isn't really a good word to use here, I'm afraid...there's nothing to restore from!

Firstly, a single hard drive does not a server make – if you're going to 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

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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

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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.