

Re: Install 3 times (triple crown)

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- *From:* Joe <joe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 19 Mar 2007 20:18:40 +0000
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PWT24 wrote:

I have read some interesting posts regarding how newbies should install SBS 3 times before deployment and I have a question that has always concerned me.

With my home based business, like many, I have an SBS Network on a dynamic address. I am about to build a new server for a customer and have never completed 3 installs before deployment but intend to this time. (Past experience; built 4 SBS servers with one installation and launched, which are in production now, different locations obviously. Thankfully they all have been running well for about 2 years)

My question is; how far can you go with the installation? There is a point when the server starts needing domain names and IP addresses. How will that affect what is running in my office now? Should I just not complete the setup? I would really like to go completely through the setup and test the server with workstations and then reload but I am unsure of the impact it will have since it will need the same IP address (I think?). Do I need to have a seperate address, maybe another ISP account?

I learned not to completely install and then deliver to the customers site from my last deployment. As I had nothing but IP problems for about 2 weeks until I had an ex-microsoft employee walk me through correction. However I would like to install twice and test then the 3rd time install but not go through the connection portion until I am on site.

I think the issue here is not necessarily making three attempts at every installation, but for novices to try it twice 'for fun'. If you are a user installing your own SBS, never having encountered it before, do it three times. If you've already done it a few times, that's filled your quota and you might reasonably expect just to walk up to another machine and get it right first time, unless you were using a particular hard drive architecture for the first time. You might need to play a bit first then.

If I was building a machine for a client, I would expect to make a full installation to test the hardware, sort out driver issues, etc. I would have notified the client of a need to come up with machine and domain names, and then I'd wipe the drive and do it again once he had made

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final decisions (and put them in writing). The second installation here would be a matter of courtesy: I wouldn't phone up and say 'I've got your computer, give me names now because you'll never get another chance', and then not deliver the machine for another week or two.

There's not actually much you can do wrong. The only decisions Microsoft has chosen to set in stone are the two names, and it would be safer if you made the C drive big enough to start with, as resizing will always be a bit hairy. Pretty much anything else you decide on installation is adjustable later. My first SBS installation had DHCP disabled, as it was sharing a network with an NT4 box, and using Exchange on that machine as a local smarthost until the migration was complete. Nearly three years on, that original installation is running well, still plenty of space on C, in a different geographical location, having had three primary email domain names, three different IP network addresses and many other changes of configuration.

As to a build environment, my home server has two NICs and the external subnet is the right place to connect an independent machine. That's where my son's computer lives, as I won't let him inside the inner firewall. I'd replug a workstation to the other NIC of the new machine for testing, though there aren't many things that need testing that way. Use the existing server and workstations to check remote operation, as you can almost simulate an Internet connection like that, with both external NICs facing each other.

IP addresses are no problem. The NT box I inherited had a public network address assigned by the installer, and I never quite had the nerve to try moving it to a private network range. Hints I have come across since then suggest that I was right not to. SBS, on the other hand, has a wizard to change its LAN range, and the external address of a two-NIC machine has practically no connection with network operation. When you connect to the customer's router, just re-run CEICW. You'll do that several times during installation anyway. Once you have the customer's choice of names, there shouldn't be any problem about making the final installation, then delivering and connecting it.

In real life, you'll change faulty routers and move clients to new ISPs, and that's more or less what you're doing in moving an SBS installation to another location. You do need to be familiar with basic TCP/IP networking, particularly with two-NIC machines. You should be able to change the IP network addresses of both the LAN and the external NIC and router IP address, as future VPN considerations may make that necessary long after installation. If you're not rushed for time with the new build, you can practice on that machine, knowing that you can reformat all your mistakes away... the problem with using SBS on your own server is that you can be a bit reluctant to try anything drastic. It is, after all, a production machine.

And always ask Google first: there are few SBS issues that haven't come up in this newsgroup. If you're really desperate, try the Microsoft

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site, though I have a lot of trouble finding things that I *know* are there somewhere.