

Single Server Env – Safe DNS Transition

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From: Ben Dewey (*AspiringMVP_at_hotmail.com*)

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All,

I have a quick question about architecture for a move I am planning in the near future.

Background:

I am the IT guy for a small start up of 9 people. I have 1 server running Windows 2003 Small Business Server. The server is mainly responsible for Email, website, and file sharing. We are currently running on a T1 with a hand full of public ip addresses. We also have about 7 desktops and 10 laptops (so I have some extras). Our DNS is configured through namesecure and they are controlling the zone file for my domain.

Plan

We are currently moving our office to a new location which means new Ip Addresses. Basically I was planning on install some kind of "clone" server on one of the desktops. This desktop will be at the new location, once its is set up I will modify my zone file. This way during the transition there will not be any downtime. Once the 48–72hr propagation period is finished I will move the server to the new location remove the clone and replace it with the original, Then I will migrate all the email that might have been placed on the server and hopefully that should do it.

Questions:

1. Is this a good plan?
2. What is the best way to set up the clone?
3. Should the clone be on the same Domain Tree as the original? Domain forest?
4. Since Email is the biggest issue here, is there an easy way to cluster the exchange server? So that migrating the email will be seamless. Or would it be easier to just create 9 new users with identical emails and download and incoming emails using pop3 when the transition is finished? Keep in mind I am planning on doing this over the weekend, so If any emails

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do come in it should be minimal, I only have 9 other employees.

5. Is there anything else that I am overlooking?