

Active Directory

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Administrator's Pocket Consultant

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You know you've been at this thing called writing a long time when people ask how many books you've written and you just have no idea. For many years, my bio stated that I was the author of more than 25 books. Several times my publishers have asked me to update the bio with a more precise number, so around number 61 I started counting to keep everyone happy. That was about five, six, seven years ago, so I'm now getting close to 100 or thereabouts. ;-)

For me, it's always been about the craft of writing. I love writing, and I love challenging projects most of all. The challenge in writing a day-to-day administrator's guide to Active Directory is that there's so much I'd like to cover, but pocket consultants aren't meant to be all-in-one references. Pocket consultants are meant to be portable and readable—the kind of book you use to solve problems and get the job done wherever you might be. With that in mind, I have to continually make sure I focus on the core of Active Directory administration. The result is the book you hold in your hand, which I hope you'll agree is one of the best practical, portable guides to Active Directory.

As I've stated in the three dozen or so pocket consultants I've written, the team at Microsoft Press is topnotch. Maria Gargiulo was instrumental throughout the writing process. She helped ensure that I had what I needed to write the book and was my primary contact at Microsoft. Martin DelRe was the acquisitions editor for the project. He believed in the book from the beginning and was really great to work with. Completing and publishing the book wouldn't have been possible without their help!

Unfortunately for the writer (but fortunately for readers), writing is only one part of the publishing process. Next came editing and author review. I must say, Microsoft Press has the most thorough editorial and technical review process I've seen anywhere—and I've written a lot of books for many different publishers. John Pierce managed the editorial process. He helped me stay on track and on schedule. Randy Muller was the technical editor for the book. As copyeditor, Shannon Leavitt also did a good job. Thank you so much!

I would like to thank Chris Nelson for his help during this project. Chris is terrific to work with and always willing to help any way he can. Thanks also to everyone else at Microsoft who has helped at many points of my writing career and been there when I needed them the most.

Thanks also to Studio B, The Salkind Agency, and my agent Neil Salkind. Hopefully, I haven't forgotten anyone, but if I have, it was an oversight. *Honest*. ;-)

Introduction

A ctive Directory Administrator's Pocket Consultant is designed to be a concise and compulsively usable resource for Windows administrators. This is the readable resource guide you'll want on your desk or in your pocket at all times. The book discusses everything you need to perform the core administrative tasks for Active Directory. Because the focus is on providing you with the maximum value in a pocket-sized guide, you don't have to wade through hundreds of pages of extraneous information to find what you're looking for. Instead, you'll find exactly what you need to get the job done.

In short, the book is designed to be the one resource you consult whenever you have questions regarding Active Directory administration. To this end, the book concentrates on daily administration procedures, frequently performed tasks, documented examples, and options that are representative but not necessarily inclusive. One of the goals is to keep the content so concise that the book remains compact and easy to navigate while ensuring that the book is packed with as much information as possible—making it a valuable resource. Thus, instead of a hefty thousand-page tome or a lightweight hundred-page quick reference, you get a valuable resource guide that can help you efficiently perform common tasks, solve problems, and implement such advanced administration areas as establishing cross-forest trusts, optimizing intersite replication, changing domain design, and troubleshooting.

Who Is This Book For?

Active Directory Administrator's Pocket Consultant covers Active Directory for small, medium, and large organizations. The book is designed for:

- Current Windows and network administrators
- Support staff who maintain Windows networks
- Accomplished users who have some administrator responsibilities
- Administrators transferring from other platforms

To pack in as much information as possible, I had to assume that you have basic networking skills and a basic understanding of Windows, and that Windows is already installed on your systems. With this in mind, I don't devote entire chapters to understanding Windows architecture, installing Windows, or Windows networking. I do, however, provide complete details on the components of Active Directory networks and how you can use these components. I cover installing domain controllers, configuring Active Directory sites, and much more. I also assume that you are fairly familiar with Windows commands and procedures as well as the Windows user interface. If you need help learning Windows basics, you should read the Windows documentation.

How Is This Book Organized?

Active Directory Administrator's Pocket Consultant is designed to be used in the daily administration of Active Directory, and as such, the book is organized by job-related tasks rather than by features. Speed and ease of reference are essential parts of this hands-on guide. The book has an expanded table of contents and an extensive index for finding answers to problems quickly. Many other quick-reference features have been added as well. These features include quick step-by-step instructions, lists, tables with fast facts, and extensive cross-references. The book is organized into both parts and chapters.

Active Directory is an extensible directory service that enables you to manage network resources efficiently. Part I, "Implementing Active Directory," reviews the fundamental tasks you need for Active Directory administration. Chapter 1 provides an overview of tools, techniques, and concepts related to Active Directory. Chapter 2 discusses installing forests, domain trees, and child domains. Updates to Active Directory for Windows Server 2008 Release 2 (R2) are discussed in Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 as well. Chapter 3 details techniques for deploying writable domain controllers and the tasks you'll need to perform to set up domain controllers. Chapter 4 covers the deployment of read-only domain controllers. Together, these chapters provide the detailed information you need to configure domains and forests, whether you are deploying Active Directory Domain Services for the first time or extending your existing infrastructure.

Part II, "Managing Active Directory Infrastructure," discusses the core tools and techniques you'll use to manage Active Directory. In addition to their standard roles, domain controllers can also act as global catalog servers and operations masters. Chapter 5 explores techniques for configuring, maintaining, and troubleshooting global catalog servers. Chapter 6 examines how you manage operations masters. Chapter 7 describes your work with Active Directory sites, subnets, and replication. You'll learn the essentials for creating sites and associating subnets with sites. You'll also learn advanced techniques for managing site links and replication.

Part III, "Maintaining and Recovering Active Directory," discusses the administrative tasks you'll use to maintain Active Directory. Chapter 8 describes how to manage trusts and authentication. You'll learn how Active Directory authentication works within domains, across domain boundaries, and across forest boundaries. You'll also learn how trusts are used and established. Chapter 9 provides techniques you can use to maintain, monitor, and troubleshoot Active Directory infrastructure. In addition to learning techniques for backing up and recovering Active Directory, you'll also learn how to perform essential maintenance tasks and how to configure related options and services, including Windows Time service. Finally, Appendix A provides a quick reference for command-line utilities you'll use when working with Active Directory.

Conventions Used in This Book

I've used a variety of elements to help keep the text clear and easy to follow. You'll find code terms and listings in monospace type, except when I tell you to actually type a command. In that case, the command appears in **bold** type. When I introduce and define a new term, I put it in *italics*.

Other conventions include:

- Notes To provide details on a point that needs emphasis
- Best Practices To examine the best technique to use when working with advanced configuration and administration concepts
- Cautions To warn you of potential problems you should look out for
- Real World To provide real-world advice for advanced topics
- Security Alerts To point out important security issues
- Tips To offer helpful hints or additional information

I truly hope you find that Active Directory Administrator's Pocket Consultant provides everything you need to perform essential Active Directory administrative tasks as quickly and efficiently as possible. You're welcome to send your thoughts to me at *williamstanek@aol.com*. Thank you.

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Deploying Writable Domain Controllers

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n this chapter, I provide tips and techniques for adding and removing writable domain controllers. After setting up the initial domain controller in a domain, you deploy additional domain controllers to increase fault tolerance and improve operational efficiency. Just as you establish a server as a domain controller by installing Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS), you decommission a domain controller by removing AD DS. The decommissioned domain controller can then be taken out of service, or it can act as a server.

Preparing to Deploy or Decommission Domain Controllers

Before deploying or decommissioning domain controllers, you should create a plan that lists any prerequisites, necessary postmodification changes, and overall impact on your network. Create your plan by reviewing "Preparing for Active Directory Installation" in Chapter 2, "Installing New Forests, Domain Trees, and Child Domains."

Domain controllers host the Active Directory database and handle related operations. Active Directory uses a multimaster replication model that creates a distributed environment where no single domain controller is authoritative with regard to logon and authentication requests. This model allows any domain controller to be used for logon and authentication. It also allows you to make changes to standard directory information without regard to which domain controller you use. Domain controllers also can have special roles as operations masters and global catalog servers. As discussed in Chapter 5, "Managing Operations Masters," operations masters perform tasks that can be performed only by a single authoritative domain controller. Global catalog servers store partial replicas of data from all domains in a forest to facilitate directory searches for resources in other domains and to determine membership in universal groups.

When you establish the first domain controller in a forest, the domain controller hosts the forestwide and domainwide operations master roles and also acts as the global catalog server for the domain. When you establish the first domain controller in a domain, the domain controller hosts the domainwide operations master roles and also acts as the global catalog server for the domain.

Every domain in the enterprise should have at least two domain controllers. If a domain has only one domain controller, you could lose the entire domain and all related accounts if disaster strikes. Although you may be able to recover the domain from a backup, you will have significant problems until the restore is completed. For example, users may not be able to log on to the domain or obtain authenticated access to domain resources.

Every site should have at least one domain controller. If a domain controller is not available in a site, computers in the site will perform logon and authentication activities with domain controllers in another site, which could significantly affect response times.

Every site should have a global catalog server. If a global catalog server is not available in a site, computers in the site will query a global catalog server in another site when searching for resources in other domains in the forest. Global catalog servers are also used during logon and authentication because they store universal group membership information for all domains in the forest. If a global catalog server isn't available in the site and the universal group membership has not been previously cached, the domain controller responding to a user's logon or authentication request will need to obtain the required information from a global catalog server in another site.

Adding Writable Domain Controllers

You establish a server as a domain controller by installing the necessary binaries for the Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) and then configuring the services using the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard (Dcpromo.exe). If you are deploying Windows Server 2008 for the first time in a Windows Server 2003 or Windows Server 2000 forest, you must prepare Active Directory as discussed in "Deploying Windows Server 2008" in Chapter 2.

Installing Additional Writable Domain Controllers

Any computer running Windows Server 2008 can act as a domain controller. Essentially, domain controllers are database servers with extensive directory, application, and replication features. Because of this, the hardware you choose for the domain controllers should be fairly robust. You'll want to look carefully at the server's processor, memory, and hard disk configuration.

In many cases, you'll want to install domain controllers on hardware with multiple, fast processors. This will help ensure the domain controller can efficiently handle replication requests and topology generation. When you install the second domain controller in a forest, the Knowledge Consistency Checker (KCC) begins running on every domain controller. Not only does the KCC generate replication topology, it also dynamically handles changes and failures within the topology. By default, the KCC recalculates the replication topology every 15 minutes. As the complexity of the replication topology increases, so does processing power required for this calculation. You'll need to monitor processor usage and upgrade as necessary.

In addition to running standard processes, domain controllers must run processes related to storage engine operations, knowledge consistency checking, replication, and garbage collection. Most domain controllers should have at least 2 gigabytes (GB) of RAM as a recommended starting point for full server installations and 1 GB of RAM for core server installations. You'll need to monitor memory usage and upgrade as necessary.

With regard to hard disks, you'll want to closely examine fault tolerance and storage capacity needs. Domain controllers should use fault-tolerant drives to protect against hardware failure of the system volume and any other volumes used by Active Directory. I recommend using a redundant array of independent disks (RAID), RAID 1 for system volumes and RAID 5 for data. Hardware RAID is preferable to software RAID. Storage capacity needs depend on the number of objects related to users, computers, groups, and resources that are stored in the Active Directory database. Each storage volume should have ample free disk space at all times to ensure proper operational efficiency.

When you add a domain controller to an existing domain, you should consider whether you want to perform an installation from media rather than creating the domain controller from scratch. With either technique, you will need to log on to the local machine using either the local Administrator account or an account that has administrator privileges on the local machine. Then start the installation. You also will be required to provide the credentials for an account that is a member of the Domain Admins group in the domain of which the domain controller will be a part. Because you will be given the opportunity to join the domain controller to the domain if necessary, it is not necessary for the server to be a member of the domain.

Adding Writable Domain Controllers Using Replication

You can add a writable domain controller to an existing domain by completing the following steps:

1. Check the TCP/IP configuration of the server. The server must have a valid IP address and must have properly configured DNS settings.

NOTE Domain controllers that also act as DNS servers should not have dynamic IP addresses, to ensure reliable DNS operations. Otherwise, the server can have a static IP address or a dynamic IP address assigned by a DHCP server.

- Install the Active Directory binaries by entering the following command at an elevated command prompt: servermanagercmd –install adds-domaincontroller. This installs the AD DS binaries, which enables the Active Directory Domain Services role on the server.
- 3. Before starting an Active Directory installation, you should examine local accounts to determine whether you need to take special steps to preserve any local accounts. You should also check for encrypted files and folders using the EFSInfo utility. At a command prompt, enter efsinfo /s:DriveDesignator /i | find ": Encrypted" where DriveDesignator is the drive designator of the volume to search, such as C:.

CAUTION Domain controllers do not have local accounts or separate cryptographic keys. Making a server a domain controller deletes all local accounts and all certificates and cryptographic keys from the server. Any encrypted data on the server, including data stored using the Encrypting File System (EFS), must be decrypted before Active Directory is installed, or it will be permanently inaccessible.

- Start the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard by clicking Start, typing dcpromo in the Search box, and pressing Enter.
- 5. By default, the wizard uses Basic Installation mode. If you want to install from media as discussed in "Adding Writable Domain Controllers Using Installation Media," later in this chapter, or choose the source domain controller for replication, select the Use Advanced Installation Mode check box before clicking Next to continue.
- **6.** If the Operating System Compatibility page is displayed, review the warning about the default security settings for Windows Server 2008 domain controllers and then click Next.
- 7. On the Choose A Deployment Configuration page, shown in Figure 3-1, select Existing Forest and then select Add A Domain Controller To An Existing Domain. By choosing this option, you specify that you are adding a domain controller to an existing domain in the Active Directory forest.

Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard		2
Choose a Deployment Configuration You can create a domain controller for an existing forest or	r for a new forest.	
Existing forest		
Add a domain controller to an existing domain		
C Create a new domain in an existing forest		
This server will become the first domain controller	in the new domain.	
☐ Create a new domain tree root instead of a ne	ew child domain	
Create a new domain in a new forest		
More about possible deployment configurations		
< Back	Next >	Cancel

FIGURE 3-1 Specify that you want to add a domain controller to the domain.

8. When you click Next, you see the Network Credentials page, shown in Figure 3-2. In the field provided, type the full DNS name of any domain in the forest where you plan to install the domain controller. Preferably, this should be the name of the forest root domain, such as cpandl.com. If you are logged on to a domain in this forest and have the appropriate permissions, you can use your current logged-on credentials to perform the installation. Otherwise, select Alternate Credentials, click Set, type the user name and password for an enterprise administrator account in the previously specified domain, and then click OK.

ive Di	rectory Domain Services Installation Wizard
Spec	Credentials ify the name of the forest where the installation will occur and account ntials that have sufficient privileges to perform the installation.
Type contr	the name of any domain in the forest where you plan to install this domain oller:
cpar	idl.com
<u>л</u> • А	The current user credentials cannot be selected because they are local to this computer. A set of domain credentials is needed. Iternate credentials:
cpar	idl.com\williams Set
More	about <u>who can install Active Directory Domain Services</u>
	<back next=""> Car</back>

FIGURE 3-2 Set the network credentials.

9. When you click Next, the wizard validates the domain name you provided and then lists all domains in the related forest. On the Select A Domain page, shown in Figure 3-3, select the domain to which the domain controller will be added and then click Next.



FIGURE 3-3 Select the target domain.

- 10. When you click Next, the wizard determines the available Active Directory sites. On the Select A Site page, you'll see a list of available sites. If there is a site that corresponds to the IP address of the server you are promoting, select the Use The Site That Corresponds To The IP Address check box to place the new domain controller in this site. If you want to place the new domain controller in the isn't an available subnet for the current IP address, select the site in which you want to locate the domain controller.
- 11. When you click Next, the wizard examines the DNS configuration and attempts to determine whether any authoritative DNS servers are available. It then displays the Additional Domain Controller Options page, shown in Figure 3-4. As permitted, select additional installation options for the domain controller and then click Next.

Active Directory Domain Services Insta Additional Domain Controller Options		
		T
Select additional options for this domain c	ontroller.	
DNS server		
🔽 Global catalog		
🔲 Read-only domain controller (RODC)		
Additional information:		
There is currently 1 DNS server that is r server for this domain.	-	
		<u>~</u>
More about additional domain controller	options	

FIGURE 3-4 Specify the additional installation options.

- **12.** If you choose to let the wizard install the DNS Server service, note the following:
 - a. The DNS Server service will be installed, and the domain controller will also act as a DNS server. A primary DNS zone will be created as an Active Directory–integrated zone with the same name as the new domain you are setting up. The wizard will also update the server's TCP/IP configuration so that its primary DNS server is set to itself.
 - **b.** During installation of the operating system, Windows Setup installs and configures IPv4 and IPv6 if networking components were detected. If

you've configured dynamic IPv4, IPv6, or both addresses, you'll see a warning. Click Yes to ignore the warning and continue.

c. If you want to modify the TCP/IP configuration, click No to return to the Additional Domain Controller Options page and then make the appropriate changes to the system configuration before clicking Next to continue. If you configure a static IPv4 address but do not configure a static IPv6 address, you'll also see the warning. To ignore the warning and continue with the installation, click Yes.

NOTE At a minimum, you should configure a static IPv4 address before continuing. Click Start, type **ncpa.cpl** in the Search box, and then press Enter. In Network Connections, double-click Local Area Connection. In Local Area Connection Properties, click Properties and then double-click Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4), make any necessary changes, and then click OK. If you also want to configure a static IPv6 address, double-click Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6), make any necessary changes, and then click OK. If you decide not to configure a static IPv6 address, you may need to make changes to DNS records later if your organization starts using IPv6 addresses.

- **d.** The wizard next attempts to register a delegation for the DNS server with an authoritative parent zone. If you are integrating with an existing DNS infrastructure, you should manually create a delegation to the DNS server and then click Yes to continue. Otherwise, you can ignore this warning and click Yes to continue.
- **13.** If you choose to not let the wizard install the DNS Server service, the wizard next attempts to register a delegation for the DNS server with an authoritative parent zone. If the wizard cannot create a delegation for the DNS server, it displays a warning message to indicate that you must create the delegation manually. Click No to return to the Additional Domain Controller Options page so you can select and install DNS Server services. To continue without installing DNS Server services, click Yes. Keep in mind that you'll then need to manually configure the required DNS settings, including SRV and A resource records.
- 14. If you selected Use Advanced Installation Mode, the Install From Media page is displayed, as shown in Figure 3-5. You can provide the location of installation media to be used to create the domain controller and configure AD DS, or you can have all of the replication done over the network. Even if you install from media, some data will be replicated over the network from a source domain controller. For more information about installing from media, see "Adding Writable Domain Controllers Using Installation Media."

Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard
Install from Media
Select one of the following options, depending on whether you want to replicate domain data over the network from an existing domain controller or you want to replicate domain data from media created from an existing domain controller (install from media). In either case, the existing domain controller must be in the same domain as the new domain controller.
Replicate data over the network from an existing domain controller Replicate data from media at the following location Consult the help to make sure that the media you are using is compatible with the type of domain controller you are installing. Even if you select this option, some data is copied over the network. Location:
F:WTDSRestore Browse
The media you select must have been created from a writable domain controller, not a read-only domain controller. More about <u>install from media</u>
<pre></pre>

FIGURE 3-5 Set the installation mode.

- **15.** If you selected Use Advanced Installation Mode, the Source Domain Controller page is displayed. Select Any Writable Domain Controller or select This Specific Domain Controller to specify a source domain controller for replication. Then click Next. If you choose to install from media, only changes since the media was created will be replicated from this source domain controller. If you choose not to install from media, all data will be replicated from this source domain controller.
- 16. On the Location For Database, Log Files, And SYSVOL page, shown in Figure 3-6, select a location to store the Active Directory database folder, log folder, and SYSVOL folder. The default location for the database and log folders is a subfolder of %SystemRoot%\NTDS. The default location for the SYSVOL folder is %SystemRoot%\Sysvol. You'll get better performance if the database folder and log folder are on two separate volumes, each on a separate disk. Placement of the SYSVOL is less critical, and you can accept the default in most cases. Although you can change the storage locations later, the process is lengthy and complex.

Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard	×
Location for Database, Log Files, and SYSVOL. Specify the folders that will contain the Active Directory domain control database, log files, and SYSVDL.	ler
For better performance and recoverability, store the database and log f volumes.	lles on separate
Database folder:	
F:\Windows\NTDS	Browse
Log files folder:	
F:\Windows\NTDS	Browse
SYSVOL folder:	
F:\Windows\SYSVOL	Browse
,	
More about <u>placing Active Directory Domain Services files</u>	
< Back Next	> Cancel

FIGURE 3-6 Configure storage locations.

NOTE Your organization should have a specific plan in place for sizing the server hardware and designating Active Directory storage locations. You'll want to ensure the server you use is powerful enough to handle authentication, replication, and other directory duties. The server's hard disk configuration should be optimized for storage of Active Directory data. Each storage volume should have at least 20 percent free storage space at all times. You may also want to use a redundant array of independent disks (RAID) to protect against disk failure.

- 17. Click Next. On the Directory Services Restore Mode Administrator Password page, type and confirm the password that should be used when you want to start the computer in Directory Services Restore Mode. Be sure to track this password carefully. This special password is used only in Restore mode and is different from the Administrator account password. The password complexity and length must comply with the domain security policy.
- 18. Click Next. On the Summary page, review the installation options. If desired, click Export Settings to save these settings to an answer file that you can use to perform unattended installation of other domain controllers. When you click Next again, the wizard will use the options you've selected to install and configure Active Directory. This process can take several minutes. If you specified that the DNS Server service should be installed, the server will also be configured as a DNS server at this time.

19. When the wizard finishes configuring Active Directory, click Finish. You are then prompted to restart the computer. Click Restart Now to reboot.

After installing Active Directory, you should verify the installation. Start by examining the installation log, which is stored in the Dcpromo.log file in the %SystemRoot%\Debug folder. The log is very detailed and takes you through every step of the installation process, including the creation of directory partitions and the securing of the Registry for Active Directory.

Next, check the DNS configuration in the DNS console. DNS is updated to add SRV and A records for the server. Because you created a new domain, DNS is updated to include a forward lookup zone for the domain. You may also need to add a reverse lookup zone for the domain.

Check for updates in Active Directory Users and Computers. The Domain Controllers OU should have an account for the domain controller you installed.

Adding Writable Domain Controllers Using Installation Media

Performing an Active Directory installation from media allows the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard to get the initial data for the Configuration, Schema, and Domain directory partitions, and optionally the SYSVOL, from the backup media rather than through a full synchronization over the network. In this way, you establish a domain controller using a media backup of another domain controller rather than using replication over the network. Although not designed to be used to restore failed domain controllers, this technique does help you rapidly establish additional domain controllers by reducing the amount of network traffic generated, accelerating the process of installing an additional domain controller, and getting the directory partition data synchronized.

You can use a 32-bit domain controller to generate installation media for a 64-bit domain controller, and vice versa. When installing Active Directory using a media backup, you'll want to follow these guidelines:

- Use the most recent media backup to reduce the number of updates that must be replicated.
- Use a backup of a domain controller running the same operating system in the same domain in which the new domain controller is being created.
- Copy the backup to a local drive on the server you are configuring. You cannot use backup media from Universal Naming Convention (UNC) paths or mapped drives.
- Don't use backup media that is older than the tombstone lifetime of the domain. The default value is 60 days. If you try to use backup media older than the tombstone lifetime, the Active Directory installation will fail.

You can create installation media by completing the following steps:

- Log on to a domain controller. On a writable domain controller, the account you use must be a member of the Administrators, Server Operators, Domain Admins, or Enterprise Admins group. On a read-only domain controller, a delegated user can create the installation media for another read-only domain controller.
- Click Start, right-click Command Prompt, and then click Run As Administrator to open an elevated command prompt. At the command prompt, type ntdsutil. This starts the Directory Services Management tool.
- **3.** At the ntdsutil prompt, type **activate instance ntds**. This sets Active Directory as the directory service instance to work with.
- 4. Type ifm to access the install from media prompt. Then type one of the following commands, where *FolderPath* is the full path to the folder in which to store the Active Directory backup media files:
 - **Create Full FolderPath** Creates a full writable installation media backup of Active Directory. You can use the media to install a writable domain controller or a read-only domain controller.
 - Create RODC FolderPath Creates a read-only installation media backup of Active Directory. You can use the media to install a read-only domain controller. The backup media does not contain security credentials, such as passwords.
- 5. Ntdsutil creates snapshots of Active Directory partitions. When it finishes creating the snapshots, Ntdsutil mounts the snapshots as necessary and then defragments the media backup of the Active Directory database. The progress of the defragmentation is shown by percent complete.
- 6. Next, Ntdsutil copies registry data related to Active Directory. When it finishes this process, Ntdsutil unmounts any snapshots it was working with. The backup process should complete successfully. If it doesn't, note and resolve any issues that prevented successful creation of the backup media, such as the target disk running out of space or insufficient permissions to copy to the folder path.
- 7. Type quit at the ifm prompt and then type quit at the ntdsutil prompt.
- Copy the backup media to a local drive on the server for which you are installing Active Directory.
- 9. On the server you want to make a domain controller, start the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard in Advanced Installation mode. Follow all the same steps you would if you were adding a domain controller to the domain without media. After you select additional domain controller installation options and get past any DNS prompts, you see the Install From Media page. On this page, select Replicate From Media Stored At The Following Location, and then type the location of the backup media files or click Browse to find the backup media files.

10. You can now complete the rest of the installation as discussed in the section titled "Adding Writable Domain Controllers Using Replication" earlier in this chapter. Continue with the rest of the steps and perform the postinstallation checks as well.

REAL WORLD Objects that were modified, added, or deleted since the installation media was created must be replicated. If the installation media was created recently, the amount of replication that is required should be considerably less than the amount of replication required otherwise.

The only data that must be fully replicated from another domain controller is the SYSVOL data. Although you can run Ntdsutil with an option to include the SYSVOL folder in the installation media, the SYSVOL folder from the installation media cannot be used because SYSVOL must be absent when the Active Directory Domain Services server role starts on a server running Windows Server 2008.

Adding Writable Domain Controllers Using Answer Files or the Command Line

On a Full Server or Core Server installation of Windows Server 2008, you can add domain controllers using an unattended installation or the command line. You must be logged on as the Domain Admins group in the domain.

With the unattended method of installation, you must first prepare an answer file that contains the desired configuration values. You can create the required answer file by completing the following steps:

- 1. Open Notepad or any other text editor.
- 2. On the first line, type [DCINSTALL], and then press Enter.
- 3. Type the following entries, one entry on each line.

ReplicaOrNewDomain=Replica ReplicaDomainDNSName=FQDNOfDCDomain SiteName=SiteName InstallDNS=Yes ConfirmGc=Yes CreateDNSDelegation=Yes UserDomain=DomainOfAdminAccount UserName=AdminAccountInDomainOfDC Password=* ReplicationSourceDC=SoureDCName DatabasePath="LocalDatabasePath" LogPath="LocalLogPath" SYSVOLPath="LocalSysVolPath" SafeModeAdminPassword= RebootOnCompletion=Yes **NOTE** Values you must specify are shown in bold. You can set Password to * if you do not want to include it in the answer file. When you run Dcpromo to initiate the unattended installation, you will be prompted for the password.

TIP SafeModeAdminPassword sets the Directory Services Restore Mode password in the answer file. If you don't want to include the password, you can omit the password. However, you will need to use the /SafeModeAdminPassword command-line parameter to provide the password later when you run Dcpromo to initiate the unattended installation.

4. If you want to configure the domain controller as a DNS server, add the following command.

InstallDNS=yes

5. If you want to configure the domain controller as a global catalog server, add the following command.

ConfirmGC=yes

6. If you are installing from media, you can refer to the location where you stored the installation media by using the following command.

ReplicationSourcePath=FolderPathToMedia

Save the answer file as a .txt file and then copy the file to a location accessible from the server you want to promote.

The following is a complete example.

```
; Replica DC promotion
[DCInstall]
ReplicaOrNewDomain=Replica
ReplicaDomainDNSName=cpandl.com
SiteName=LA-First-Site
InstallDNS=Yes
ConfirmGc=Yes
CreateDNSDelegation=No
UserDomain=cpandl.com
UserName=cpandl.com
UserName=c
```

; Set SafeModeAdminPassword later SafeModeAdminPassword=

; Run-time flags (optional) RebootOnCompletion=Yes

 After you create the answer file, you can start the unattended installation by entering the following at a command prompt:

dcpromo /unattend:"PathToAnswerFile"

where *PathToAnswerFile* is the full file path to the answer file, such as C:\ data\newdc.txt.

At the command line, you can add a domain controller to a domain using the following command.

```
dcpromo /unattend
/ReplicaOrNewDomain:Replica
/ReplicaDomainDNSName:FQDNOfDCDomain
/SiteName:SiteName
/InstallDNS:Yes
/ConfirmGc:Yes
/CreateDNSDelegation:Yes
/UserDomain:DomainOfAdminAccount
/UserName:AdminAccountInDomainOfDC
/Password:"Password"
/ReplicationSourceDC: SoureDCName
/DatabasePath:"LocalDatabasePath"
/LogPath:"LocalLogPath"
/SYSVOLPath:"LocalSysVolPath"
/SafeModeAdminPassword:"Password"
/RebootOnCompletion:Yes
```

If you are installing from media, you can refer to the location where you stored the installation media by using the following command.

/ReplicationSourcePath:FolderPathtoMedia

When the unattended installation or command-line execution completes, Dcpromo exits with a return code. A return code of 1 to 10 indicates success. A return code of 11 to 100 indicates failure. Note any related error text and take appropriate corrective action as necessary.

Decommissioning Domain Controllers

When you no longer need a domain controller, you can decommission it and remove it from service. Running the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard (Dcpromo.exe) on the domain controller allows you to remove Active Directory Domain Services and demote the domain controller to either a stand-alone server or a member server.

The process for removing an additional domain controller is different from the process for removing the last domain controller. If the domain controller is the last in the domain, it will become a stand-alone server in a workgroup. Otherwise, if other domain controllers remain in the domain, the domain controller will become a member server in the domain.

Preparing to Remove Domain Controllers

Before you demote a domain controller, you should determine the functions and roles the server has in the domains and plan accordingly. With regard to Active Directory Domain Services, the functions and roles to check for are as follows:

Global catalog server

- Don't accidentally remove the last global catalog server from a domain. If you remove the last global catalog server from a domain, you will cause serious problems. Users won't be able to log on to the domain, and directory search functions will be impaired. To avoid problems, ensure another global catalog server is available or designate a new one.
- Don't accidentally remove the last global catalog server from a site. If you remove the last global catalog server from a site, computers in the site will query a global catalog server in another site when searching for resources in other domains in the forest, and a domain controller responding to a user's logon or authentication request will need to obtain the required information from a global catalog server in another site. To avoid problems, ensure another global catalog server is available, designate a new one, or verify the affected site is connected to other sites with fast, reliable links.
- Determine whether a domain controller is acting as a global catalog server by typing the following at a command prompt: dsquery server -domain DomainName | dsget server -isgc -dnsname where DomainName is the name of the domain you want to examine. The resulting output lists all global catalog servers in the domain.

Bridgehead server

 Don't accidentally remove the last preferred bridgehead server from a site.
 If you remove the last preferred bridgehead server, intersite replication will stop until you change the preferred bridgehead server configuration options. You can avoid problems by (1) removing the preferred bridgehead server designation prior to demoting the domain controller and thereby allowing Active Directory to select the bridgehead servers to use, or (2) ensuring one or more additional preferred bridgehead servers are available.

Determine whether a domain controller is acting as a bridgehead server by typing the following at a command prompt: **repadmin /bridgeheads site:***SiteName* where *SiteName* is the name of the site, such as repadmin /bridgeheads site:Seattle-First-Site. The resulting output is a list of bridgehead servers in the specified site. If you omit the site:SiteName value, the details for the current site are returned.

Operations master

- Don't accidentally demote a domain controller holding a forestwide or domainwide operations master role. If you remove an operations master without first transferring the role, Active Directory will try to transfer the role as part of the demotion process, and the domain controller that ends up holding the role may not be the one you would have selected.
- Determine whether a domain controller is acting as an operations master by typing the following at a command prompt: **netdom query fsmo**. The resulting output lists the forestwide and domainwide operations master role holders.

Before you remove the last domain controller in a domain, you should examine domain accounts and look for encrypted files and folders. Because the deleted domain will no longer exist, its accounts and cryptographic keys will no longer be applicable, and this results in the deletion of all domain accounts and all certificates and cryptographic keys. You must decrypt any encrypted data on the server, including data stored using the Encrypting File System (EFS), before removing the last domain controller, or the data will be permanently inaccessible.

You can check for encrypted files and folders by using the EFSInfo utility. At a command prompt, enter **efsinfo** /s:DriveDesignator /i | find ": Encrypted" where DriveDesignator is the drive designator of the volume to search, such as C:.

The credentials you need to demote a domain controller depend on the domain controller's functions and roles. Keep the following in mind:

- To remove the last domain controller from a domain tree or child domain, you must use an account that is a member of the Enterprise Admins group or be able to provide credentials for an enterprise administrator account.
- To remove the last domain controller in a forest, you must log on to the domain as Administrator or use an account that is a member of the Domain Admins group.
- To remove other domain controllers, you must use an account that is a member of either the Enterprise Admins or Domain Admins group.

Removing Additional Domain Controllers

You can remove an additional domain controller from a domain by completing the following steps:

- Start the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard by clicking Start, typing dcpromo in the Search box, and pressing Enter.
- 2. When the wizard starts, it will confirm that the computer is a domain controller. You should see a message stating the server is already a domain controller and that by continuing you will remove Active Directory, as shown in Figure 3-7. Click Next.

👼 Active Directory Domain	Services Installation Wizard	×
	Welcome to the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard This computer is already an Active Directory domain controller. You can use this wizard to uninstall Active Directory Domain Services on this server.	
	More about <u>Active Directory Domain Services</u>	
	< Back Next > Cancel	

FIGURE 3-7 Initiate Active Directory removal.

3. If the domain controller is a global catalog server, a message appears to warn you about ensuring other global catalog servers are available, as shown in Figure 3-8. Before you click OK to continue, you should ensure one or more global catalog servers are available, as discussed previously.

a Active	Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard	×
0	This Active Directory domain controller is a global catalog server. Global catalog servers are used to process user logons. You should make sure other global catalog servers are accessible to users of this domain before removing Active Directory Domain Services from this computer.	
	ОК	

FIGURE 3-8 Ensure that you don't accidentally remove the last global catalog server.
4. On the Delete The Domain page, click Next without making a selection. If the domain controller is the last in the domain, you'll see a warning like the one shown in Figure 3-9. In this case, I recommend clicking No and then clicking Cancel, which will exit the wizard and allow you to perform any necessary preparatory tasks if you do indeed want to remove the last domain controller. When you are ready to proceed, you should perform the tasks discussed in "Removing the Last Domain Controller," later in this chapter.



FIGURE 3-9 Ensure that you don't accidentally remove the last domain controller.

- 5. If the domain controller is the last DNS server for one or more Active Directory–integrated zones, a message appears to warn you that you may be unable to resolve DNS names in the applicable zones. Before continuing by clicking OK, you should ensure that you establish another DNS server for these zones.
- If the domain controller has application directory partitions, the next page you will see is the Application Directory Partitions page, shown in Figure 3-10. You will need to do the following:
 - a. If you want to retain any application directory partitions that are stored on the domain controller, you will need to use the application that created the partition to extract and save the partition data as appropriate. If the application does not provide such a tool, you can let the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard remove the related directory partitions. When you are ready to continue with Active Directory removal, you can click Refresh to update the list and see any changes.
 - **b.** Click Next. Confirm that you want to delete all application directory partitions on the domain controller by selecting the related option and then clicking Next. Keep in mind that deleting the last replica of an application partition will delete all data associated with that partition.
- 7. The wizard checks DNS to see if any active delegations for the server need to be removed. If the Remove DNS Delegation page is displayed, as shown in Figure 3-11, verify that the Delete The DNS Delegations Pointing To This Server check box is selected. Then click Next. If you don't remove the delegations at this time, you'll need to manually remove them later using the DNS console.

🐻 Active Directory Domain Services Insta	allation Wizard				
Application Directory Partitions Applications create these directory partition	Application Directory Partitions Applications create these directory partitions to store and replicate data.				
This domain controller holds the last replic partitions:	This domain controller holds the last replica of the following application directory partitions:				
Partition Distinguished Name	Description				
DC=DomainDnsZones,DC=cpandl,D	Microsoft DNS Directory				
DC=ForestDnsZones,DC=cpandl,DC	Microsoft DNS Directory				
, If a utility was provided by the application use that utility to remove it.	Refresh that installed the application directory partition,				
•	To have the wizard remove all application directory partitions from this domain controller,				
More about <u>removing application director</u>	2 partitions				
	< Back Next > Cancel				

FIGURE 3-10 Ensure that you don't accidentally remove the last replica of application partitions.

Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard	×
Remove DNS Delegation	
This server is also a DNS server and contains Active Directory integrated zones. These zones will be deleted during the removal of Active Directory Domain Services on this server. Confirm that you want the wizard to delete the DNS delegations pointing to this server.	
Delete the DNS delegations pointing to this server. You may be prompted for additional credentials to delete the delegation.	
▲ If you do not delete the DNS delegation at that time, you should manually remove the corresponding record in the parent domain.	
< Back Next > Cance	

FIGURE 3-11 Verify that you want to remove DNS delegations.

- 8. If you are removing DNS delegations, the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard then examines the DNS configuration, checking your credentials and attempting to contact a DNS server in the domain. If you need additional credentials to remove DNS delegations, the Windows Security dialog box is displayed. Enter administrative credentials for the server that hosts the DNS zone in which the domain controller is registered and then click OK.
- 9. On the Administrator Password page, you are prompted to type and confirm the password for the local Administrator account on the server. You need to enter a password for the local Administrator account because domain controllers don't have local accounts but member or stand-alone servers do, so the local Administrator account will be re-created as part of the Active Directory removal process. Click Next.
- 10. On the Summary page, review your selections. Optionally, click Export Settings to save these settings to an answer file that you can use to perform unattended demotion of other domain controllers. When you click Next again, the wizard uses the options you've selected to demote the domain controller. This process can take several minutes.

NOTE If there are updates to other domains in the forest that have not been replicated, the domain controller replicates these updates, and then the wizard begins the demotion process. If the domain controller is also a DNS server, the DNS data in the ForestDnsZones and DomainDnsZones partitions is removed. If the domain controller is the last DNS server in the domain, this results in the last replica of the DNS information being removed from the domain. All associated DNS records are lost and may need to be re-created.

11. On the Completing The Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard page, click Finish. You can either select the Reboot On Completion check box to have the server restart automatically, or you can restart the server to complete the Active Directory removal when you are prompted to do so.

When removing an additional domain controller from a domain, the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard does the following:

- Removes Active Directory and all related services from the server and makes it a member server in the domain
- Changes the computer account type and moves the computer account from the Domain Controllers container in Active Directory to the Computers container
- Transfers any operations master roles from the server to another domain controller in the domain
- Updates DNS to remove the domain controller SRV records
- Creates a local Security Accounts Manager (SAM) account database and a local Administrator account

REAL WORLD When you remove a domain controller, the related server object is removed from the domain directory partition automatically. However, the server object representing the retired domain controller in the configuration directory partition can have child objects and is therefore not removed automatically. For more information on these objects, refer to "Confirming Removal of Deleted Server Objects," later in this chapter.

Removing the Last Domain Controller

You can remove the last domain controller in a domain or forest by completing the following steps:

- Start the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard by clicking Start, typing dcpromo in the Search box, and pressing Enter.
- 2. When the wizard starts, click Next. If the domain controller is a global catalog server, a message appears to warn you about ensuring other global catalog servers are available. Click OK to continue.
- 3. On the Delete The Domain page, select Delete The Domain Because This Server Is The Last Domain Controller In The Domain check box, as shown in Figure 3-12. Click Next to continue. After you remove the last domain controller in a domain or forest, you can no longer access any directory data, Active Directory accounts, or encrypted data.

🐻 Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard	×
Delete the Domain	P
Indicate whether this is the last domain controller in the domain.	
Delete the domain because this server is the last domain controller in the domain	
① The domain will no longer exist after you uninstall Active Directory Domain Services from the last domain controller in the domain. Before you continue: Be aware that all user and computer accounts will be deleted.	
Be aware that all computers that belong to this domain will not be able to log on to the domain or access domain services anymore.	
All cryptographic keys will be deleted. We recommend that you export them before proceeding.	
Decrypt all encrypted data such as Encrypting File System (EFS)-encrypted files or e-mail before deleting the domain; otherwise, this data will be permanently inaccessible.	
< Back Next > Can	cel

FIGURE 3-12 Verify that you want to delete the domain or forest.

- 4. The rest of the installation proceeds as previously discussed. Continue with steps 6 through 11 of the previous section, "Removing Additional Domain Controllers." Note the following:
 - If you are removing the last domain controller from a domain, the wizard verifies that there are no child domains of the current domain before performing the removal operation. If child domains are found, removal of Active Directory fails, with an error telling you that you cannot remove Active Directory.
 - When the domain being removed is a child domain, the wizard notifies a domain controller in the parent domain that the child domain is being removed. For a parent domain in its own tree, a domain controller in the forest root domain is notified. Either way, the domain object is tombstoned, and this change is then replicated to other domain controllers. The domain object and any related trust objects are also removed from the forest.
 - As part of removing Active Directory from the last domain controller in a domain, all domain accounts, all certificates, and all cryptographic keys are removed from the server. The wizard creates a local SAM account database and a local Administrator account. It then changes the computer account type to a stand-alone server and puts the server in a new workgroup.

Removing Domain Controllers Using Answer Files or the Command Line

On a Full Server or Core Server installation of Windows Server 2008, you can remove domain controllers using an unattended removal or the command line. You must be logged on as the Domain Admins group in the domain.

With the unattended removal method, you must first prepare an answer file that contains the desired removal values. You can create an answer file for removing a domain controller by completing the following steps:

- 1. Open Notepad or any other text editor.
- 2. On the first line, type [DCINSTALL], and then press Enter.
- 3. Type the following entries, one entry on each line.

UserName=AdminAccountInDomainOfDC UserDomain=DomainOfAdminAccount Password="PasswordOfAdminAccount" AdministratorPassword=NewLocalAdminPassword RemoveApplicationPartitions=yes RetainDCMetadata=No RemoveDNSDelegation=yes RebootOnCompletion=yes 4. If the account that is being used to remove AD DS is different from the account in the parent domain that has the privileges that are required to remove a DNS delegation, you must specify the account that can remove the DNS delegation by entering the following additional parameters.

DNSDelegationUserName=DelegationAdminAccount DNSDelegationPassword="Password"

5. If the domain controller is the last DNS server for one or more Active Directory–integrated DNS zones that it hosts, Dcpromo will exit with an error. You can force Dcpromo to proceed by entering the following additional parameter.

IgnoreIsLastDNSServerForZone=yes

6. If the domain controller is the last in the domain or forest, Dcpromo will exit with an error. You can force Dcpromo to proceed by entering the following additional parameter.

IsLastDCInDomain=yes

NOTE If there is actually another domain controller in the domain, Dcpromo will exit with a mismatch error. Typically, this is what you'd want to happen. However, you can force Dcpromo to continue with the removal as if this were the last domain controller by using IgnoreIsLastDCInDomainMismatch=Yes.

- **7.** Save the answer file as a .txt file and then copy the file to a location accessible from the server you want to promote.
- **8.** After you create the answer file, you can start the unattended removal by entering the following at a command prompt:

dcpromo /unattend:"PathToAnswerFile"

where *PathToAnswerFile* is the full file path to the answer file, such as C:\data\ removedc.txt.

At the command line, you can remove a domain controller from a domain using the following command.

```
dcpromo /unattend
/UserName:AdminAccountInDomainOfDC
/UserDomain:DomainOfAdminAccount
/Password:"PasswordOfAdminAccount"
/AdministratorPassword:NewLocalAdminPassword
/RemoveApplicationPartitions:yes
/RetainDCMetadata:No
/RemoveDNSDelegation:yes
/RebootOnCompletion:yes
```

If the domain controller is the last DNS server for one or more Active Directoryintegrated DNS zones that it hosts, Dcpromo will exit with an error. You can force Dcpromo to proceed using the following additional parameter.

```
/IgnoreIsLastDNSServerForZone:yes
```

If the domain controller is the last in the domain or forest, Dcpromo will exit with an error. You can force Dcpromo to proceed using the following additional parameter.

/IsLastDCInDomain:yes

When the unattended removal or command-line execution completes, Dcpromo exits with a return code. A return code of 1 to 10 indicates success. A return code of 11 to 100 indicates failure. Note any related error text and take appropriate corrective action as necessary.

Forcing the Removal of Domain Controllers

A domain controller must have connectivity to other domain controllers in the domain in order to demote the domain controller and successfully remove Active Directory Domain Services. If a domain controller has no connectivity to other domain controllers, the standard removal process will fail, and you will need to connect the domain controller to the domain and then restart the removal process. In a limited number of situations, however, you might not want or be able to connect the domain controller to the domain and instead might want to force the removal of the domain controller.

Forcing the removal of a domain controller is a three-part process. You must:

- 1. Restart the domain controller in Directory Services Restore Mode.
- 2. Perform the forced removal of the domain controller.
- 3. Clean up the Active Directory forest metadata.

These tasks are discussed in the sections that follow.

Restarting a Domain Controller in Directory Services Restore Mode

Before you can forcibly remove Active Directory Domain Services, you must restart the domain controller in Directory Services Restore Mode. Restarting in this mode takes the domain controller offline, meaning it functions as a member server, not as a domain controller. During installation of Active Directory Domain Services, you set the Administrator password for logging on to the server in Directory Services Restore Mode. You can restart a domain controller in Directory Services Restore Mode manually by pressing the F8 key during domain controller startup. You must then log on by using the Directory Services Restore Mode password for the local Administrator account. A disadvantage of this technique is that if you accidentally restart the domain controller, you might forget to put it back into Directory Services Restore Mode.

To ensure the domain controller is in Directory Services Restore Mode until you specify otherwise, you can use the System Configuration utility or the Boot Configuration Data (BCD) editor to set a Directory Repair flag. Once this flag is set, the domain controller will always start in Directory Services Restore Mode, and you can be sure that you won't accidentally restart the domain controller in another mode.

To restart a domain controller in Directory Services Restore Mode using the System Configuration utility, complete the following steps:

- **1.** On the Start menu, point to Administrative Tools, and then click System Configuration.
- **2.** On the Boot tab, in Boot Options, select Safe Boot, and then click Active Directory Repair, as shown in Figure 3-13.
- 3 Click OK to exit the System Configuration utility and save your settings.
- **4.** Restart the domain controller. The domain controller restarts in Directory Services Restore Mode.

System Configuration		
General Boot Services Startu	p Tools	
Microsoft Windows Server 2008 (C Microsoft Windows Server 2008 (C):\Windows) : Current OS; Default OS :\Windows)	
Advanced options Se	t as default Delete	Timeout:
C Minimal	Boot log Base video	,
Active Directory repair Network	OS boot information	Make all boot settings permanent
	OK Cance	el Apply Help

FIGURE 3-13 Change the boot options.

When you have finished performing procedures in Directory Services Restore Mode, restart the domain controller in normal mode by completing the following steps:

1. On the Start menu, point to Administrative Tools, and then click System Configuration.

- 2. On the General tab, in Startup Selection, click Normal Startup, and then click OK.
- 3. The domain controller restarts in normal mode.

To restart a domain controller in Directory Services Restore Mode using the BCD editor, complete the following steps:

- **1.** Click Start, right-click Command Prompt, and then click Run As Administrator to open an elevated command prompt.
- At the command prompt, enter the following command: bcdedit /set safeboot disrepair. This configures the boot process to start in Directory Services Restore Mode.
- At the command prompt, enter the following command: shutdown -t 0 -r. This shuts down the server and restarts it without delay.

When you have finished performing procedures in Directory Services Restore Mode, restart the domain controller in normal mode by completing the following steps:

- **1.** Click Start, right-click Command Prompt, and then click Run As Administrator to open an elevated command prompt.
- At the command prompt, you need to enter the following command: bcdedit /deletevalue safeboot. This deletes the safeboot value and returns the boot process to the previous setting.
- At the command prompt, enter the following command: shutdown -t 0 -r. This shuts down the server and restarts it without delay.

Performing Forced Removal of Domain Controllers

You can force the removal of a domain controller by completing the following steps:

- **1.** Click Start, right-click Command Prompt, and then click Run As Administrator to open an elevated command prompt.
- At the command prompt, enter the following command: dcpromo /forceremoval. This starts the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard in Force Removal mode.
- **3.** If the domain controller hosts any operations master roles, is a DNS server, or is a global catalog server, warnings similar to the one shown in Figure 3-14 are displayed to explain how the forced removal of the related function will affect the rest of the environment. After you review the recommendations and take appropriate actions (if possible), click Yes to continue.

🔜 Active	Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard	\times
	This Active Directory domain controller currently performs the RID operations master role. If you remove Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) from this computer, you might have problems creating new user accounts, computer accounts, and security groups. Before you continue, transfer the RID master role to a domain controller in the same domain as this domain controller. If it is not possible to transfer the role, first remove AD DS from this computer, and then use Ntdsutil.exe to seize the role to; if possible, use a recent replication partner in the same site as this domain controller. For more information about transferring and seizing operations master roles, see article 25504 in the Microsoft Knowledge Base (http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=80395).	
	Yes No	

FIGURE 3-14 Review each removal warning in turn.

- The Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard starts. On the Welcome page, click Next.
- 5. On the Force The Removal Of Active Directory Domain Services page, shown in Figure 3-15, review the information about forcing the removal of Active Directory Domain Services and the required metadata cleanup operations, and then click Next.

a Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard	×
Force the Removal of Active Directory Domain Services Consider this option only after you attempt to remove Active Directory Domain Services normally.	
By forcing the removal of Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS), you remove AD DS from this domain controller, including any global catalog and application parition data.	
However, the forest metadata will not be updated. Unless this is the last domain controller in the forest, you must perform metadata cleanup manually.	
Therefore, try to remove AD DS normally by running the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard (dcpromo.exe) on the domain controller before you try to force the removal of AD DS.	
To continue, click Next.	
More about performing metadata cleanuc	
< Back Next > Ca	incel

FIGURE 3-15 Review the forced removal warning.

- 6. If the domain controller is a DNS server with zones integrated with Active Directory, you'll see a warning stating one or more Active Directory–integrated zones will be deleted. Before continuing by clicking OK, you should ensure that there is another DNS server for these zones. Also note that you'll need to manually remove DNS delegations pointing to this server.
- 7. On the Administrator Password page, you are prompted to type and confirm the password for the local Administrator account on the server. You need to enter a password for the local Administrator account because domain controllers don't have local accounts, but member or stand-alone servers do, so the local Administrator account will be re-created as part of the Active Directory removal process. Click Next.
- 8. On the Summary page, review your selections. Optionally, click Export Settings to save these settings to an answer file that you can use to perform unattended forced removal of other domain controllers. When you click Next again, the wizard uses the options you've selected to forcibly remove Active Directory Domain Services. This process can take several minutes.
- **9.** On the Completing The Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard page, click Finish. Do not select the Reboot On Completion check box. When you are prompted to restart the server, do not do so. Instead, you'll want to examine the server and perform any necessary additional tasks. Then when you are finished, restart the server in normal mode using the appropriate technique discussed previously.

When forcibly removing a domain controller from a domain, the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard does the following:

- Removes Active Directory and all related services from the server
- Changes the computer account type
- Creates a local Security Accounts Manager (SAM) account database and a local Administrator account

At the command line, you can force the removal of a domain controller from a domain using the following command.

```
dcpromo /unattend /forceremoval
/AdministratorPassword:NewLocalAdminPassword
/RemoveApplicationPartitions:yes
/RemoveDNSDelegation:yes
/RebootOnCompletion:yes
```

If the domain controller is an operations master, Dcpromo will exit with an error. You can force Dcpromo to proceed using the following additional parameter.

/DemoteFSMO:yes

This option should also suppress errors related to the domain controller being a global catalog server, a DNS server, or both.

When the command-line execution completes, Dcpromo exits with a return code. A return code of 1 to 10 indicates success. A return code of 11 to 100 indicates failure. Note the related error text and take appropriate corrective action as necessary.

Cleaning Up Metadata in the Active Directory Forest

When you force the removal of a disconnected domain controller, the Active Directory forest metadata is not updated automatically as it is when a domain controller is removed normally. Because of this, you must manually update the forest metadata after you remove the domain controller.

You perform metadata cleanup on a domain controller in the domain of the domain controller that you forcibly removed. During metadata cleanup, Active Directory automatically performs the following tasks:

- Removes data from the directory that identifies the retired domain controller to the replication system
- Removes any related File Replication Service (FRS) and Distributed File System (DFS) Replication connections
- Attempts to transfer or seize any operations master roles that the retired domain controller holds

Cleaning Up Server Metadata

On domain controllers that are running Windows Server 2008, you can use Active Directory Users and Computers to clean up server metadata. Deleting the computer object in the Domain Controllers organizational unit (OU) initiates the cleanup process, and all related tasks are performed automatically. Using Active Directory Users and Computers, you can clean up metadata by completing the following steps:

- 1. Open Active Directory Users and Computers by clicking Start, clicking Administrative Tools, and then clicking Active Directory Users And Computers.
- 2. You must be connected to a domain controller in the domain of the domain controller that you forcibly removed. If you aren't or are unsure, right-click the Active Directory Users And Computers node and then click Change Domain Controller. Click the name of a domain controller in the appropriate domain, and then click OK.
- **3.** Expand the domain of the domain controller that you forcibly removed, and then click Domain Controllers.
- **4.** In the details pane, right-click the computer object of the retired domain controller, and then click Delete.
- **5.** In the Active Directory Domain Services dialog box, click Yes to confirm that you want to delete the computer object.

- In the Deleting Domain Controller dialog box, select This Domain Controller Is Permanently Offline And Can No Longer Be Demoted, and then click Delete.
- **7.** If the domain controller was a global catalog server, in the Delete Domain Controller dialog box, click Yes to continue with the deletion.
- 8. If the domain controller currently holds one or more operations master roles, click OK to move the role or roles to the domain controller that is shown. Although you cannot change this domain controller at the present time, you can move the role once the metadata cleanup procedure is completed.

On domain controllers that are running Windows Server 2003 with Service Pack 1 (SP1), Windows Server 2003 with Service Pack 2 (SP2), Windows Server 2003 R2, or Windows Server 2008, you also can perform metadata cleanup by using the Ntdsutil command-line tool. Using Ntdsutil, you can clean up server metadata by completing the following steps:

- **1.** Click Start, right-click Command Prompt, and then click Run As Administrator to open an elevated command prompt.
- 2. At the command prompt, enter the following command: ntdsutil.
- 3. At the ntdsutil prompt, enter the following command: metadata cleanup.
- 4. At the metadata cleanup prompt, enter the following command if you are logged on to the domain of the domain controller that you forcibly removed: remove selected server RetiredServer where RetiredServer is the distinguished name of the retired domain controller. Otherwise, enter the following command: remove selected server RetiredServer on Target-Server where RetiredServer is the distinguished name of the retired domain controller and where TargetServer is the DNS name of a domain controller in the domain of the domain controller that you forcibly removed.

REAL WORLD This process initiates removal of objects that refer to the retired domain controller and then removes those objects from a specified server. Once the changes are replicated, the related objects will be removed throughout the Active Directory forest. You must identify the retired server by its distinguished name, such as "CN=CorpServer27,OU=Domain Controllers,DC=cpandl,DC=com". If you specify a target server, you must use the DNS name of the domain controller to which you want to connect, such as "CorpServer27.Cpandl.com". If you do not specify a target server, the objects are removed from the domain controller to which you are currently connected.

5. When prompted with the Server Remove Configuration dialog box, read the details provided. Click Yes to remove the server object and related metadata. Ntdsutil will then confirm that the server object and related metadata was removed successfully. If you receive an error message that indicates that the object cannot be found, the server object and related metadata might have been removed previously.

- 6. At the metadata cleanup prompt, enter the following command: quit.
- 7. At the ntdsutil prompt, enter the following command: quit.

Confirming Removal of Deleted Server Objects

When you remove a domain controller, the related server object is removed from the domain directory partition automatically. You can confirm this using Active Directory Users and Computers. However, the server object representing the retired domain controller in the configuration directory partition can have child objects and is therefore not removed automatically. You can confirm the status of the server object in the configuration directory partition by using Active Directory Sites And Services.

You can confirm removal of server objects for a retired domain controller by completing the following steps:

- **1.** Open Active Directory Users and Computers by clicking Start, clicking Administrative Tools, and then clicking Active Directory Users And Computers.
- **2.** Expand the domain of the domain controller that you forcibly removed, and then click Domain Controllers.
- 3. In the details pane, the computer object of the retired domain controller should not appear. If it does, follow the steps in "Cleaning Up Server Metadata," earlier in this chapter, to remove the object using Active Directory Users and Computers.
- **4.** Open Active Directory Sites and Services by clicking Start, clicking Administrative Tools, and then clicking Active Directory Sites And Services.
- 5. Any domain controllers associated with a site are listed in the site's Servers node. Select the site that the retired domain controller was previously associated with and then expand the related Servers node.
- 6. Confirm that the server object for the retired domain controller does not contain an NTDS Settings object. If no child objects appear below the server object, you can delete the server object. Right-click the server object and then click Delete. When prompted to confirm, click Yes.

REAL WORLD Do not delete the server object if it has a child object. If an NTDS Settings object appears below the server object, either replication on the domain controller on which you are viewing the configuration container has not occurred or the domain controller was not properly decommissioned. If a child object other than NTDS Settings is listed, another application has published the object. You must contact the appropriate application administrator and determine the required actions to remove the child object.

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William R. Stanek (*http://www.williamstanek.com/*) was born in Burlington, Wisconsin, where he attended public schools, including Janes Elementary School in Racine, Wisconsin. He is the second youngest of five children. After a career in the military, he settled in Washington State, having been captivated by the rugged beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

In 1985 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and entered a two-year training program in intelligence and linguistics at the Defense Language Institute. After graduation he served in various field operations duties in Asia and Europe. In 1990 he won an appointment to Air Combat School and shortly after graduation served in the Persian Gulf War as a combat crewmember on an electronic warfare aircraft. During his two tours in the Persian Gulf War, William flew numerous combat and combat support missions, logging over 200 combat flight hours. His distinguished accomplishments during the war earned him nine medals, including the United States of America's highest flying honor, the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, as well as the Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He earned 29 decorations in his military career.

In 1994 William earned his bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Hawaii Pacific University. In 1995 he earned his master's degree with distinction from Hawaii Pacific University. In 1996 he separated from the military, having spent 11 years in the U.S. Air Force. While in the military, he was stationed in Texas, Japan, Germany, and Hawaii. He served in support of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Provide Comfort. His last station while in the Air Force was with the 324th Intelligence Squadron, Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii.

Born into a family of readers, William was always reading and creating stories. Even before he started school, he read classics like *Treasure Island, The Swiss Family Robinson, Kidnapped, Robinson Crusoe,* and *The Three Musketeers.* Later in his childhood, he started reading works by Jules Verne, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ray Bradbury, Herman Melville, Jack London, Charles Dickens, and Edgar Allan Poe. Of that he says, "Edgar Allan Poe can be pretty bleak and dark, especially when you're 10 years old. But I remember being fascinated with his stories. To this day I can still remember parts of 'The Raven,' *The Tell Tale Heart,* and *The Murders in the Rue Morgue.*"

William completed his first novel in 1986 when he was stationed in Japan, but it wasn't until nearly a decade later that his first book was published. Since then, he has written and had published nearly 100 books, including Active Directory Administrator's Pocket Consultant, Windows Server 2008 Administrator's Pocket Consultant, SQL Server 2008 Administrator's Pocket Consultant, and Windows Server 2008 Inside Out (all from Microsoft Press). In 1997, William was dubbed "A Face Behind the Future" in a feature article about his life in The (Wash.) *Olympian*. At that time he was breaking new ground in shaping the future of business on the Internet. Today William continues to help shape the future of Internet business and technology in general, writing authoritative books covering these subjects for a variety of publishers. William has won many awards from his colleagues and the publishing industry.

For fun he used to spend a lot of time mountain biking and hiking, but now his adventures in the great outdoors are mostly restricted to short treks around the Pacific Northwest. In 2009, William's one-hundredth book will be published by Microsoft. William's life-long commitment to the printed word has helped him become one of the leading technology authors in the world today.