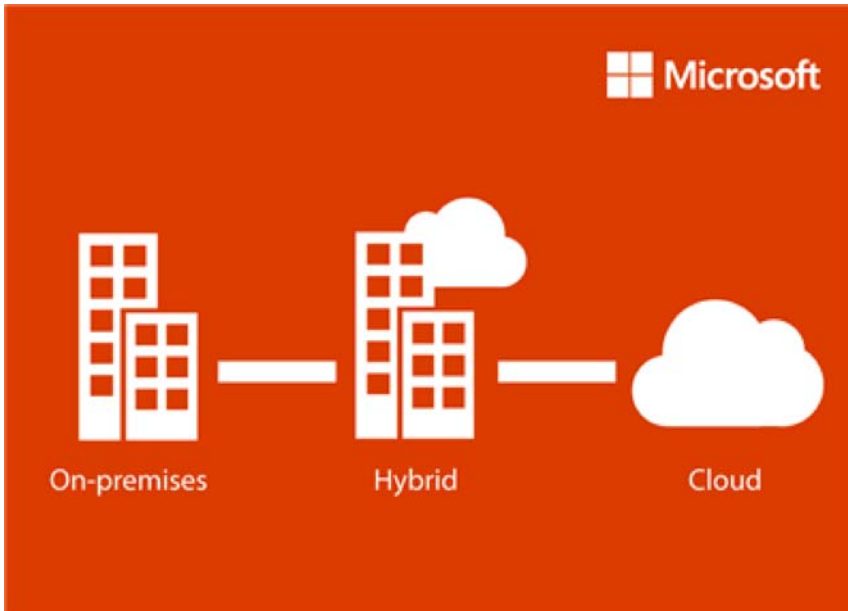


Step-By-Step: Active Directory Migration from Windows Server 2003 to Windows Server 2012 R2



Anthony Bartolo 1 Apr 2014 10:04 PM

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With the end of support for Windows XP, Office 2003 and Exchange 2003 now upon us, April 8th 2014 to be exact, attention now turns to Windows Server or specifically Windows Server 2003. **End of support for Windows Server 2003** is currently slated for July 14th 2015 and a great many organizations still utilize said offering as the cornerstone to their infrastructure to this day. One question to keep in mind though is that with the move on the client end to Windows 8.1, will Windows Server 2003 or 2003 R2 be robust enough to properly enable employees and provide secure access to the plethora of devices in a world now dominated by BYOD? Alternatively an IT administrator might ponder on the further enablement invoked via the deployment of Windows Server 2012 R2 should it be deployed in said organization. Lets explore this possibility via the cornerstone of access enablement offered via Windows Server by investigating the evolution of the Active Directory offering now found in Windows Server 2012 R2

As you may know, Active Directory provides authentication and authorization mechanisms as well as framework from within other related services that can be deployed. As an LDAP compliant database, it commonly contains the most used objects such as users, computers, and groups organized into organizational units or OUs by any number of logical or business needs. Group Policy Objects or GPOs are then linked to OUs to centralize the settings for various users or computers across an organization. Part of the quandaries that IT professionals face is taking advantage of nuances provided in Active Directory in newer server offerings such as Windows Server 2012. As detailed in Pierre's post, "**Windows Server 2012 Active Directory – What's New?**", Active Directory provided in Windows Server 2012 R2 is provided impactful enhancements. Yet some organizations choose not to migrate due to reasons of uncertainty.

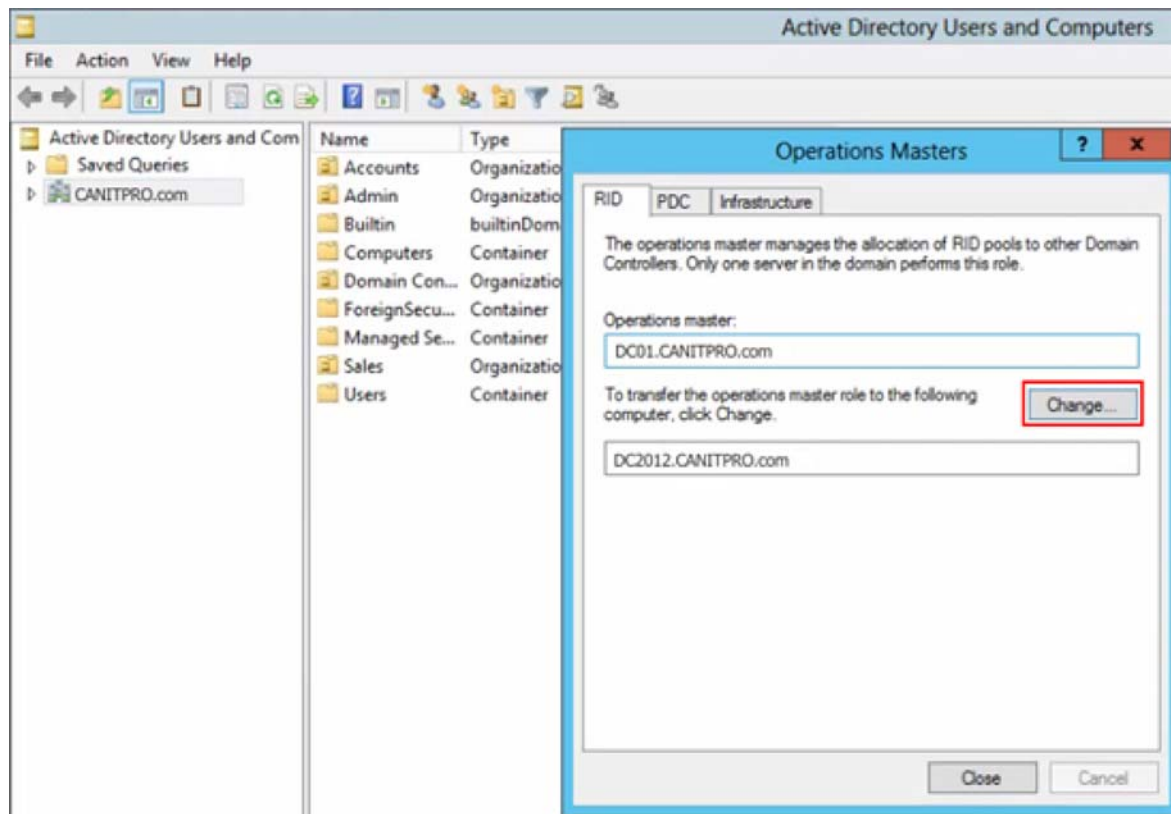
This Step-By-Step has been created to assist with that uncertainty and provide guidance for IT professionals looking to migrate their organizations Active Directory offering from Windows Server 2003 to 2012 R2.

Prerequisites

1. [Download Windows Server 2012 R2](#) and create your lab environment. ([Instructions can be found here](#))
2. **Complete** [Step-By-Step: Adding a Windows Server 2012 R2 Domain Controller to an Existing Windows Server 2003 network](#)

Transferring the Flexible Single Master Operations (FSMO) Role

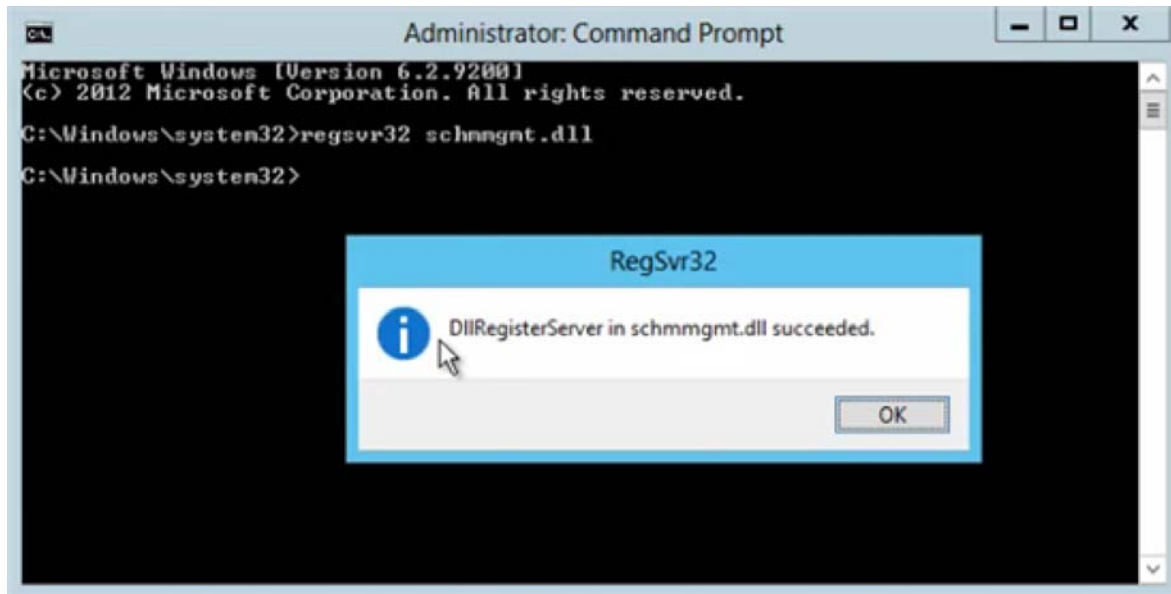
1. Open the **Active Directory Users and Computers** console on your new Windows Server 2012 R2 computer.
2. Right click your domain and select **Operations Masters** in the sub menu.
3. In the **Operations Masters** window, ensure the RID tab is selected.
4. Select the **Change** button.



5. Select **Yes** when asked about transferring the operations master role.
6. Once the operations master role has successfully transferred, click **OK** to continue.
7. Ensure the Operations Master box now shows your new 2012 R2 Windows Server.
8. Repeat steps 4 to 6 for the **PDC** and **Infrastructure** tabs.
9. Once completed, click **Close** to close the **Operations Masters** window.
10. Close the **Active Directory Users and Computers** window.

Changing the Active Directory Domain Controller

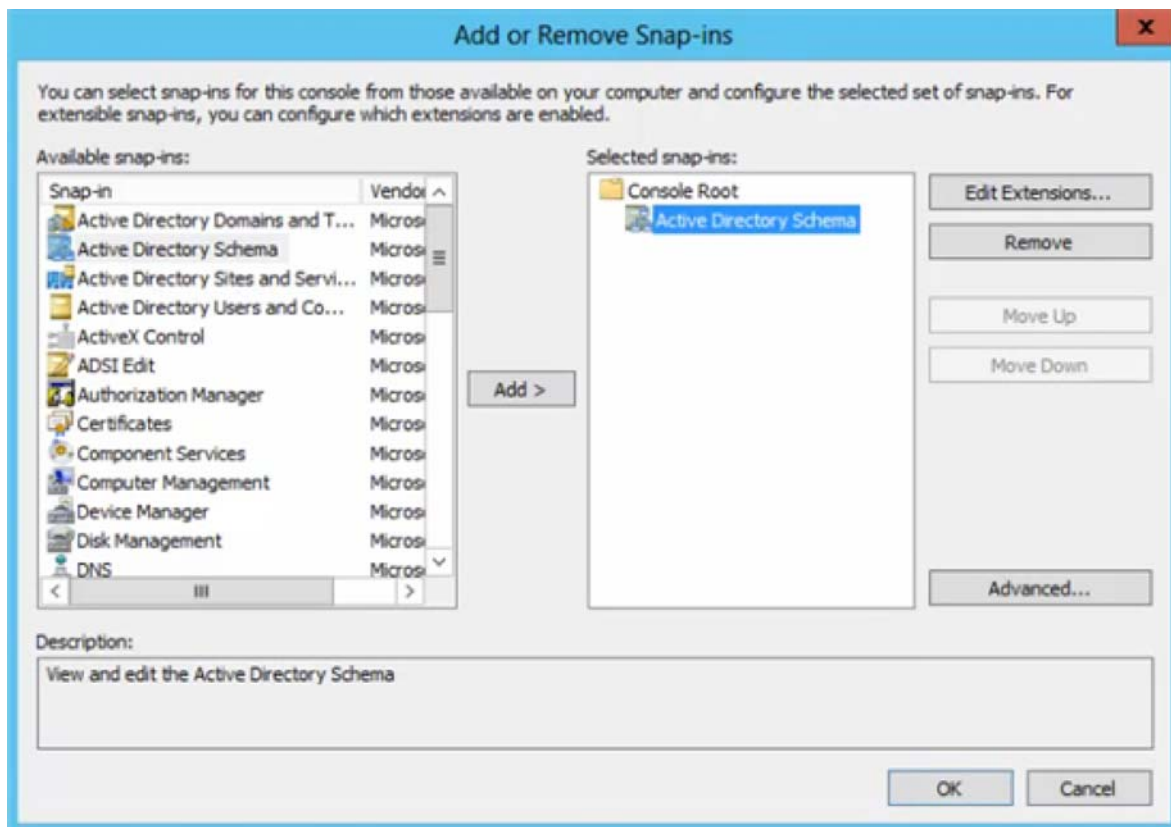
1. Open the **Active Directory Domains and Trusts** console on your new Windows Server 2012 R2 computer.
2. Right click your domain and select **Change Active Directory Domain Controller...** in the sub menu.
3. In the **Change Directory Server** window, select **This Domain Controller or AD LDS instance**.
4. Select your new 2012 R2 Windows Server.



4. Close the command prompt.

Add the Active Directory Schema Console from MMC

1. Open a MMC console on your new Windows Server 2012 R2 computer.
2. Click **File > Add/Remove Snap-in...**
3. In the **Add or Remove Snap-ins** window, select **Active Directory Schema** and click the **Add >** button.



4. Click **OK** to continue.

Change the Schema Master

