

How to perform Metadata cleanup in Active Directory

https://community.spiceworks.com/how_to/132621-how-to-perform-metadata-cleanup-in-active-directory

Once you decide to retire a Domain Controller, it is advised to use DC Promo to demote it which removes the NTDS Settings object. Due to any reason, if the demotion turns out to be unsuccessful, Active Directory will retain few objects of the DC which will cause errors.

In such an event, administrators can manually remove the metadata to remove NTDS Settings object. The traditional method to achieve this is to use the Ntdsutil.exe utility (required for Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 and previous versions) which works for later versions as well.

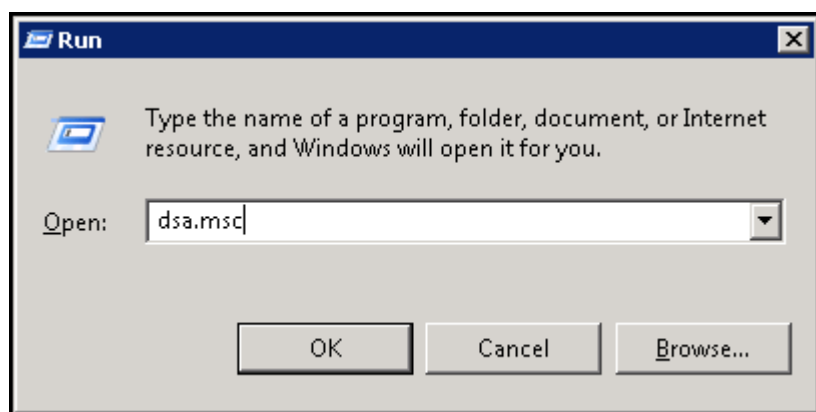
From Windows 2008 and later, we can use the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in to automatically cleanup metadata. Although, it is advised to remove any remaining DC record from Active Directory Sites and Services and DNS snap-in.

For GUI based metadata removal, follow the steps below:

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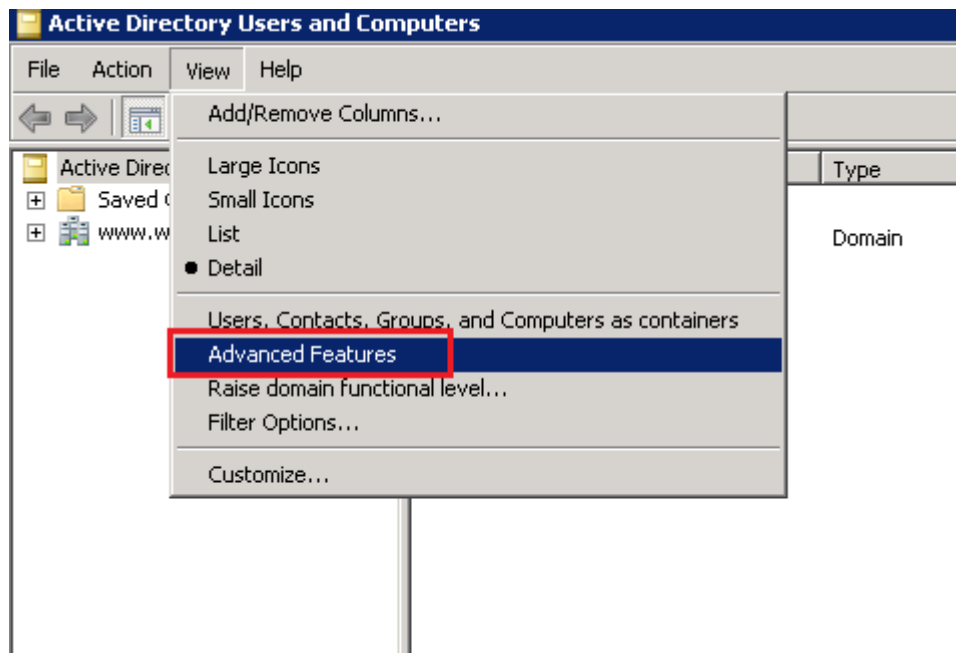
10 Steps total

Step 1: Open Active Directory Users and Computers.



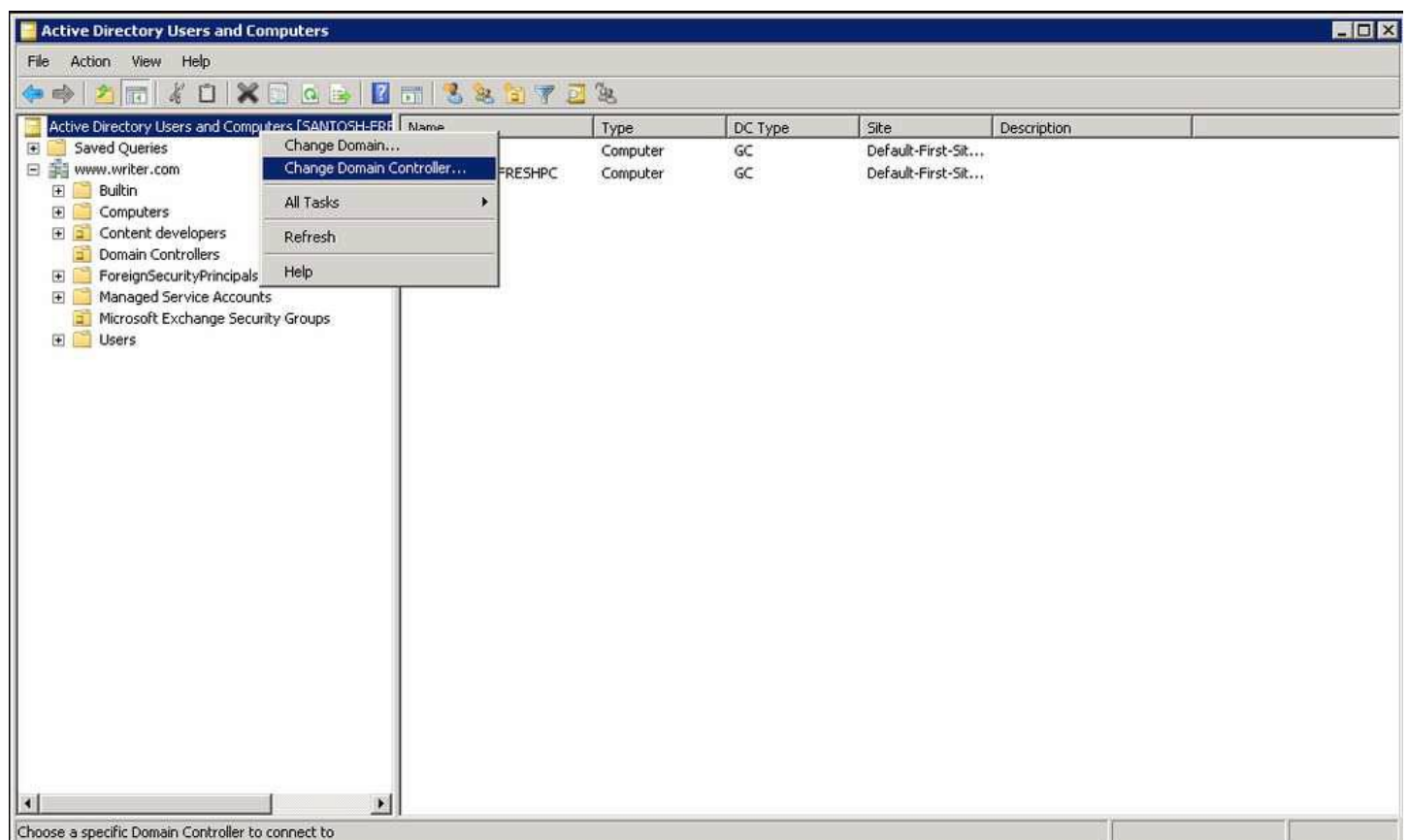
Run dsa.msc to open Active Directory Users and Computers.

Step 2: Select Advanced Features



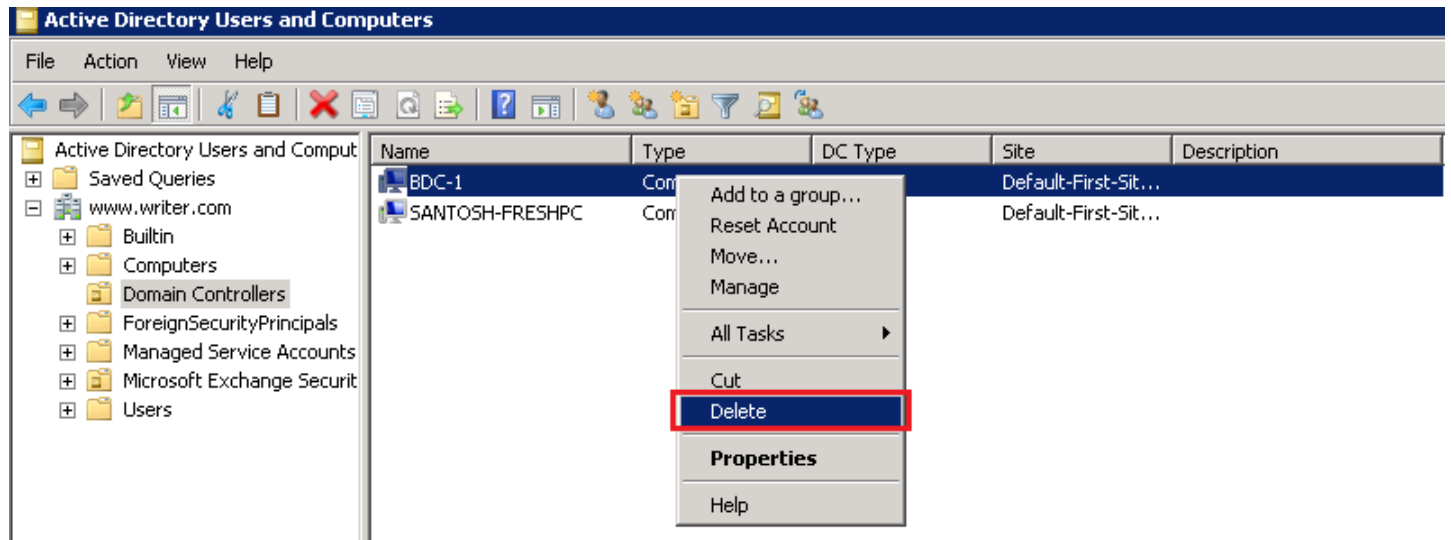
From the View menu, select the Advanced Features option.

Step 3: Select the Domain Controller whose metadata is to be removed



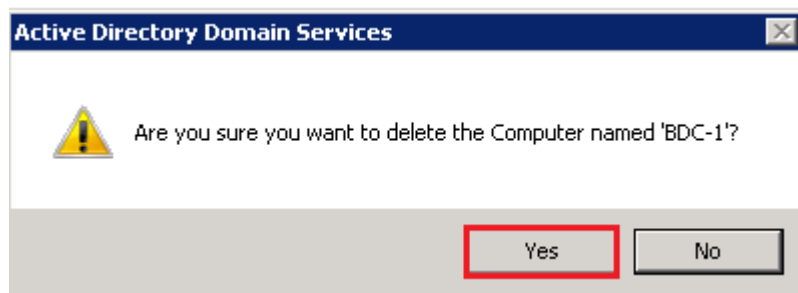
In case you are not connected to a replication partner of the removed domain controller whose metadata is to be cleaned up, right-click Active Directory Users and Computers <DomainControllerName>, and then click Change Domain Controller. Select the domain controller whose metadata you want to remove, and click OK.

Step 4: Select Domain Controller for Metadata cleanup



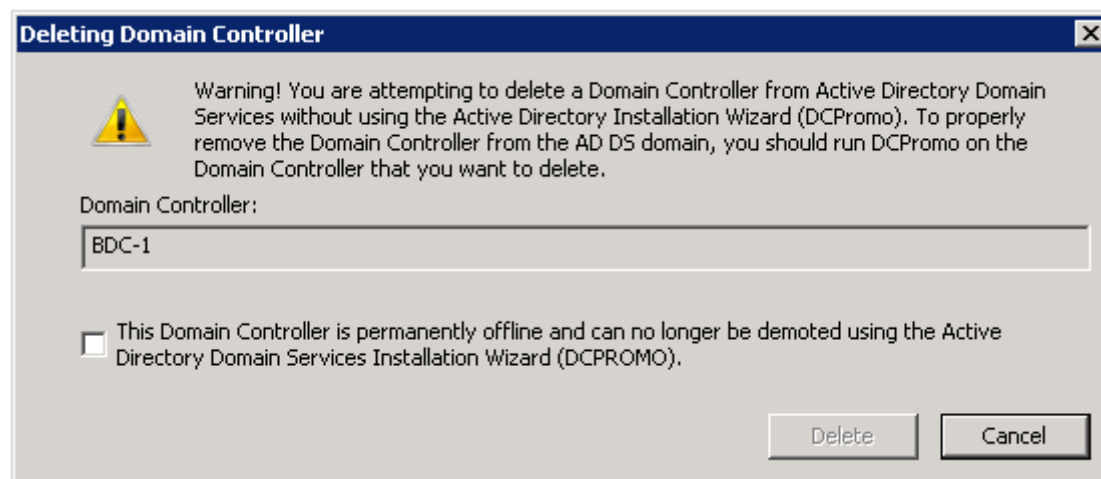
Expand the domain and go to Domain Controllers from the OU list and select it. In the details pane, right-click the computer object of the Domain Controller and select the Delete option.

Step 5: Confirm Action



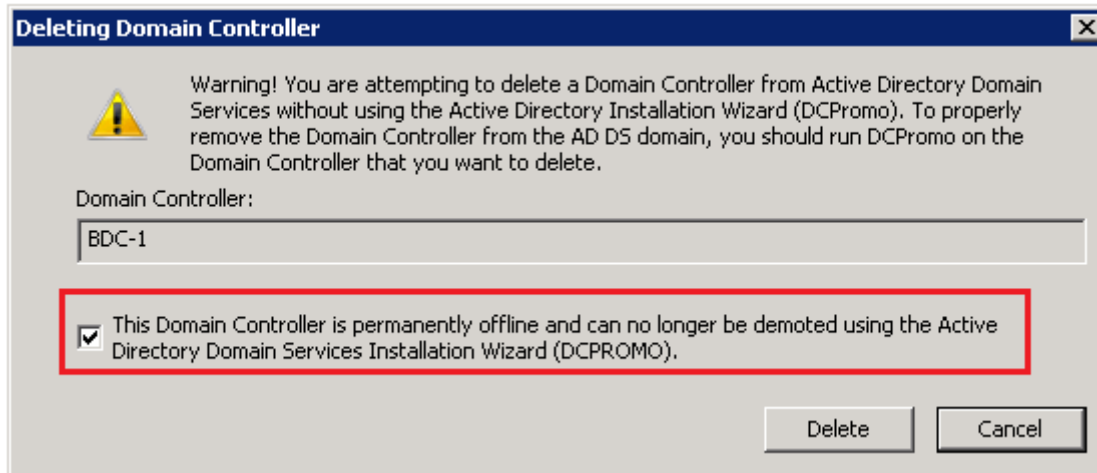
To confirm the deletion, select Yes.

Step 6: Deleting Domain Controller



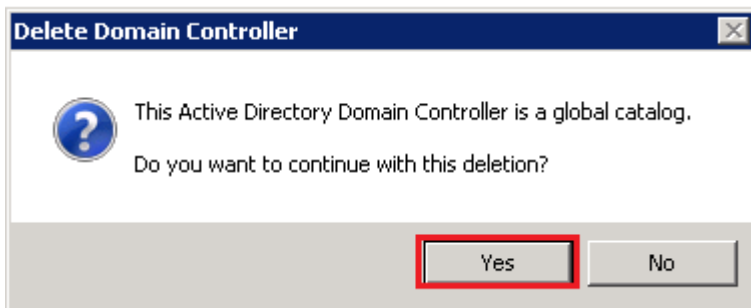
After clicking on Yes button, the above message will appear.

Step 7: Check Warning message



Select "This Domain Controller is permanently offline and can no longer be demoted using the Active Directory Domain Services Installation Wizard (DCPROMO)", and then click Delete.

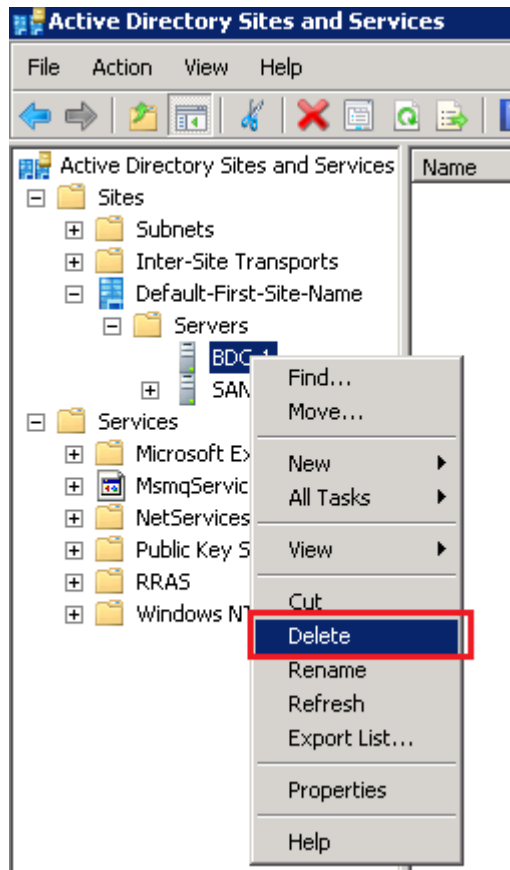
Step 8: Global Catalog Server



A warning message will prompt if the domain controller is a global catalog server. Click Yes to continue with the deletion.

The metadata cleanup process is complete. Although, it is advised to verify and remove any remaining DC record from Active Directory Sites and Services and especially DNS snap-in.

Step 9: Delete DC reference from Active Directory Sites and Services



In Active Directory Sites and Services console, go to Servers and locate the defunct DC. NTDS Settings should have been removed but there still is a reference of the domain controller.

Right-click on the DC and select the Delete option. If you receive a confirm Subtree Deletion warning message, continue with the deletion process.

Step 10: Remove reference from DNS

If you find any questionable references to the removed domain controller here, delete them as well. If you have reverse lookup zones, remove the server from these zones also.

All metadata related to the Domain Controller will be cleaned up successfully – and you can be confident that AD DS can no longer identify that DC in the replication system.

In case you want to use Ntdsutl.exe utility to perform metadata cleanup, refer to this article :

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/216498>