Active Directory Health Check

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Dear reader,

Microsoft Active Directory is often treated as an afterthought, as if all it did was store user logons and passwords. In actuality, Active Directory provides a comprehensive collection of objects, services, and auditing information, all in a single database.

That's why it's important to make sure that Active Directory is as healthy as possible on a regular basis! There are a number of Active Directory services and aspects to check for proper operation, including, but not limited to:

- Time Sync
- Directory Diagnostics
- Replication Diagnostics
- Certificate Authority
- Operational Roles
- Network Topology

It's not just a matter of checking these (and other) things on a single Domain Controller, either. Part of a proper Active Directory health check is making sure that all of your Domain Controllers agree on what services, roles, topology, and replication are in use.

Inconsistent replication can commonly cause issues such as sporadic or regular login failure, password changes that don't seem to "take" the first time, server reboots that seem to freeze up for a couple of minutes at a time for no reason, workstations that seem to take a long time to present or process a login prompt, and/or inconsistent web surfing/DNS lookup results.

Typically, it takes about 15 minutes per Domain Controller, plus a little extra time to compare and document the results to give you a complete picture of how your Active Directory domain is doing

Please let me know if we can be of assistance in running an Active Directory Health Check for you.

Allan

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