



i n v e n t

Decision Point: Evaluating SBS 2003 for Your Business

by Christa Anderson

Small to midsized business often don't have the time, staffing, and monetary resources to manage a growing IT infrastructure. For organizations with 75 or fewer users, Microsoft Small Business Server (SBS) 2003 offers a secure, reliable IT infrastructure that can grow as your company grows. This HP-sponsored white paper will help you address several questions regarding having the necessary networking experience, creating special-purpose servers, supporting remote clients and multiple sites, upgrading and migrating to SBS 2003, and adding SBS 2003 to an existing domain so that you can decide whether SBS 2003 is right for your business.

Many Windows server administrators have heard of SBS 2003 but some might not know what it is, what it includes, or where it fits into their network—if it does at all. In this white paper, you'll learn what SBS 2003 can and can't do, explore common scenarios surrounding small to midsized business needs and see how SBS 2003 fits into those scenarios, and discover what steps you need to take to upgrade or migrate your existing network structure to SBS 2003.

→ Contents

Decision Point: Evaluating SBS 2003 for Your Business

Introduction	1
What Is SBS 2003?	2
Why Use SBS 2003?	3
Planning for SBS 2003	3
<i>sidebar: SBS 2003 vs. Windows 2003</i>	3
<i>sidebar: Additional SBS References</i>	4
Moving to SBS 2003.....	6
Is SBS 2003 a Good Fit?	8
About the Author.....	8



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Decision Point: Evaluating SBS 2003 for Your Business

Introduction

Deciding which computing platform to use for your small or midsized business might be the most important decision you make. Can you be sure that you've made the right choice, knowing your current and future needs? Microsoft Small Business Server (SBS) 2003 offers a secure, reliable IT infrastructure that can grow as your company grows. This HP-sponsored white paper will help you answer several questions to help you decide whether SBS 2003 is right for your business, including

- Can I use SBS 2003 if I have no prior networking experience?
- Can I use SBS 2003 to implement a special-purpose server?
- Can I upgrade from a peer-to-peer (P2P) network to SBS 2003? What about moving from a Windows 2000 or Windows NT 4.0 domain?
- Can I use SBS 2003 to manage remote client computers?
- Can I add SBS 2003 to an existing domain or add another server to my SBS 2003 domain?
- Does SBS 2003 support servers in multiple sites?

Table 1: SBS 2003 Standard Edition Features

Component	Description
Windows 2003	The core OS required to support all other SBS 2003 features
Microsoft Exchange Server 2003	Microsoft's email, messaging, and collaboration solution that supports Outlook and Outlook Web Access (OWA) clients
Microsoft Office Outlook 2003	The client tool for managing email, contacts, and scheduling in one place
Windows SharePoint Services v2	The team communications and collaboration environment
Microsoft Shared Fax Service	Fax services
Routing and Remote Access Server (RRAS)	Secure remote access for all server applications in SBS 2003

Many Windows server administrators have heard of SBS 2003 but some might not know what it is, what it includes, or where it fits into their network—if it does at all. In this white paper, you'll learn what SBS 2003 can and can't do, explore common scenarios surrounding small to midsized business needs and see how SBS 2003 fits into those scenarios, and discover what steps you need to take to upgrade or migrate your existing network structure to SBS 2003.

What Is SBS 2003?

SBS 2003 is Microsoft's way of putting an entire domain's servers—a mail server, a database server, file-and-print services, and a Web server—into one box. This model simplifies network administration (it's hard, for example, to have network problems hamper communication between a file server and a mail server when the file server and mail server are on the same computer). Microsoft's approach also takes the guesswork out of some system configuration tasks to direct less-experienced network administrators toward best practices. All in all, SBS 2003 offers a Windows Server 2003-based server that provides messaging and collaboration, secure Internet access, remote connectivity, data storage and recovery, file-and-print sharing, fax

capability, and the means to run line-of-business (LOB) applications. SBS 2003 comes in two versions: SBS 2003 Standard Edition and SBS 2003 Premium Edition. Both versions include all the functionality that Table 1 lists.

In addition to the SBS 2003 Standard Edition feature set in Table 1, SBS 2003 Premium Edition includes the components that Table 2 lists.

SBS 2003 Premium Edition's RRAS provides secure communication for all the Standard Edition applications as well as all the Premium Edition applications. All the server applications in the Standard Edition and Premium Edition are fully functional versions of the software. The inter-server communication functionality in the version of Windows 2003 that ships with SBS 2003 is slightly limited, but not in such a way that this constraint limits the usefulness of the single-server environments for which SBS 2003 is designed. Throughout this white paper I'll highlight some of the limitations of the SBS 2003-version of Windows 2003, but in short, these limitations are a lack of support for Terminal Services in Application Server mode and support for only a single-level domain structure that doesn't trust other domains. SBS 2003 also isn't well suited for expanding when the network grows beyond the software's

Table 2: SBS 2003 Premium Edition-only Features

Component	Description
Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server 2000	Firewall technology to help secure Internet connections
Microsoft SQL Server 2000	A relational database that supports LOB applications
Microsoft Office FrontPage 2003	Web development tools for Web sites or creating customized SharePoint Services sites

capabilities. For a brief comparison of SBS 2003 and Windows 2003, see the sidebar “SBS 2003 vs. Windows 2003.”

Why Use SBS 2003?

Microsoft has designed SBS 2003 primarily for organizations that want to get away from P2P networks or that want to expand their simple file-sharing systems to something more capable. Many small offices use their desktop OSs’ networking capabilities to share files and resources. At some levels, P2P works—I used it myself, back in the Windows for Workgroups (WFW) days. However, the model isn’t a reliable way to provide network resources. If a user turns off his or her computer at night or reboots the system, any network resources (e.g., files, printers, shared scanners) attached to that computer are unavailable until the computer comes back online. Even when the computer is working, response time suffers if the machine’s owner performs any processor-intensive tasks on the computer. Additionally, in a P2P model, files often reside on individual workstations, not on a file server, which makes complete backups cumbersome and, therefore, unlikely.

Centralizing storage on an NT 4.0 server (or even on a client computer dedicated to resource sharing) is a more reliable model but has its own limitations—namely, that many modern document sharing, email, and database applications won’t run on NT 4.0. Microsoft advocates SBS 2003 for small to midsized businesses that need only one server to support their operation. Although you can add a Windows 2003 or Win2K server to an SBS 2003 domain, most SBS 2003 adopters follow the single-server model, which is similar to the NT 4.0 model but capable of running—and, in fact, including—the updated versions of useful server applications.

Planning for SBS 2003

If you’re considering SBS 2003 for your environment, you need to consider how SBS 2003 will fit into a domain. You also need to think about the hardware you’ll need to support it. By addressing the following questions, you’ll have a better understanding of where SBS 2003 makes the most sense.

If I have no prior networking experience, where can I find guidance for setting up an SBS 2003 server? Running SBS 2003 isn’t quite as simple as it seems. Setting up SBS 2003 shouldn’t be a problem for experienced Windows administrators, but novice administrators should consider buying a server that ships with an OEM-installed version of SBS 2003. The danger of a reduced-administration server

SBS 2003 vs. Windows 2003

Many differences exist between Windows Server 2003, which is an OS, and Small Business Server (SBS) 2003, which is a complete server solution that includes the OS and various other line-of-business (LOB) capabilities such as mail serving, fax serving, and document sharing. One of the major differences, however, lies in how much guidance SBS 2003 supplies to the server administrator as opposed to Windows 2003.

When you first install Windows 2003, a Configure Your Server dialog box appears, but that dialog box is used only for configuring the server role, not for fully setting up the server. Windows 2003 assumes you have some knowledge about how to get started after you install the OS. In contrast, SBS 2003 provides more guidance. When you reboot the server after you install SBS 2003, a configuration wizard prompts you to provide company and network-specific information, select which applications you want to install, and complete a To Do List that reminds you of everything you need to do to set up the server. Tasks on the To Do List include securing the server, scheduling backups (this task uses a backup wizard that prevents you from backing up to the system drive), and setting up email. You don’t have to design the Active Directory (AD)—SBS does it for you and automatically adds client computers (i.e., those running Windows 2000 or Windows XP) to the domain when you add them to the list of computers that the SBS 2003 server will manage. SBS 2003 also simplifies console management in a way that benefits Windows 2003. For example, you can perform many tasks from one console and using the Remote Web Workplace to provide remote access to the servers and XP desktops in the domain.

SBS 2003 also assumes that all Web sites are guilty until proven innocent. When you connect to the Internet through an SBS 2003 server, the OS blocks all but a few sites (as predefined by Microsoft). Administrators can easily bypass this blocking and can also create a list of “trusted” sites with the click of a button, but the default configuration provides very limited Web access.

To summarize, although SBS 2003 isn’t meant for complete administration novices, it’s a good fit for anyone who needs only a small server environment and who can use some guidance when setting up the server. Windows 2003 is a better fit for those who need all the capabilities of the full OS, the ability to expand their domain structure, and who don’t need the SBS 2003 guidance.

OS is that administrators can mistake it for a zero-administration OS. The fact that Microsoft designed SBS 2003 to automatically follow some best practices doesn't mean that the server product automatically follows all of them. Even if you walk through all the configuration wizards, you still need to install security patches and service packs and follow safe-computing guidelines. The audience for which SBS 2003 is designed—the shop looking for an extremely low-maintenance server—might balk at SBS 2003's required maintenance. Fortunately, Microsoft provides a lot of guidance within the product and even more instruction on its Web site. For a complete list of external resources, see the sidebar “Additional SBS 2003 Resources.”

Can I use SBS 2003 to implement a special-purpose server?

For most server types, SBS 2003 should be fine—both Standard Edition and Premium Edition include email server, Web server, and fax server support, as well as document sharing and collaboration through SharePoint Services. The exception to this rule is that SBS 2003 supports Terminal Services only in Remote Administration mode, which allows only two concurrent connections. By default, both connections require administrative privileges (to change the security settings, follow the instructions at http://x220.minasi.com/forum/topic.asp?topic_id=3959). In Remote Administration mode, the SBS 2003 server prioritizes all the applications it's running more or less evenly, regardless of whether those applications are running in the foreground or background. Alternatively, workstations and terminal servers running in Application Server mode give higher priority to applications running in the foreground to make those programs more responsive. Unfortunately, you can't run Terminal Services in Application Server mode on an SBS 2003 server. To get application server capabilities, you need to add a separate server to your domain.

So why did Microsoft design SBS 2003 to be a single-server solution without support for Terminal Services in Application Server mode? The answer is twofold. First, making a domain controller (DC) an application server is never a good idea if you can avoid doing so because terminal servers are vulnerable to all the pitfalls that workstations are exposed to, ranging from crashes resulting from buggy printer drivers to unintentionally installed viruses and spyware. With a single-server solution, you can't afford to crash the SBS 2003 server. Second, SBS 2003 has a lot of work to do as it is, and supporting application services would likely degrade the server's performance.

Additional SBS 2003 Resources

In this white paper, I've discussed some scenarios that anyone thinking about using Small Business Server (SBS) 2003 should consider when deciding whether this all-in-one solution is a good fit for them. To successfully install and use SBS 2003, you'll need more information than this white paper can provide. Fortunately, Microsoft has prepared the following resources:

- For a basic guide to SBS 2003 features and upgrading and migration techniques, see the “Windows Small Business Server 2003 Getting Started Guide” at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/sbs/2003/plan/gsg/sbsgsgab.mspix>.
- For information about securing an SBS 2003 server that's exposed to the outside world, see “Securing Your Windows Small Business Server 2003 Network” at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/sbs/2003/maintain/sbsecnet.mspix>.
- For help with backing up and restoring files in SBS 2003, see “Backing Up and Restoring Windows Small Business Server 2003” at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/sbs/2003/maintain/bkuprstr.mspix>.
- For help with migrating from SBS 2000 or Windows 2000 Server to SBS 2003, see “Migrating from Small Business Server 2000 or Windows 2000 Server” at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/sbs/2003/deploy/sbs2k203.mspix>.
- For help with migrating from SBS 4.5 or Windows NT Server 4.0 to SBS 2003, see “Migrating from Small Business Server 4.5 or Windows NT Server 4.0” at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/sbs/2003/deploy/sbs45203.mspix>.
- For interaction with other users who are considering or already implementing SBS 2003, visit the official SBS 2003 peer-to-peer communities at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2003/sbs/community/default.mspix>.

If you need help with a specific problem that the Microsoft documents or communities don't answer, you can visit the following unofficial SBS 2003 Web sites where you can read additional documents or ask questions of experienced administrators:

- <http://www.sbsfaq.com>
- http://x220.minasi.com/forum/forum.asp?FORUM_ID=21

If you only need a maximum of two simultaneous connections to a terminal server, SBS's Remote Administration mode will work for you; otherwise, you'll need a separate terminal server.

Incidentally, you can't divide SBS 2003's server functions among multiple servers. If you install the server applications at all, you must install them all on the same computer. The only exception is FrontPage 2003 (in Premium Edition), which you can install on one workstation.

Can I use existing computer hardware to run SBS 2003?

Using existing hardware to run SBS 2003 can be problematic. Unwary small businesses might attempt to short SBS 2003 on hardware to save money. Don't. You're already saving money by putting all server functionality into one server, and that server has a lot of responsibility: It's a Web server, a mail server, a DC, a print server, and possibly more. Because most SBS 2003 installations will have only one server, the server becomes the single point of failure on the network. As a result, you'll want to make sure that the server has enough horsepower to support everything it's doing. (Sadly, SBS 2003 supports only a maximum of two processors, so the degree to which you can load such a server is limited.)

If you're migrating from a P2P network, you'll almost certainly need to invest in server hardware. The base SBS 2003 system requirements are available at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2003/sbs/evaluation/sysreqs/default.msp>. Microsoft recommends that an SBS 2003 server have at least a 550MHz processor, 384MB of RAM, and 4GB of disk space, just for the OS. (If you plan to install SQL Server support and Service Pack 3a—SP3a—for SQL Server, you need to add 420MB of additional disk space.) Also, the more demands you make on the server, the more memory and processor speed you'll need. I'd recommend starting with a 1GHz processor and 512MB of RAM. The amount of storage space you'll need depends heavily on what you're doing with the server. If you already have a database, see how much storage space it needs and prepare for expansion (heaven knows that databases never get smaller). If you're already providing mail storage to your client base, then count clients and see how much space you're willing to allocate to each one. Companies such as HP supply OEM-equipped servers with SBS 2003 already installed or installed up to final organization-specific customizations. Starting with such a server is one way to be sure that the server can support SBS 2003.

How many users does SBS 2003 support? SBS 2003 supports up to 75 per-user or per-seat Client Access Licenses (CALs),

but the server itself might not be able to support that many. As always, the more processing power you have the more users you'll be able to support. What if your organization grows and you need to support more users? SBS 2003 demands to be the only SBS server in the domain and you can't create a trust relationship with another domain, so that removes that route for expansion. To support more than 75 client computers or users, you'll need to upgrade SBS 2003 to Windows 2003. Although this migration is technically possible, it's expensive. For SBS 2003 Standard

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Edition, Microsoft offers the Transition Pack Standard Edition for \$1769 and for SBS 2003 Premium Edition, the company offers the Transition Pack Premium Edition for \$3522. In other words, if you're already close to the 75-client limit, you might want to skip SBS 2003 entirely and go straight to Windows 2003. Because Microsoft doesn't support per-connection licensing, make your calculations based on the absolute numbers of users or computers, not the number of people who will be using the server concurrently.

Can SBS 2003 support remote users? Although SBS 2003 doesn't support Terminal Services in Application Server mode, it does enable some remote work through the Remote Web Workplace. With the Remote Web Workplace, you can use a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) connection to securely access your company's server from any computer with Internet access. By default, any user that you create using an SBS 2003 user template can access the Remote Web Workplace (users can even publish the desktops of their Windows XP workstations in the office so they can access their work environments from home). In addition, domain administrators can access the Remote Web Workplace administrator page to reach server and client desktops, manage the company's Web site, and view performance reports.

To use the Remote Web Workspace, you'll need a high-speed Internet connection (a 56Kbps modem will work, but will likely be too slow for comfort) and the SBS 2003 server will need a static public IP address registered with DNS. Also, the client will need to be running Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) because remote access to the user's desktop requires an ActiveX control. If you plan to support remote users' document sharing with SharePoint Services, consider using SBS 2003 Premium Edition so that you can index the site with SQL Server, which will speed up searches.

Can I add SBS 2003 to an existing domain or add another server to my SBS 2003 domain? SBS 2003 won't join an existing domain—it wants to be the only DC or at least the

SBS 2003 doesn't work well for branch offices that connect to a larger domain, although it might work well in a main office with member servers in the branch offices.

root DC. Nor can you install SBS 2003 as a member server. If you have an existing DC that you'd like to keep, you need to migrate it to SBS 2003.

You can incorporate SBS 2003 in a typical domain, but only to a point. When you install SBS 2003, it doesn't ask which domain you want to join. Other member servers can join an SBS 2003 domain, but the SBS 2003 server won't join an existing domain, trust other domains, or support child domains. In other words, SBS 2003 doesn't work well for branch offices that connect to a larger domain, although it might work well in a main office with member servers in the branch offices.

Here's a handy summary of SBS 2003 domain structure guidelines:

- Only one computer in a domain can be running SBS 2003 and that computer must be the root DC for the forest.
- An SBS 2003 domain must be in a flat structure—no child domains—and won't trust other domains.
- Every member server in an SBS 2003 domain will need a per-machine CAL to access the SBS 2003 server.

Does SBS 2003 support servers in multiple sites? Yes, SBS 2003 supports servers in branch office locations using the domain structure that I just described. If the remote sites

won't have resident IT support, you'll want to maintain the SBS 2003 server at the main site and incorporate member servers or other DCs at the branch office locations because SBS 2003 must be the root of the domain. If you're working from one of these branch locations and need to remotely administer SBS 2003, you can set up Web access for Terminal Services on the SBS 2003 server, which lets remote administrators access the other member servers using an RDP session that uses an ActiveX control and runs from within a Web browser. For additional information about the Remote Desktop Web Connection ActiveX control, see <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/rdwebconn.asp>.

How can I be sure that the SBS 2003 server is secure? The SBS 2003 setup program installs the hotfix for the MSBlaster worm as well as several crucial security updates and hotfixes that were available when Microsoft released SBS 2003 to manufacturing. SBS 2003 doesn't come with Software Update Services (SUS) installed, but you can download this service from the Microsoft Web site to keep your servers updated with important security patches and hotfixes. In case you're not familiar with SUS, it's a way to set up a Windows Update environment on your local network. One server downloads patches from Microsoft, the administrator selects which of these he or she wants to deploy, and SUS distributes the updates locally across the network. Using SUS reduces the amount of downloading you have to do to keep all your systems up to date because only one server needs to download the patches. SUS also gives you control over which patches are applied and helps you know that the patches were applied on the appropriate systems. The latest version, which is known as Windows Update Services (WUS), is currently in beta testing and available for download—Microsoft plans to release this version very soon.

Moving to SBS 2003

If you're planning to upgrade your Win2K or NT 4.0 servers or migrate an existing domain to SBS 2003, you need to take several factors into consideration. Whereas upgrading to SBS 2003 is done at the underlying OS level, migrating to SBS 2003 requires a new installation that imports settings and objects from an old DC that's running on a separate computer. Let's look at what's involved in upgrading and migrating to SBS 2003.

How can I upgrade my existing network structure to SBS 2003? If you're already running Windows 2003 or Win2K

Server in your network environment, you can perform an in-place upgrade to SBS 2003. The upgrade process involves four steps: upgrading the OS, configuring SBS 2003 as appropriate for your organization, installing server tools and applications, and completing the SBS 2003 setup program as you would for a fresh installation by going through the To Do List of important tasks that SBS presents to you after you reboot the server.

The upgrade will go more smoothly if you take the time to prepare for the installation. First, make sure that the server's hardware will support SBS 2003 (see the earlier discussion about system requirements to determine how much horsepower you need). You'll also need to ensure that all necessary device drivers are compatible with SBS 2003—check the Windows Server Catalog at <http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=4303> to be sure. Microsoft also provides a Check System Compatibility tool on the first SBS 2003 installation CD-ROM. For older Win2K DCs, a migration might be more appropriate than an upgrade.

Second, defragment the server hard disks, scan their content for viruses, and back up and verify all important data. This backup should include all system state data (i.e., registry information, system boot files, and the COM+ Class Registration database) that you'll need to restore your server to its present condition. On Certificate Servers, this data will also include the Certificate Services database. And on DCs, this information will include a copy of the AD and the SYSVOL directory, which constitute the server's copy of the public files shared among all DCs in the domain.

Third, collect the information you'll need to connect to the Internet and to configure the firewall. For example, if you're using a broadband connection such as DSL or cable, you'll need to provide the following information:

- A static IP address for the SBS 2003 server (so that outside clients can find the server)
- The default gateway
- The subnet mask
- The preferred and alternate DNS server
- The IP address of your router

Finally, before you perform the upgrade, notify anyone using the DC that they'll need to log off. You can use the `net send` command-line tool for this purpose. When you type

```
net send * The server will be going down for
maintenance in five minutes please save your work and
log off
```

all users in the domain will see that message on their

computers. After all users log off, disconnect any non-firewalled Internet connection devices from the Internet, but not from the server.

Open the Services manager (or use the `net stop` command-line tool) and stop and disable any third-party services that use the Local System account and therefore might have locked files in the OS. Make sure that you record the current startup settings (Boot, Manual, or Automatic) for the services. Finally, disable any disk utilities such as real-time antivirus protection or backup software that might be running to avoid disrupting the SBS 2003 setup program when it modifies files.

How can I migrate my existing domain structure to SBS 2003? If you're moving from NT 4.0 or you've realized that the demands placed on your server require a bigger box, you'll need to migrate, rather than upgrade, the existing structure. (You can't migrate a P2P setup—you'll need to start from scratch with a full upgrade.) You can also migrate an SBS 2003 installation to a new machine should your need to upgrade hardware outstrip your existing server's capabilities. When you migrate to SBS 2003, you're effectively taking all existing settings and data and transferring them to a new computer, as opposed to upgrading them in place.

Before you migrate, keep in mind the following considerations:

- The source domain and server names must be different than the destination domain and server names. You can't change the destination server's name to the source server's name post-installation.
- Because the destination server's name will differ from the source server's name, you'll need to use the new server name to update any Universal Naming Convention (UNC) paths and references to server names that the clients had mapped.
- Because two DHCP servers can't exist on the same network, you'll need to disable DHCP on the source server before you install the destination server. If you plan to use a router for DHCP, make sure that the destination server can get to it.
- When you use the Exchange Migration Wizard, the wizard will migrate mailboxes but won't migrate rules. As a result, you'll need to export any existing rules to the new server.
- SBS 2003 will preserve profiles for client computers running XP or Win2K but you'll need to update the paths leading to the server.

Preparing for a migration is similar to preparing for an upgrade except that instead of installing SBS 2003 over the existing OS, you'll leave the source server alone and install the new OS on the destination server. Complete the following steps to prepare for the migration:

1. Check the destination server's hardware to be sure that it can support the demands you'll be placing on it, and ensure that SBS 2003 supports all necessary devices.
2. Have users delete unnecessary email and files that they've stored on the source server. Now is a good time to take stock of your email and database storage needs so that you can plan for more capacity, if needed.
3. Scan for viruses and back up important data on the source server.
4. Ensure that all drivers and software that you plan to keep using will work on SBS 2003 (if they run on Windows 2003, they'll run on SBS 2003).
5. If you haven't already done so, apply the latest service packs to the source server.
6. Use the *net send* command-line tool to alert all members of the domain that the server will be going down and have users log off the network.

Next, install SBS 2003 on the destination computer and complete the post-setup configuration wizard that appears at the end of the SBS 2003 setup. (I haven't discussed this wizard here because this white paper isn't an installation guide but rather a decision guide to help you see what's involved in using SBS 2003. The wizard prompts you for organizational and network-specific information and takes about 30 minutes to complete.) After you finish the Network Tasks portion of the wizard, disconnect the server from the Internet and disable any real-time antivirus software in use on the source and destination servers.

After the SBS 2003 installation is complete, you need to move the XP, Win2K, and NT computer accounts as well as any user and group accounts from the source server to the destination server. To complete these steps, you'll use the AD Migration Tool (ADMT) on the source server (you can download the ADMT from <http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/downloads/tools/admt/default.asp>). You'll need to migrate Exchange mailboxes with the Exchange Migration Wizard by following the instructions in the Microsoft article "HOW TO: Use the Exchange Migration Wizard to Migrate Mailboxes From an Exchange Organization" at <http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=328871>. You'll also need to migrate any databases and shared folders from the source server to the destination server.

When you use the ADMT, you're not bound to your current domain structure. Rather, you can design a domain structure that makes sense and then migrate the computer, user, and group accounts into it. When you migrate from NT 4.0, consider redesigning the domain organization. Although doing so adds some more work, NT 4.0 domains don't take advantage of the new organization possible with AD. After all, now's your chance to fix those poorly designed NT 4.0 domains that you've been wanting to fix since 1997. Because computers running Windows 9x and Windows Me don't have computer accounts in a domain, you'll need to manually create accounts for any such computers.

The next couple of steps in the process configure the OS on the destination server and assign applications and email settings to the user accounts just as you would for a fresh installation. Make sure that the users can access the migrated files, and import public Exchange folders after you set up Exchange.

Finally, remove any permissions you needed to grant to migrate the data, uninstall the ADMT from the destination server, and (optionally) create password policies to prompt users to change their passwords when they first log on to the new server. When you're sure that you have everything you needed from the old server, you can pull the plug.

Is SBS 2003 a Good Fit?

SBS 2003 is a good fit for some very specific situations but especially well suited for small to midsized businesses with 75 or fewer users who need a reduced-maintenance server solution. Because SBS 2003 doesn't support trust relationships or child domains, it's not a good fit for organizations that expect to grow beyond 75 CALs. You'll also need to supplement the SBS 2003 server with at least one member server running Windows 2003 or Win2K Server if you want to use Terminal Services beyond Remote Administration mode. However, SBS 2003's guidance and the way that it organizes its tools make it simpler to manage than a comparative Windows 2003 server. Take the time to plan for SBS 2003 and consider the possible scenarios outlined in this white paper and you'll know whether SBS 2003 is a good fit for your organization.

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