Lab Scenario:

- To phase out domain controller that are running windows server OS that is now out of support.
- To remove domain controller that are not required on a particular site due to business relocation or another factors.
- To help organization to reduce cost by optimizing the number of domain controller present in the environment which help to save license cost, capex cost, etc.

Checklist:

Below are activities will help in completion of project with minimal downtime.

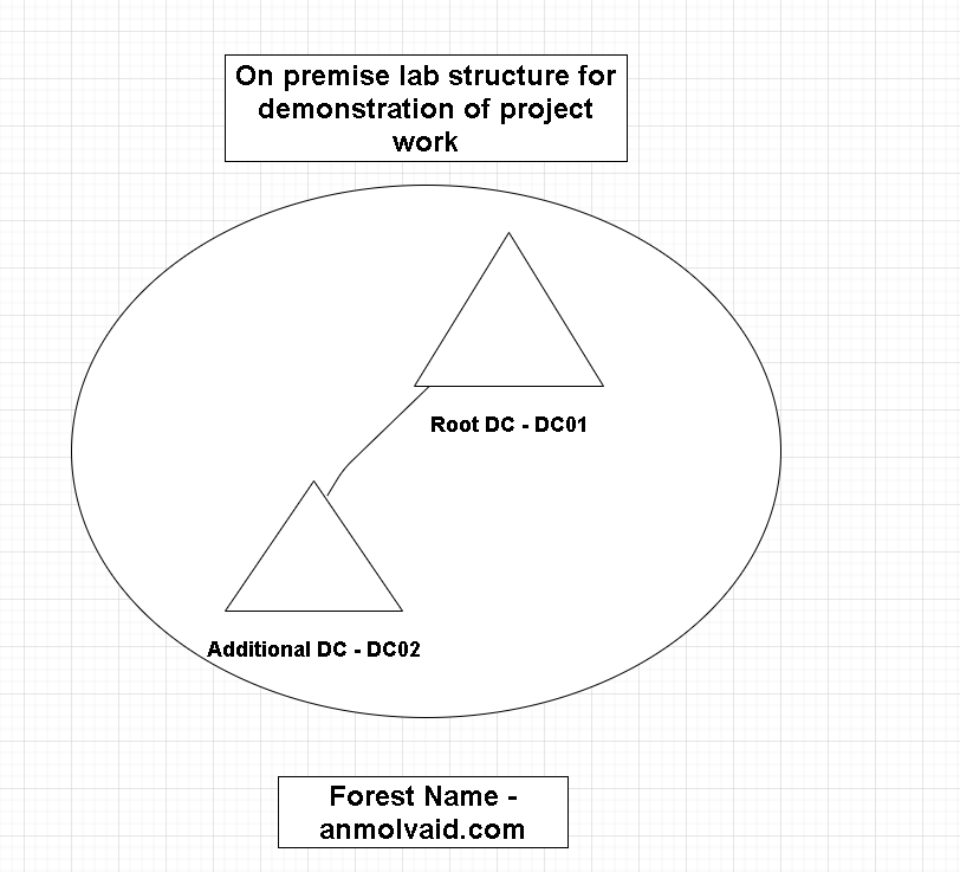
Items	Response
Verify that DC which to be phase out is not last DC	
Are any system points to this server as a DNS server.	
Is there any DHCP scope, which is assigning this server IP as the preferred DNS server to DHCP clients?	
Is there any DNS Forwarder which is pointing to this DNS server?	
Is there any conditional Forwarder outside this forest, which is using this DNS server IP?	
Is this domain controller hold any FSMO roles?	
Is any other application /tool/role installed on this server and if yes, is there any dependency on this server?	

Access Required by team:

In order to perform DC demotion task, following access are needed:

- Domain admin access.
- Access to network in which domain controller are placed.
- VPN access if required.
- Access to ILO of physical domain controllers.

Below is Architectural diagram for DC decommission project:



- Above consist of single domain and single forest architecture for easy management of resources.
- Now we are going to demote the DC whose OS have run out of support for example – windows server 2008, windows server 2008R2, etc.

High Level Action Plan:

Below table is a high-level action plan that contains all steps while performing demotion of domain controllers.

Serial Number	Task to be performed
1.	Inform concern teams and stakeholders about the upcoming decommission activity, along with the DC list. Also, share the details of new DC/DNS server to be used as a replacement.
2.	Perform an impact analysis and ensure there is no dependency remain on this server. For that, follow the checklist table.
3.	Once all dependencies have been assessed, raise a change request.
4.	After change is approved, move all subnets to new AD upstream site. Then perform change in DHCP scope for all subnets and add new AD integrated DNS entries.

5.	Keep those DCs powered OFF for 1-2 weeks to ensure that there is no dependency list. If any issue is reported, power ON DC and then let concern team make changes.
6.	Now if no issue is reported, start DC demotion in following manner: • First try to demote DC gracefully. • If graceful demotion fails then try to do force demotion of DC. • Perform meta data clean-up from PDC. • Remove DC from active directory site and services. • Remove DNS entries of demoted DC from PDC.
7.	Disjoin the server from domain.
8.	Shut down the server.
9.	Delete (for VM) or format (for physical) the server as per the organization policy, and update the inventory.
10.	Return the IP address to network team.