

# Multiple NICs on a DC

Categoria: Computers>Windows>Server

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Honestly, multi homed DCs are not recommended because of the associated issues that can occur, as you've encountered. We usually recommend purchasing an inexpensive Linksys, DLink, etc, Cable/DSL router to perform NAT for you, take out the extra NIC off the DC, but still let the DC handle DHCP (and not the router).

Little background on AD and DNS:  
First, just to get this out of the way, if you have your ISP's DNS addresses in your IP configuration (DCs and clients), they need to be REMOVED. If the ISP's DNS is in there, this will cause additional problems. Also, AD registers certain records in DNS in the form of SRV records that signify AD's resource and service locations. When there are multiple NICs, each NIC registers. If a client, or another DC queries DNS for this DC, it may get the wrong record. One factor controlling this is Round Robin. If a DC or client on another subnet that the DC is not configured on queries for it, Round Robin will kick in offering one or the other. If the wrong one gets offered, it may not have a route to it. On the other hand, Subnetmask Prioritization will ensure a querying client will get an IP that corresponds to the subnet it's on, which will work. To insure everything works, stick with one NIC.

Since this DC is multi homed, it requires additional configuration to prevent the public interface addresses from being registered in DNS. This creates a problem for internal clients locating AD to authenticate and find other services and resources such as the Global Catalog, file sharing and the SYSVOL DFS share and can cause GPO errors with Userenv 1000 events to be logged, authenticating to shares and printers, logging on takes forever, among numerous other issues.

But if you like, there are some registry changes to eliminate the registration of the external NIC. Here's the whole list of manual steps =

to  
follow.

But believe me, it's much easier to just get a separate NAT device or multihomed a non DC then having to alter the DC. Good luck!

1. Insure that all the NICs only point to your internal DNS server(s) =  
only

and none others, such as your ISP's DNS servers' IP addresses.

2. In Network & Dialup properties, Advanced Menu item, Advanced =  
Settings,

move the internal NIC (the network that AD is on) to the top of the =  
binding

order (top of the list).

3. Disable the ability for the outer NIC to register. The procedure, as  
mentioned, involves identifying the outer NIC's GUID number. This link =  
will

show you how:

246804 How to Enable Disable Windows 2000 Dynamic DNS Registrations =  
(per

NIC too):

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D246804>

4. Disable NetBIOS on the outside NIC. That is performed by choosing to  
disable NetBIOS in IP Properties, Advanced, and you will find that under =  
the

to disable NetBIOS on the RRAS interfaces if this is a RRAS server.

296379 How to Disable NetBIOS on an Incoming Remote Access Interface  
[Registry Entry]:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D296379>

Note: A standard Windows service, called the "Browser service", provides =  
the

list of machines, workgroup and domain names that you see in "My Network  
Places" (or the legacy term "Network Neighborhood"). The Browser service  
relies on the NetBIOS service. One major requirement of NetBIOS service =  
is a

machine can only have one name to one IP address. It's sort of a  
fingerprint. You can't have two brothers named Darrell. A multihomed =  
machine

will cause duplicate name errors on itself because Windows sees itself =  
with

the same name in the Browse List (My Network Places), but with different  
IPs. You can only have one, hence the error generated.

5. Disable the "File and Print Service" and disable the "MS Client =  
Service"

on the outer NIC. That is done in NIC properties by unchecking the  
respective service under the general properties page. If you need these  
services on the outside NIC (which is unlikely), which allow other =  
machines

to connect to your machine for accessing resource on your machine =  
(shared

folders, printers, etc.), then you will probably need to keep them =  
enabled.

6. Uncheck "Register this connection" under IP properties, Advanced  
settings, "DNS" tab.

7. Delete the outer NIC IP address, disable Netlogon registration, and

manually create the required records

a. In DNS under the zone name, (your DNS domain name), delete the outer NIC's IP references for the "LdapIpAddress". If this is a GC, you will need to delete the GC IP record as well (the "GcIpAddress"). To do that, in the DNS console, under the zone name, you will see the \_msdcs folder. Under that, you will see the \_gc folder. To the right, you will see the IP address referencing the GC address. That is called the GcIpAddress. Delete the IP addresses referencing the outer NIC.

i. To stop these two records from registering that information, use the steps provided in the links below:

Private Network Interfaces on a Domain Controller Are Registered in DNS  
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D295328>

ii. The one section of the article that disables these records is done with this registry entry:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Netlogon\Parameters  
(Create this Multi String Value under it):

Registry value: DnsAvoidRegisterRecords

Data type: REG\_MULTI\_SZ

Values: LdapIpAddress

GcIpAddress

iii. Here is more information on these and other Netlogon Service records:

Restrict the DNS SRV resource records updated by the Netlogon service [including GC]:

[http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/prod=technol/windowsserver2003/proddocs/standard/sag\\_dns\\_pro\\_no\\_rr\\_in\\_ad.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/prod=technol/windowsserver2003/proddocs/standard/sag_dns_pro_no_rr_in_ad.asp)

b. Then you will need to manually create these two records in DNS with the IP addresses that you need for the DC. To create the LdapIpAddress, create a new host under the domain, but leave the "hostname"

field blank, and provide the internal IP of the DC, which results in a record that looks like:

(same as parent) A 192.168.5.200 (192.168.5.200 is used for illustrative purposes)

i. You need to also manually create the GcIpAddress as well, if this is a GC. That would be under the \_msdcs.\_gc SRV record under the zone.

It is created in the same fashion as the LdapIpAddress mentioned above.

8. In the DNS console, right click the server name, choose properties, then under the "Interfaces" tab, force it only to listen to the internal NIC's IP

address, and not the IP address of the outer NIC.

9. Since this is also a DNS server, the IPs from all NICs will register, even if you tell it not to in the NIC properties. See this to show you how

to stop that behavior (this procedure is for Windows 2000, but will also work for Windows 2003):

275554 The Host's A Record Is Registered in DNS After You Choose Not =  
to

Register the Connection's Address:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D275554>

10. If you haven't done so, configure a forwarder. You can use 4.2.2.2 =  
if

not sure which DNS to forward to until you've got the DNS address of =  
your  
ISP.

How to set a forwarder? Good question. Depending on your operating  
system, choose one of the following articles:

300202 HOW TO: Configure DNS for Internet Access in Windows 2000

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D300202&FR=3D1>

323380 HOW TO: Configure DNS for Internet Access in Windows Server =  
2003

(How to configure a forwarder):

<http://support.microsoft.com/d?id?=3D323380>

Active Directory communication fails on multihomed domain controllers

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/272294>

More links to read up and understand what is going on:

292822 Name Resolution and Connectivity Issues on Windows 2000 Domain  
Controller with Routing and Remote Access and DNS Insta {DNS and RRAS =  
and

unwanted IPs registering]:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D292822>

Active Directory communication fails on multihomed domain controllers

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/272294>

246804 How to enable or disable DNS updates in Windows 2000 and in =  
Windows

Server 2003

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D246804>

295328 Private Network Interfaces on a Domain Controller Are =  
Registered in

DNS

[also shows DnsAvoidRegisterRecords LdapIpAddress to avoid reg =  
sameasparent

private IP]:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D295328>

306602 How to Optimize the Location of a DC or GC That Resides Outside =  
of

a Client's

Site [Includes info LdapIpAddress and GcIpAddress information and the =  
SRV

mnemonic values]:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D306602>

825036 Best practices for DNS client settings in Windows 2000 Server =  
and

in Windows Server 2003 (including how to configure a forwarder):

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=3Dkb;en us;825036>

291382 Frequently asked questions about Windows 2000 DNS and Windows  
Server 2003 DNS

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D291382>

296379 How to Disable NetBIOS on an Incoming Remote Access Interface

[Registry Entry]:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=3D296379>

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