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DFS-Replication not replicating changes from one member but receives changes



by RSymmons

on Aug 19, 2012 at 7:24 PM

Windows Server

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Hello,

I'm a bit confused with this one. We have 3 servers in a DFS setup, all of which come from different IP ranges across an MPLS connection. Server ED and Server COL seem to be working just fine and replicate changes between the two sites. Server WAT seems to pick up changes just fine, but doesn't send its own changes to the other two servers. I've noticed that WAT's data seems to be a bit out dated and the usual algorithm was used to determine which file was the more up-to-date and this has been running for roughly 4 days now. The last DFS event on WAT was confirmation of deleting the staging files which were above the high watermark.

Am I being a bit hasty and expecting DFS/R to work before finishing the algorithm stuff or should this be working as expected now considering the WAT server is picking up DFS changes on the other two servers? Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks,

Rob

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Serrano

Sean Hetrick Aug 19, 2012 at 11:03 PM

I have a remote site with a very slow WAN link and have over the past few years have had a similar problem on-and-off. When I use the DFS GUI tools to check the status of replication the results usually aren't as helpful as I would like. What seems to be a more reliable way to check replication status is by using the command-line tool, "dfsrdiag". I don't know how you're monitoring

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consistently in my environment was to stop the replication service on the effected servers, wait 5-10 minutes, start the service on the problem server (in your case WAT), wait a few minutes, starting another server in the replication group, wait, and continue until the replication service was running on all the servers again. I use dfsrdiag before and after to monitor the success of this process. Imagine my surprise when such a simple solution solved my problem!

For my slow WAN link, and with the large files we typically work with, it took something like 20-30 minutes before the results from dfsrdiag changed, so I had to learn to be very patient. Basically what I was looking for was the number of staged files to get smaller. Interestingly after the first time I did this my problems stopped, and haven't come back. It took almost 2 days for the problem server to catch up, but I've been good ever since.

I've since written a PowerShell script that monitors all of my replication groups and gives me a red-light or green-light for each depending on their status. If I get a red-light I troubleshoot further, if not I move on the next chore. It has made my life much easier ... just got to love PowerShell.



Mace

molán 

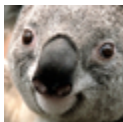
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Aug 19, 2012 at 11:04 PM

go into the DFS management console and make sure the links are enabled for that server in question. it is possible the link has been disabled in one direction allowing it to receive updates but not send them.

also check the event logs on that machine for DFS related errors



Sonora

RSymmons Aug 19, 2012 at 11:48 PM

Thanks for the response guys.

I seemed to have fixed it and DFSR is working in both directions. I did a few things but I reckon it was due to the firewall service being enabled on the server (even though it was turned off under control panel) and adding an exception for RPC (port 135) as per <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/832017>. It's amazing just how quickly it started working again. Sean, your powershell script sounds quite interesting! Any chance of nabbing it?

Have either of you had experience with using the Microsoft DFS replication monitoring pack for SCOM I hear it's pretty decent?

Thanks again,

Rob



Serrano

Sean Hetrick Aug 20, 2012 at 9:42 PM

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 DFSReplicationCheck.ps1 (3.12 KB)



Pimiento

paulpeterson Apr 23, 2015 at 10:03 AM

I realize this thread is nearly three years old now, but just wanted to give a big *Thank You* to **Sean** for the PowerShell script. That is making my DFS management much easier in fighting backlog issues. Kudos!



Pimiento

lukebrynycz Jun 19, 2015 at 1:22 AM

I'd like to echo Paul. Cheers Sean for the script, it works a treat after a bit of modifying :-)

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