How to demote Domain Controller at Azure

In this post, I am going to demote domain controller that is currently hosted in Azure. I am demoting the DC to save $25 monthly towards virtual machine cost and $35 towards Site to Site connectivity. I did the deployment in Azure to learn setup process.

I have one vm running Windows Server 2019 with 2GB memory and 120GB SATA hard disk. I will remove ADDS role and complete the process.

Uncheck this

Remove Roles and Features Wizard ✕

Remove features that require Active Directory Domain Services?

You can remove management tools, or leave them installed on this server to manage other servers.

```
    [Tools] Group Policy Management
  ◢ Remote Server Administration Tools
     ◢ Role Administration Tools
        ◢ AD DS and AD LDS Tools
           ◢ AD DS Tools
                Active Directory Administrative Center
                [Tools] AD DS Snap-Ins and Command-Line Tools
```

☑ Remove management tools (if applicable)

[Remove Features]   [Cancel]

Remove Roles and Features Wizard ✕

❌ Validation Results

The validation process found problems on the server from which you want to remove features. The selected features cannot be removed from the selected server. Click OK to select different features.

Validation Results	Server
⌃ ❌	DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA

The Active Directory domain controller needs to be demoted before the AD DS role can be removed.

Demote this domain controller

[OK]

Check this

Active Directory Domain Services Configuration Wizard

Credentials

Credentials
Warnings
Removal Options
New Administrator Passw...
Review Options
Demotion
Results

Supply the credentials to perform this operation

RAMLAN\Administrator (Current user)   [Change...]

☐ Force the removal of this domain controller

⚠ The server will be automatically restarted after the demotion operation. Role removal needs to be performed after the restart.

More about removal credentials

[< Previous] [Next >]   [Demote] [Cancel]

Active Directory Domain Services Configuration Wizard

Warnings

Credentials
Warnings
New Administrator Passw...
Review Options
Demotion
Results

The domain controller currently hosts the following role(s):
- Domain Name System (DNS) Server
- Global Catalog

⚠ The roles hosted by the domain controller are required for Active Directory Domain Services functionality. If you proceed, some Active Directory Domain Services operations may be impacted.

☑ Proceed with removal

More about removal options

[< Previous] [Next >]   [Demote] [Cancel]

Active Directory Domain Services Configuration Wizard

New Administrator Password

Credentials
    Warnings
New Administrator Passw...
Review Options
Demotion
Results

Password: `••••••••`

Confirm password: `••••••••`

More about removal administrator password

< Previous   Next >   Demote   Cancel

Active Directory Domain Services Configuration Wizard

Demotion

Credentials
    Warnings
New Administrator Passw...
Review Options
Demotion
Results

Progress

Reading domain policy from the local machine

⌃ View detailed operation results

⚠ DNS Server service has been detected on this server. Any existing Active Directory integrated zones will be deleted during the removal of Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) on this server. After the forced removal of AD DS, you should delete any existing DNS delegations pointing to this server.

More about removal options

< Previous   Next >   Demote   Cancel

After restart, I was not able to RDP. The only way out for me was to delete the VM and the resource group to cut the cost.

This concludes DC demotion.

Thanks

Ram Lan
14th Mar 2021