

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.

The screenshot shows the 'PROPERTIES' window for the server 'DCAZURE'. The left sidebar shows 'Local Server' selected. The main area displays system information:

Computer name	DCAZURE	Last installed updates	25-Feb-2021 2:05 PM
Workgroup	RAMLAN.CA	Windows Update	Never check for updates
		Last checked for updates	25-Feb-2021 1:45 PM
Windows Defender Firewall	Unknown	Windows Defender Antivirus	Unknown
Remote management	Enabled	Feedback & Diagnostics	Settings
Remote Desktop	Unknown	IE Enhanced Security Configuration	Unknown
NIC Teaming		Time zone	(UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
		Product ID	Unknown
Operating system version	Microsoft Windows Server 2019 Datacenter	Processors	Intel(R) Xeon(R) Platinum 8171M CPU @ 2.60GHz
Hardware information	Unknown	Installed memory (RAM)	2 GB
		Total disk space	Unknown

The screenshot shows the 'Manage' menu in Server Manager. The 'Remove Roles and Features' option is highlighted.

- Manage
- Tools
- View
- Help
- Add Roles and Features
- Remove Roles and Features**
- Add Servers
- Create Server Group
- Server Manager Properties

The screenshot shows the 'Remove Roles and Features Wizard' window. The title bar reads 'Remove Roles and Features Wizard'. The main content area is titled 'Before you begin' and shows the destination server as 'DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA'. The wizard steps are: Before You Begin, Server Selection, Server Roles, Features, Confirmation, and Results. The 'Before You Begin' step is active.

This wizard helps you remove roles, role services, or features.

To add roles, role services, or features:
[Start the Add Roles and Features Wizard](#)

Before you continue, verify that the following tasks have been completed:

- Decide if you want to save or delete role data
- Migrate role settings and data to another server
- Schedule downtime for affected services
- Notify users of potential service interruptions

To continue, click Next.

Skip this page by default

Navigation buttons at the bottom: < Previous, Next >, Remove, Cancel.

Select destination server

DESTINATION SERVER
DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA

Before You Begin

Server Selection

Server Roles

Features

Confirmation

Results

Select a server or a virtual hard disk from which to remove roles and features.

 Select a server from the server pool Select a virtual hard disk

Server Pool

Name	IP Address	Operating System
DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA	10.0.0.4	Microsoft Windows Server 2019 Datacenter

1 Computer(s) found

This page shows servers that are running Windows Server 2012 or a newer release of Windows Server, and that have been added by using the Add Servers command in Server Manager. Offline servers and newly-added servers from which data collection is still incomplete are not shown.

< Previous

Next >

Remove

Cancel

Uncheck this

Remove server roles

DESTINATION SERVER
DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA

Before You Begin

Server Selection

Server Roles

Features

Confirmation

Results

To remove one or more installed roles from the selected server, clear their check boxes.

Roles

- Active Directory Certificate Services (Not installed)
- Active Directory Domain Services
- Active Directory Federation Services (Not installed)
- Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services (Not installed)
- Active Directory Rights Management Services (Not installed)
- Device Health Attestation (Not installed)
- DHCP Server (Not installed)
- DNS Server
- Fax Server (Not installed)
- File and Storage Services
 - Host Guardian Service (Not installed)
 - Hyper-V (Not installed)
 - Network Controller (Not installed)
 - Network Policy and Access Services (Not installed)
 - Print and Document Services (Not installed)
 - Remote Access (Not installed)
 - Remote Desktop Services (Not installed)
 - Volume Activation Services (Not installed)
 - Web Server (IIS) (Not installed)

Description

Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) stores information about objects on the network and makes this information available to users and network administrators. AD DS uses domain controllers to give network users access to permitted resources anywhere on the network through a single logon process.

< Previous

Next >

Remove

Cancel

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

✕ 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
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⬆️ ✕	DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA
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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

TARGET SERVER
DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA


Credentials

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

Supply the credentials to perform this operation
RAMLAN\Administrator (Current user)

Force the removal of this domain controller

[Change...](#)

 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


TARGET SERVER
DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA

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

New Administrator Password

TARGET SERVER
DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA

Credentials

Warnings

New Administrator Passw...

Review Options

Demotion

Results

Password:

Confirm password:

[More about removal administrator password](#)

< Previous

Next >

Demote

Cancel

Demotion

TARGET SERVER
DCAZURE.RAMLAN.CA

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

You're about to be signed out

The computer is being restarted because Active Directory Domain Services was installed or removed.

Close

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

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