

Windows Administrator Interview Questions and Answers

Windows Admin Interview questions

Important Windows Admin Interview Questions

1. Q: What does Active Directory mean?

A: The active Directory means a service that identifies and handles resources, making them visible for different groups or members that are authorized. It has the role of an object store. The Active directory sees as objects workstations, people, servers devices or documents and they all have their own characteristics and access control list or ACL.

2.Q: What is the meaning of Global Catalog?

A: A Global Catalog is something that each domain has, and it is used for authenticating the user on the network, on windows 2000 network logon's were protected from failures by assigning a Global Catalog to every site.

3.Q: What is the use for DHCP?

A: DHCP is used for the DHCP servers, personal computers can get their configuration from a DHCP server on an IP configuration. The server knows nothing about the personal computers until they make a request for information. Usually the most common information sent is IP address and DHCP is used to make a large network administration easier.

4.Q: What does a Super Scope do in DHCP?

A: The Super Scope gives the DHCP server the possibility to have leases to multiple clients on the same physical network. The leases come from multiple scopes. All scopes must be defined using DHCP manager before the Super Scope creation and they are named member scopes. The DHCP problems can be resolved by the Super Scope in different ways like the following:

- a) on a physical network like a LAN network where multiple logical IP networks exist Super Scope is very useful here. These types of networks are also named multinet.
- b) there is also need for a Super Scope when the address pool for the current scope becomes empty and there is a need for new computers on the physical network.
- c) when clients have to move on another scope.
- d) when DHCP clients from the other side of the relay agents (BOOTP) or the network has many logical subnets.
- e) when standard networks are limited to leasing addresses for the clients.

5.Q: How can we switch the roles in an Active Directory?

A: Switching or transferring roles in an Active Directory can be made with the use of Ntdsutil.exe.

6.Q: What is the purpose of a Stub zone DNS?

A: The copy of a zone that has only the needed resources for finding the authoritative DNS servers in that specific zone (DNS= Domain Name Servers) is called a Stub zone. It also resolves names for DNS namespaces, thing required when names must be resolved from two different DNS namespaces. The Stub zone contains: the master server's IP that is used for updating the Stub zone and the SOA (Start of Authority), the NS (name server) and the glue A delegated zone records.

5.Q: What main file is used for Active Directory backup and how it is made?

A: Active Directory backup is made using NTbackup utility. The backup is made once with the system state and they are restored also together because they depend on each other. The system state has different components like:

- a) The registry
- b) Boot files or startup files (files required by the operating system to start).
- c) The component services
- d) The system volume or the SYSVOL folder this is a folder that contains files that are shared on a domain.
- e) The Active Directory

6.Q: Does a windows administrator have to be critical?

A: Yes and I can explain how. A system administrator is responsible for an entire network which means he/she must take care of multiple things in the same time which is not an easy task. In order to achieve this, an administrator must have high organization skills and a high technical knowledge and he/she must prevent the problems from happening so that he/she won't have to be forced to fix them.

7.Q: In what way is forward lookup zone different from the reverse lookup zone in NDS?

A: There is one difference between these two: the forward lookup means name to IP and reverse lookup means IP to name.

8.Q: As a system administrator can you make backup and recovery of data?

A: This is a responsibility that any system administrator must have assume as a basic skill. Of course there are many types of backup that can be made but all must be known for a successful career.

9.Q: What is the meaning of DHCP and what is the port used by it to work?

A: DHCP or Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol has the ability to assign an IP automatically, this is done in fact by the server and has a number range. When the system starts an IP is assigned automatically. The DHCP server has port number 68, while the client has 67.

10.Q: Can you ensure an updated system all the time and perform market research?

A: Staying up-to-date is another strong point of a professional administrator, technology evolves and we must keep up with the flow, otherwise we can't do our job in a professional way. Market research is the key to an up-to-date work.

11.Q: Is it possible for a computer to be able to browse the internet without having a default gateway?

A: Yes it is as long as we use a public IP address. The gateway is required as a router or firewall when using an intranet address.

12.Q: What are the advantages or disadvantages of using DHCP?

A: The advantage is that the DHCP server configures all IP's automatically and the disadvantage is that when you receive a new IP address the machine name remains the same because of its association with the IP. It's not a real problem but when somebody tries to access the machine by its name it becomes one.

13.Q: Are you familiar with monitoring?

A: Yes, monitoring is a basic activity of a system administrator, he/she manages all the access rights and the server space, security of the user accounts is one of the most important things here. Also an administrator must make sure that the user's activity doesn't affect in any way the integrity of the server.

14.Q: How can we create a SRV record in DNS?

A: To do this we must open the DNS then we must select the abc.local domain the right click and we must go to Other New Records and the SRV (choose location).

15.Q: In how much time are the security changes applied on the domain controllers?

A: Including policies for personal and public lockout, the changes apply immediately. The changes also include passwords and LSA or Local Security Authority.

16.Q: What do you do if a an end user states that a file is gone?

A: Files are deleted constantly by end users but the backup can restore them. Anyhow before using the backup we must check if the user didn't move the file by mistake in another place.

17.Q: Where is the storage place of the environmental settings and documents from the roaming profile?

A: These documents and settings are deposited locally until the user's log off, when they are moved into the shared folder from the server so the log on at a fresh system may take a while because of this.

18.Q: What are the classes that we can find in the Active Directory of Windows Server 2003?

A: We can find:

- a) the *abstract class* which can be made to look like a template and create other templates, no matter if they are abstract, auxiliary or structural.
- b) the structural class is the important type of class that is made from multiple abstract classes or an existing structural class. They are the only ones that can make Active Directory objects.
- c) the auxiliary class is used as a replace for many attributes of a structural class, it is a list of attributes.
- d) The 88 class is used for objects classes that were defined before 1993 and it is not a common class, it doesn't use abstract, structural or auxiliary classes.

19.Q: When is a good time for creating a forest?

A: Certain companies that have different bases require different trees and separate namespaces. And unique names sometimes give birth to different identities of DNS. Also companies are sometimes acquired and get under other influences but the continuity must be preserved for the names.

20.Q: Can you explain to us about you experience in the past regarding windows administration?

A: I have ten years of experience in this field, I was passionate about computers since childhood and I installed many operating systems at home and inside organizations including these versions of windows: 95, 98, 98 SE, NT, Millenium, 2000, 2003 Server, XP, Seven, Vista. I also managed these systems and performed maintenance, I worked with different applications from the windows environment.

21.Q: How can you handle a situation in which for instance if you have an application that is not running on Windows 2003 because it's older?

A: In this situation the application has to be started in the compatibility mode with a previously windows operating system. This is made by right clicking the application icon and choosing another Windows from the compatibility menu.

22.Q: What is the meaning of Repadmin.exe from Windows Server 2008?

A: Repadmin.exe means Replication Diagnostics Tool and helps for the diagnostic of domain controllers in the Windows system. This tool is used by administrators to see the replication topology from the perspective of every domain controller. The active Directory forest can also be supervised by Repadmin.exe and replication problems can be tracked.

23.Q: What difference can we find in the usage of CSVDE versus LDIFDE?

A: CSVDE and LDIFDE are both commands and are used for importing and exporting objects but they are different in the way that CSVDE uses the format CSV (Comma Separated Value) which is an Excel file for files and LDIFDE uses LDIF (LDAP Data Interchange Format) file type which can be viewed with a simple text editor. LDIFDE can be also used for editing or deleting objects unlike CSVDE.

24.Q: What big differences exist between these two operating systems: Windows 2000 and Windows XP?

A: Windows 2000 has more capabilities than Windows XP especially regarding features like DHCP, Terminal Services or DNS. It has all the advantages for server usage. Windows 2000 is a little more professional than XP, but they are both coming with different versions for every user taste. While XP has Home version, Professional or Enterprise, Windows 2000 has Professional and Server editions. The Home version of XP comes with minimal features because the target clients are beginners.

25.Q: What are the things that make Unix different from Windows?

A: The code loading runtime of Unix is different from the one that Windows has. We must become aware of how the system exactly works before we make a dynamically loading module. Unix has the shared objects with the .so extension that encapsulate lines of code that the programs will use and the functions names. These function names become the references of those functions in the memory of the program when the file is combined with the program. In Windows the .dll file (dynamic-link library file) doesn't have references and the code of the files does not link to the memory of the program but they get through a lookup table which points to data or functions. Unix has just one type of library file, with the .a extension and the code of many object file is contained within with the .o extension. When the link is created for a shared object file the definition of the identifier may not be found, so the object code from the library will be included.

1. How do you double-boot a Win 2003 server box?

The Boot.ini file is set as read-only, system, and hidden to prevent unwanted editing. To change the Boot.ini timeout and default settings, use the System option in Control Panel from the Advanced tab and select Startup.

2. What do you do if earlier application doesn't run on Windows Server 2003?

When an application that ran on an earlier legacy version of Windows cannot be loaded during the setup function or if it later malfunctions, you must run the compatibility mode function. This is accomplished by right-clicking the application or setup program and selecting Properties -> Compatibility -> selecting the previously supported operating system.

3. If you uninstall Windows Server 2003, which operating systems can you revert to?

Win ME, Win 98, 2000, XP. Note, however, that you cannot upgrade from ME and 98 to Windows Server 2003.

4. How do you get to Internet Firewall settings?

Start -> Control Panel -> Network and Internet Connections -> Network Connections.

5. What are the Windows Server 2003 keyboard shortcuts?

Winkey opens or closes the Start menu. Winkey + BREAK displays the System Properties dialog box. Winkey + TAB moves the focus to the next application in the taskbar. Winkey + SHIFT + TAB moves the focus to the previous application in the taskbar. Winkey + B moves the focus to the notification area. Winkey + D shows the desktop. Winkey + E opens Windows Explorer showing My Computer. Winkey + F opens the Search panel. Winkey + CTRL + F opens the Search panel with Search for Computers module selected. Winkey + F1 opens Help. Winkey + M minimizes all. Winkey + SHIFT+ M undoes minimization. Winkey + R opens Run dialog. Winkey + U opens the Utility Manager. Winkey + L locks the computer.

6. What is Active Directory?

Active Directory is a network-based object store and service that locates and manages resources, and makes these resources available to authorized users and groups. An underlying principle of the Active Directory is that everything is considered an object—people, servers,

workstations, printers, documents, and devices. Each object has certain attributes and its own security access control list (ACL).

7. Where are the Windows NT Primary Domain Controller (PDC) and its Backup Domain Controller (BDC) in Server 2003?

The Active Directory replaces them. Now all domain controllers share a multimaster peer-to-peer read and write relationship that hosts copies of the Active Directory.

8. How long does it take for security changes to be replicated among the domain controllers?

Security-related modifications are replicated within a site immediately. These changes include account and individual user lockout policies, changes to password policies, changes to computer account passwords, and modifications to the Local Security Authority (LSA).

9. What's new in Windows Server 2003 regarding the DNS management?

When DC promotion occurs with an existing forest, the Active Directory Installation Wizard contacts an existing DC to update the directory and replicate from the DC the required portions of the directory. If the wizard fails to locate a DC, it performs debugging and reports what caused the failure and how to fix the problem. In order to be located on a network, every DC must register in DNS DC locator DNS records. The Active Directory Installation Wizard verifies a proper configuration of the DNS infrastructure. All DNS configuration debugging and reporting activity is done with the Active Directory Installation Wizard.

10. When should you create a forest?

Organizations that operate on radically different bases may require separate trees with distinct namespaces. Unique trade or brand names often give rise to separate DNS identities. Organizations merge or are acquired and naming continuity is desired. Organizations form partnerships and joint ventures. While access to common resources is desired, a separately defined tree can enforce more direct administrative and security restrictions.

11. How can you authenticate between forests?

Four types of authentication are used across forests: (1) Kerberos and NTLM network logon for remote access to a server in another forest; (2) Kerberos and NTLM interactive logon for

physical logon outside the user's home forest; (3) Kerberos delegation to N-tier application in another forest; and (4) user principal name (UPN) credentials.

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By [admin](#) | December 7, 2003

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12. **What snap-in administrative tools are available for Active Directory?** Active Directory Domains and Trusts Manager, Active Directory Sites and Services Manager, Active Directory Users and Group Manager, Active Directory Replication (optional, available from the Resource Kit), Active Directory Schema Manager (optional, available from adminpak)
13. **What types of classes exist in Windows Server 2003 Active Directory?**
- **Structural class.** The structural class is important to the system administrator in that it is the only type from which new Active Directory objects are created. Structural classes are developed from either the modification of an existing structural type or the use of one or more abstract classes.
 - **Abstract class.** Abstract classes are so named because they take the form of templates that actually create other templates (abstracts) and structural and auxiliary classes. Think of abstract classes as frameworks for the defining objects.
 - **Auxiliary class.** The auxiliary class is a list of attributes. Rather than apply numerous attributes when creating a structural class, it provides a streamlined alternative by applying a combination of attributes with a single include action.
 - **88 class.** The 88 class includes object classes defined prior to 1993, when the 1988 X.500 specification was adopted. This type does not use the structural, abstract, and auxiliary definitions, nor is it in common use for the development of objects in Windows Server 2003 environments.
14. **How do you delete a lingering object?** Windows Server 2003 provides a command called Repadmin that provides the ability to delete lingering objects in the Active Directory.
15. **What is Global Catalog?** The Global Catalog authenticates network user logons and fields inquiries about objects across a forest or tree. Every domain has at least one GC that is hosted on domain controller. In Windows 2000, there was typically one GC on every site in order to prevent user logon failures across the network.

16. **How is user account security established in Windows Server 2003?** When an account is created, it is given a unique access number known as a security identifier (SID). Every group to which the user belongs has an associated SID. The user and related group SIDs together form the user account's security token, which determines access levels to objects throughout the system and network. SIDs from the security token are mapped to the access control list (ACL) of any object the user attempts to access.
17. **If I delete a user and then create a new account with the same username and password, would the SID and permissions stay the same?** No. If you delete a user account and attempt to recreate it with the same user name and password, the SID will be different.
18. **What do you do with secure sign-ons in an organization with many roaming users?** Credential Management feature of Windows Server 2003 provides a consistent single sign-on experience for users. This can be useful for roaming users who move between computer systems. The Credential Management feature provides a secure store of user credentials that includes passwords and X.509 certificates.
19. **Anything special you should do when adding a user that has a Mac?** "Save password as encrypted clear text" must be selected on User Properties Account Tab Options, since the Macs only store their passwords that way.
20. **What remote access options does Windows Server 2003 support?** Dial-in, VPN, dial-in with callback.
21. **Where are the documents and settings for the roaming profile stored?** All the documents and environmental settings for the roaming user are stored locally on the system, and, when the user logs off, all changes to the locally stored profile are copied to the shared server folder. Therefore, the first time a roaming user logs on to a new system the logon process may take some time, depending on how large his profile folder is.
22. **Where are the settings for all the users stored on a given machine?** \Document and Settings\All Users
23. **What languages can you use for log-on scripts?** JavaScript, VBScript, DOS batch files (.com, .bat, or even .exe)