DNS Aging and Scavenging

DNS dynamic updates add resource records to the zone automatically, but in some cases those records are not deleted automatically when they are no longer required. For example, if a computer registers its own host (A) resource record and is improperly disconnected from the network, the host (A) resource record might not be deleted. These records, known as stale records, take up space in the DNS database and may result in an incorrect query response being returned. Windows Server 2012 can search for those stale records and, based on the aging of the record, scavenge them from the DNS database.

Aging and scavenging is disabled by default. You can enable aging and scavenging in the **Advanced** properties of the DNS server, or you can enable it for selected zones in the zone's Properties window.

Aging is determined by using parameters known as the Refresh interval and the No-refresh interval. The Refresh interval is the date and time that the record is eligible to be refreshed by the client. The default is seven days. The No-refresh interval is the period of time that the record is not eligible to be refreshed. By default, this is seven days. In the normal course of events, a client host record cannot be refreshed in the database for seven days after it is first registered or refreshed. However, it then must be refreshed within the next seven days after the No-refresh interval, or the record becomes eligible to be scavenged out of the database. A client will attempt to refresh its DNS record at startup, and every 24 hours while the system is running.

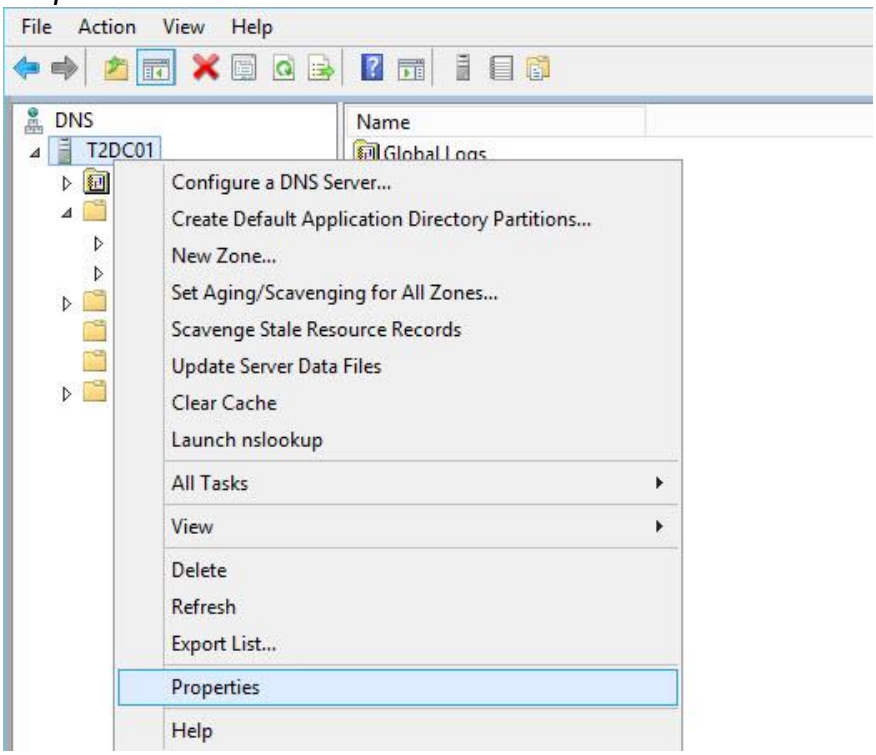
Note: Records that are added dynamically to the database are time-stamped. Static records that you enter manually have a time stamp value of zero 0; therefore they will not be affected by aging, and will not be scavenged out of the database

- Enable Scavenging on your DNS server
- Enable Scavenging for all Zones
- Manually Scavenge stale records
- Enable Scavenging for an individual Zone

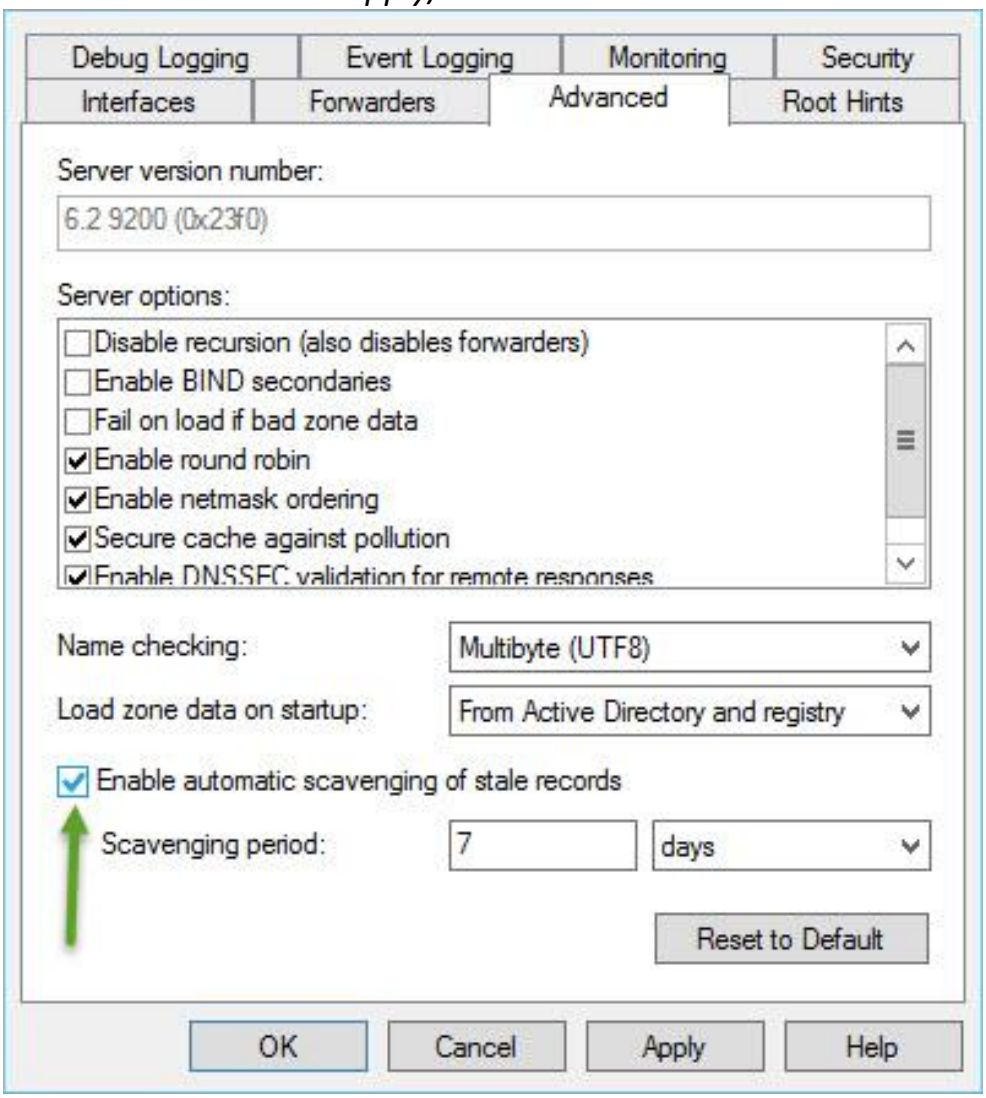
Opening your DNS Manager by typing DNS in start or run dnsmgmt.msc

Enable Scavenging on your DNS server

1. First of all, we need to enable Scavenging on the DNS-server. Many tends to forget this step, and to be honest, it does seem a tad redundant. Nevertheless, open the DNS Manager, right-click server name and select P*roperties*.



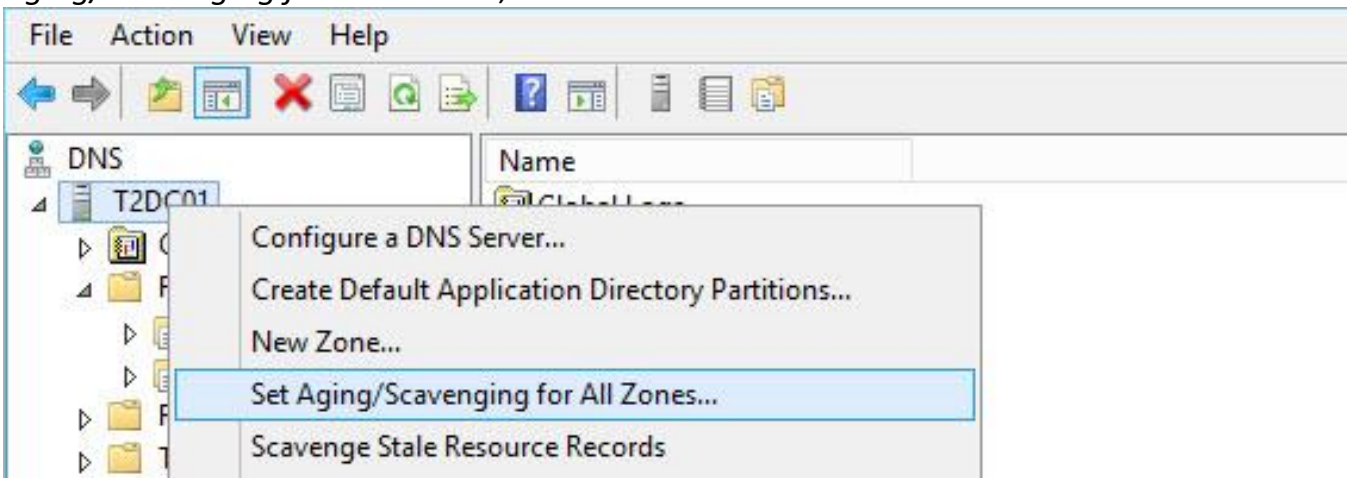
2. Click the *Advanced* tab and put a mark in *Enable Automatic svacenging of stale records* and click *Apply/OK*.



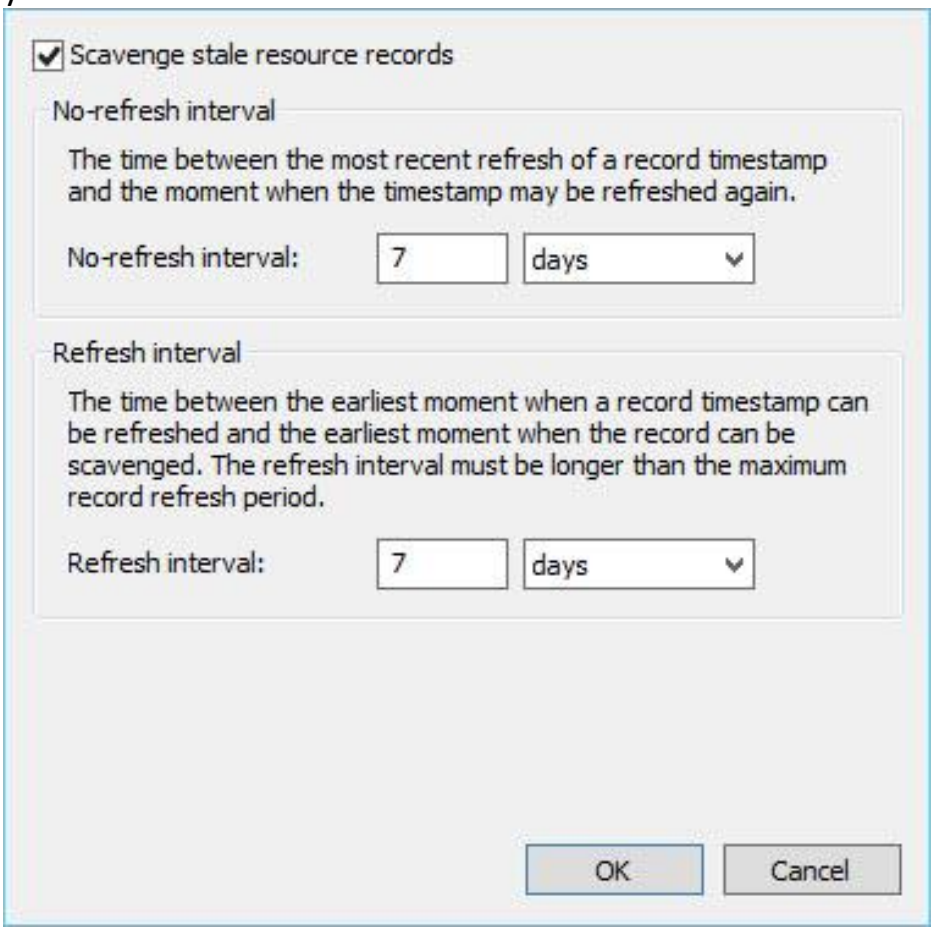
3. *Scavenging* is now enabled on the DNS server, but remember you have to either *enable scavenging on all zones* or *enable scavenging on individual zones* as well, which we do next, or nothing happens.

Enable Scavenging for all Zones

1. Right-click your servername, my server is named *T2DC01*, and select *Set Aging/Scavenging for All Zones…*,

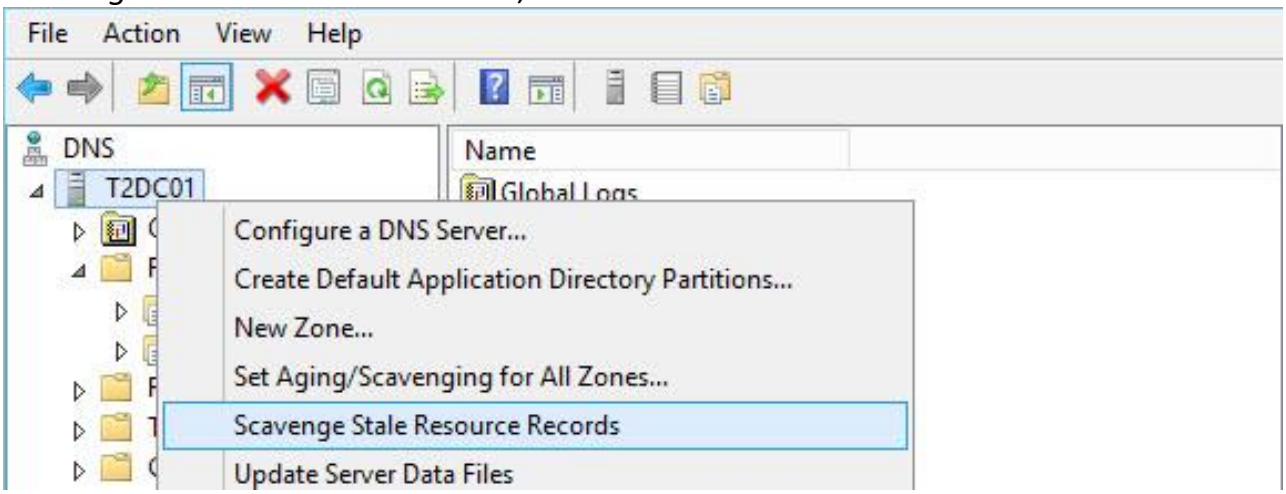


2. Put a mark in *Scavenge stale ressource records*, and adjust the settings if you need to. Default is 7 and 7.

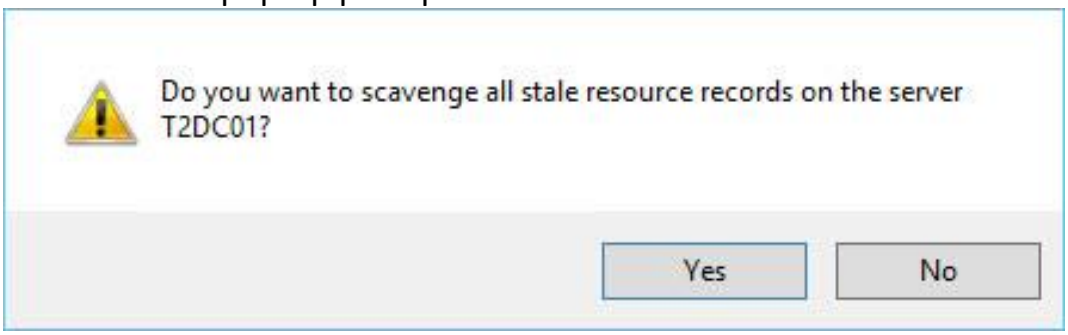


Manually Scavenge stale records

1. Right-click your servername, my server is named *T2DC01*, and select *Scavenge Stale Ressource Records*,



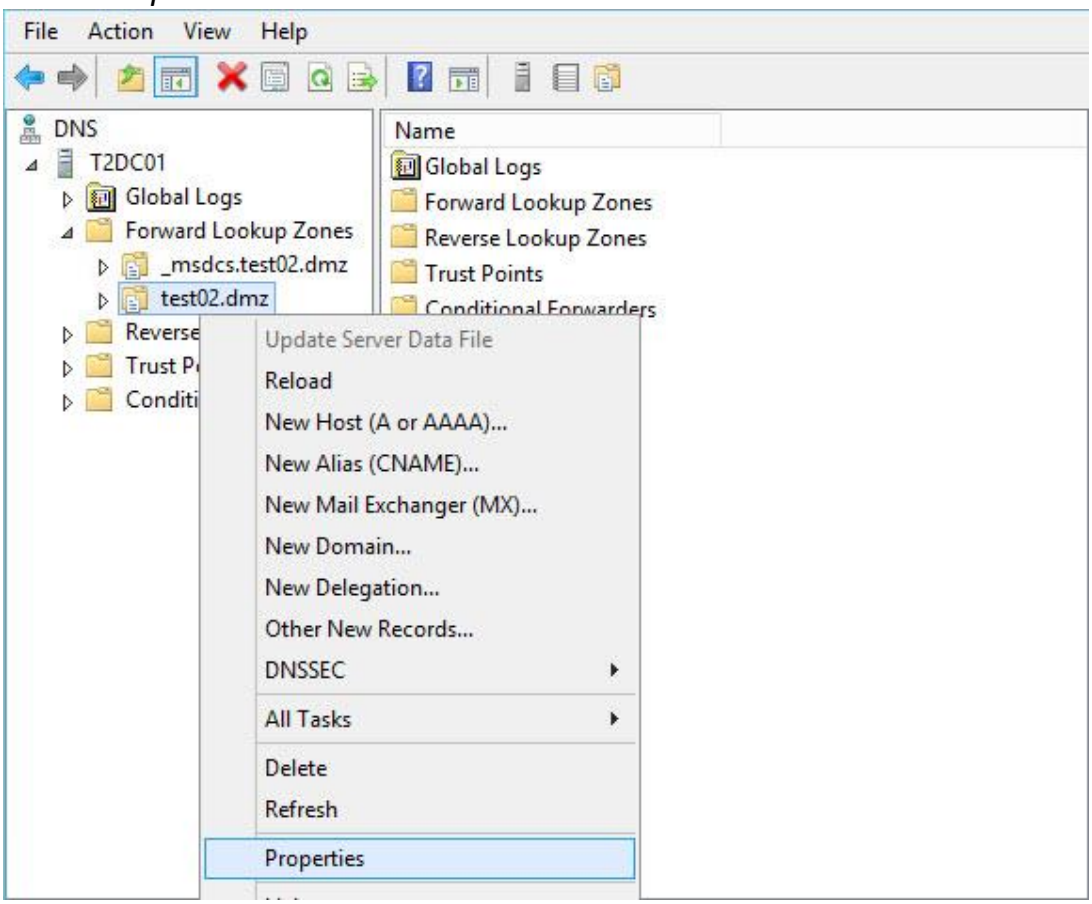
and OK to the pop-up prompt



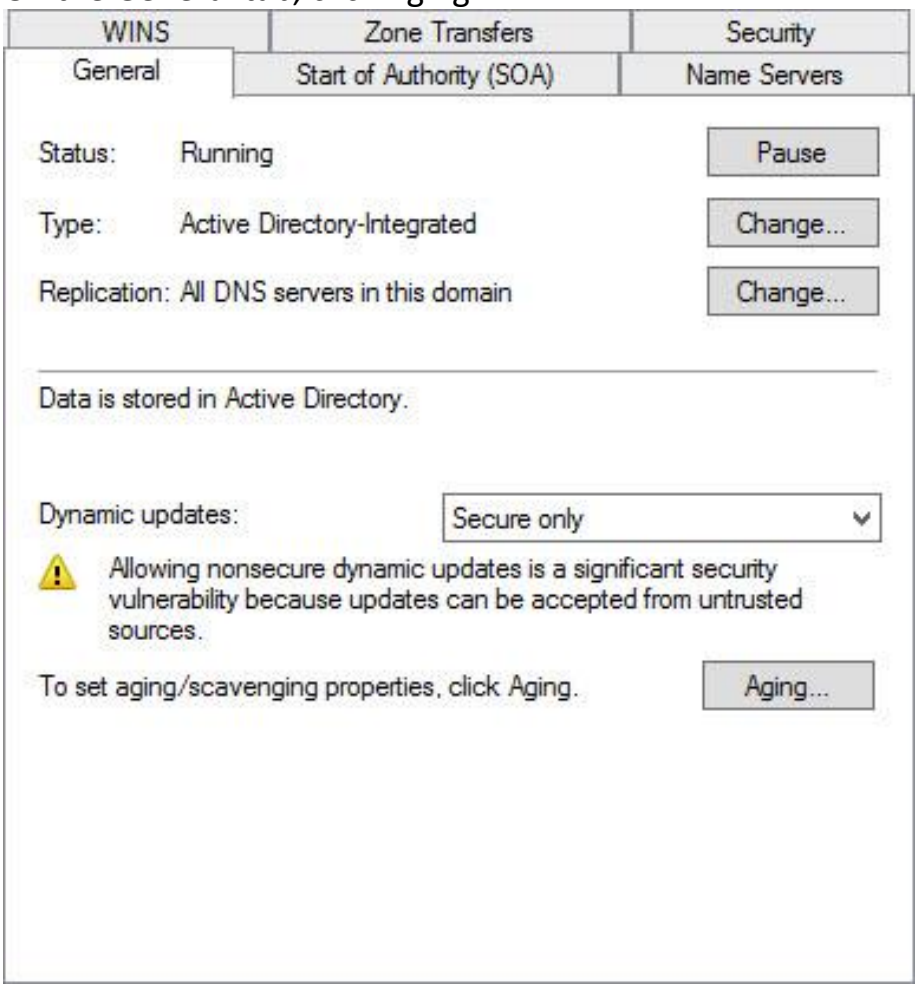
Enable Scavenging for an individual Zone.

Use this option if you do not want Scavenging enabled for all zones, or if you want different settings pr. zone.

1. Right-click your *Forward Lookup Zone* name, in my case *test02.dmz* and select *Properties*



2. On the General tab, click Aging…



3. Put a mark in *Scavenge stale ressource records*, and adjust the settings if you need to. Default is 7 and 7.