

Ntdsutil

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Applies To: Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2003 R2, Windows Server 2003 with SP1, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2008 R2

Ntdsutil.exe is a command-line tool that provides management facilities for Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services (AD LDS). You can use the **ntdsutil** commands to perform database maintenance of AD DS, manage and control single master operations, and remove metadata left behind by domain controllers that were removed from the network without being properly uninstalled. This tool is intended for use by experienced administrators.

Ntdsutil.exe is built into Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2008 R2. It is available if you have the AD DS or the AD LDS server role installed. It is also available if you install the Active Directory Domain Services Tools that are part of the Remote Server Administration Tools (RSAT). For more information, see [How to Administer Microsoft Windows Client and Server Computers Locally and Remotely](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=177813) (<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=177813>).

To use Ntdsutil.exe, you must run the **ntdsutil** command from an elevated command prompt. To open an elevated command prompt, click **Start**, right-click **Command Prompt**, and then click **Run as administrator**.

If you have the AD LDS server role installed but not the AD DS server role, you can use the dsdbutil.exe and dsmgmt.exe command-line tools to perform the same tasks that you can perform with ntdsutil.exe. For more information about the **dsdbutil** command, see [Dsdbutil](#). For more information about the **dsmgmt** command, see [Dsmgmt](#).

For most of the Ntdsutil commands, you only need to type the first few characters of the command name instead than the entire command. For example, you can type either of the following commands to activate an instance for AD DS:

```
activate instance ntds  
ac i ntds
```

The short form for each command is listed in the following table.

[Syntax](#)

```
Ntdsutil [activate instance %s | authoritative restore | change service  
account %s1 %s2 | configurable settings | DS behavior | files | group  
membership evaluation | Help | ifm | ldap policies | ldap port %d | list  
instance | local roles | metadata cleanup | partition management | popups on
```

| popups off | quit | roles | security account management | semantic database analysis | set DSRM password | snapshot | SSL port %d]

[Commands](#)

Command	Description
Activate instance %s short form: ac i %s	Sets NTDS or a specific AD LDS instance as the active instance.
authoritative restore Short form: au r	Authoritatively restores the Active Directory database or AD LDS instance.
Change service account %s1 %s2 configurable settings Short form: co s	Changes the AD LDS service account to user name %s1 and password %s2. Use "NULL" for a blank password. Use * to prompt the user to enter a password. Manages configurable settings.
DS behavior Short form: ds b	Views and modifies AD DS or AD LDS behavior.
files Short form: f	Manages AD DS or AD LDS database files.
group membership evaluation Short form: g m e	Evaluates security IDs (SIDs) in the token for a given user or group.
Help ifm	Shows this help information. Creates installation media for writable (full) and read-only domain controllers (RODCs) and instances of AD LDS.
Short form: i LDAP policies	Manages Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) protocol policies.
Ldap port %d List instances	Configures an LDAP port for an AD LDS instance. Lists all AD LDS instances that are installed on a computer.
Short form: li i local roles Short form: lo r	Manages local administrative roles on an RODC.

[metadata cleanup](#)

Cleans up objects of decommissioned servers.

Short form: m c

[partition management](#)

Manages directory partitions.

Short form: pa m

Popups off

Disables popups.

Short form: po off

Popups on

Enables popups.

Short form: po on

Quit

Quits the command.

Short form: q

[roles](#)

Transfers and seizes operations master roles.

Short form: r

[security account management](#)

Manages SIDs.

Short form: sec a m

[semantic database analysis](#)

Verifies integrity of AD DS or AD LDS database files with respect to Active Directory semantics.

Short form: sem d a

[set DSRM password](#)

Resets the Directory Services Restore Mode (DSRM) administrator password.

Short form: set d p

[snapshot](#)

Manages snapshots of the volumes that contain the Active Directory database and log files.

Short form: sn

SSL port %d

Configures a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) port for an AD LDS instance.