SEIZING THE THE FSMO ROLES

SERVER 2012R2

The seizing operation should be performed only if you are absolutely sure the original FSMO role owner will not be brought back into the environment.

The seizing process does not have a GUI so it has to be done from the command line using **ntdsutil**.

Type **ntdsutil** and press **Enter**.

```
C:\>ntdsutil
```

Type **roles** and **Enter** again.

```
ntdsutil: roles
fsmo maintenance:
```

Now type **connections** and press **Enter**.

```
fsmo maintenance: connections
server connections:
```

Here you have to put in the command the domain controller that will get the FSMO role(s). Type **connect to server <server name>** and press **Enter.** Where <server name> is the name of your target domain controller.

```
server connections: connect to server Server-DC
Binding to Server-DC ...
Connected to Server-DC using credentials of locally logged on user.
server connections:
```

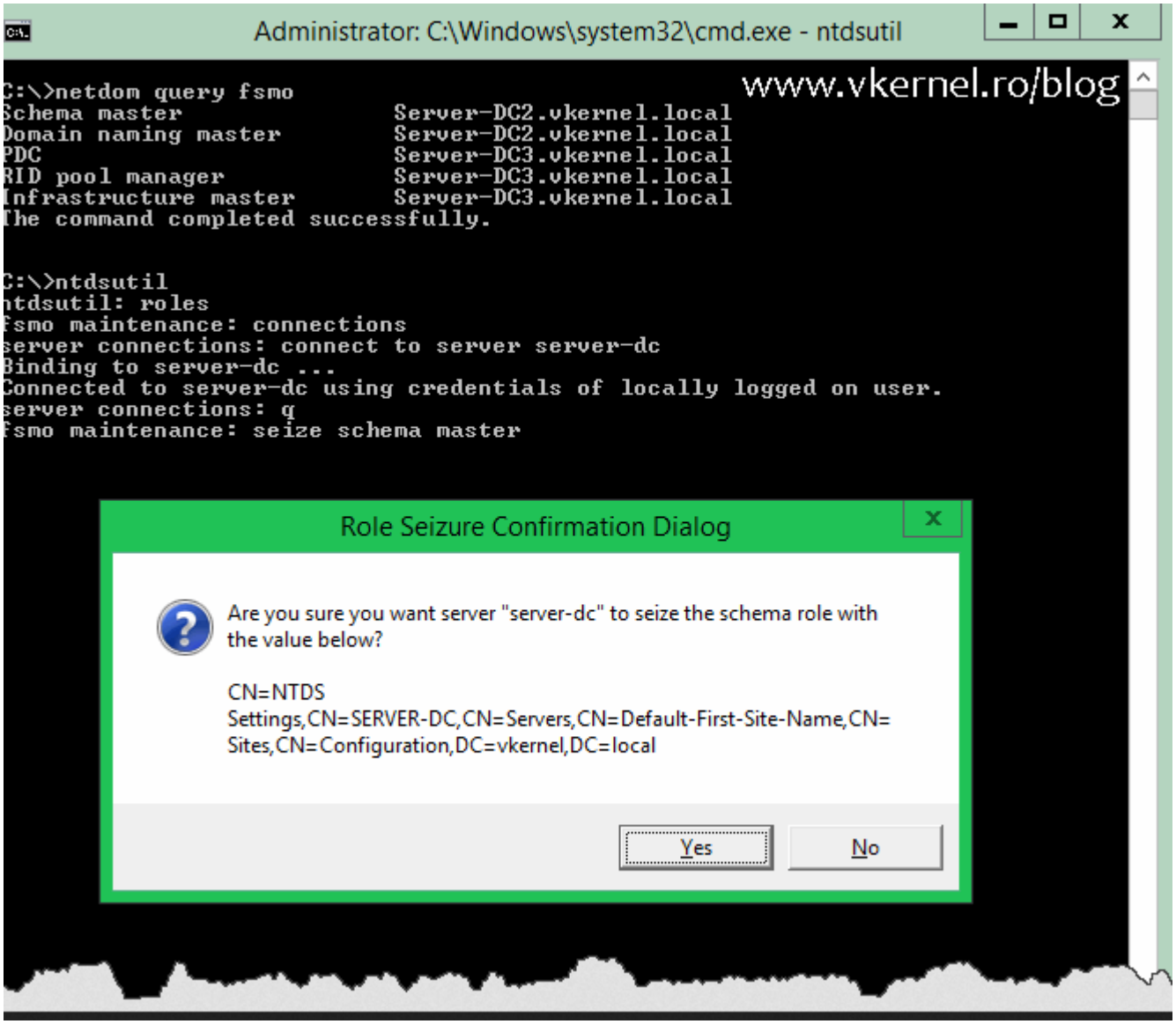
Once you get connected to the domain controller type **q** to quit and go up a level, in the **fsmo maintenance** section.

```
server connections: q
fsmo maintenance:
```

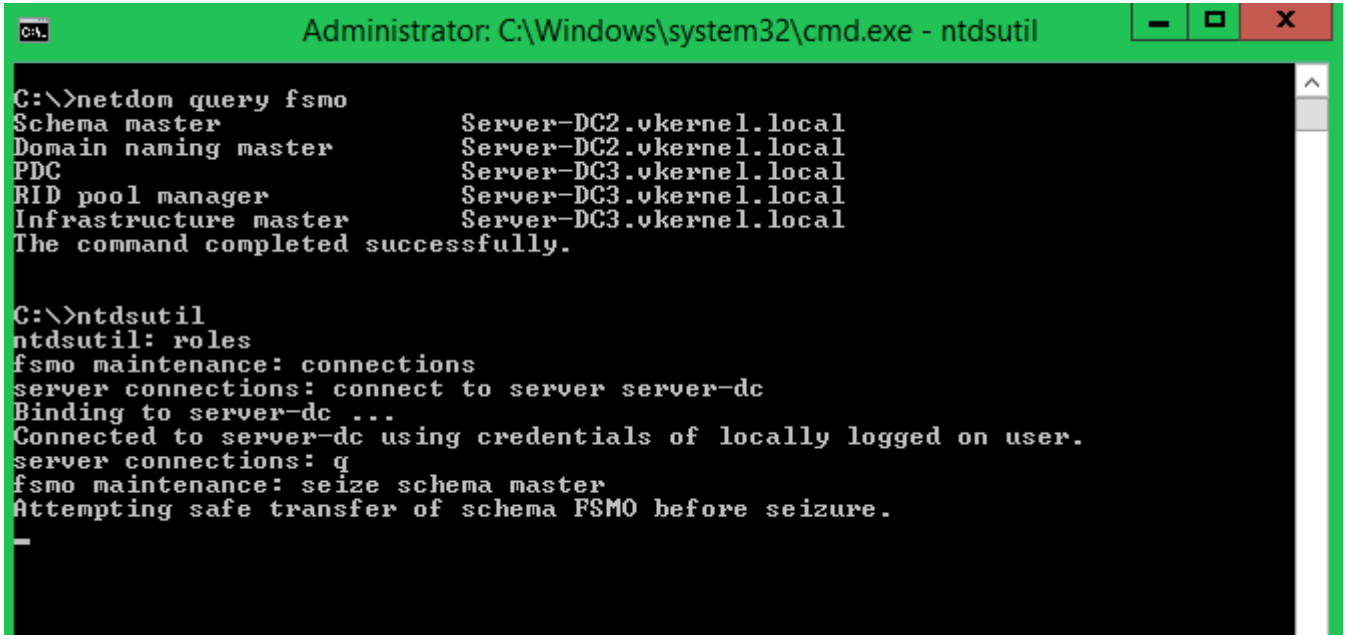
Now, depending on what role you want to seize, type **transfer <role>**. For example, to seize the schema master role, you would type **seize schema master**.

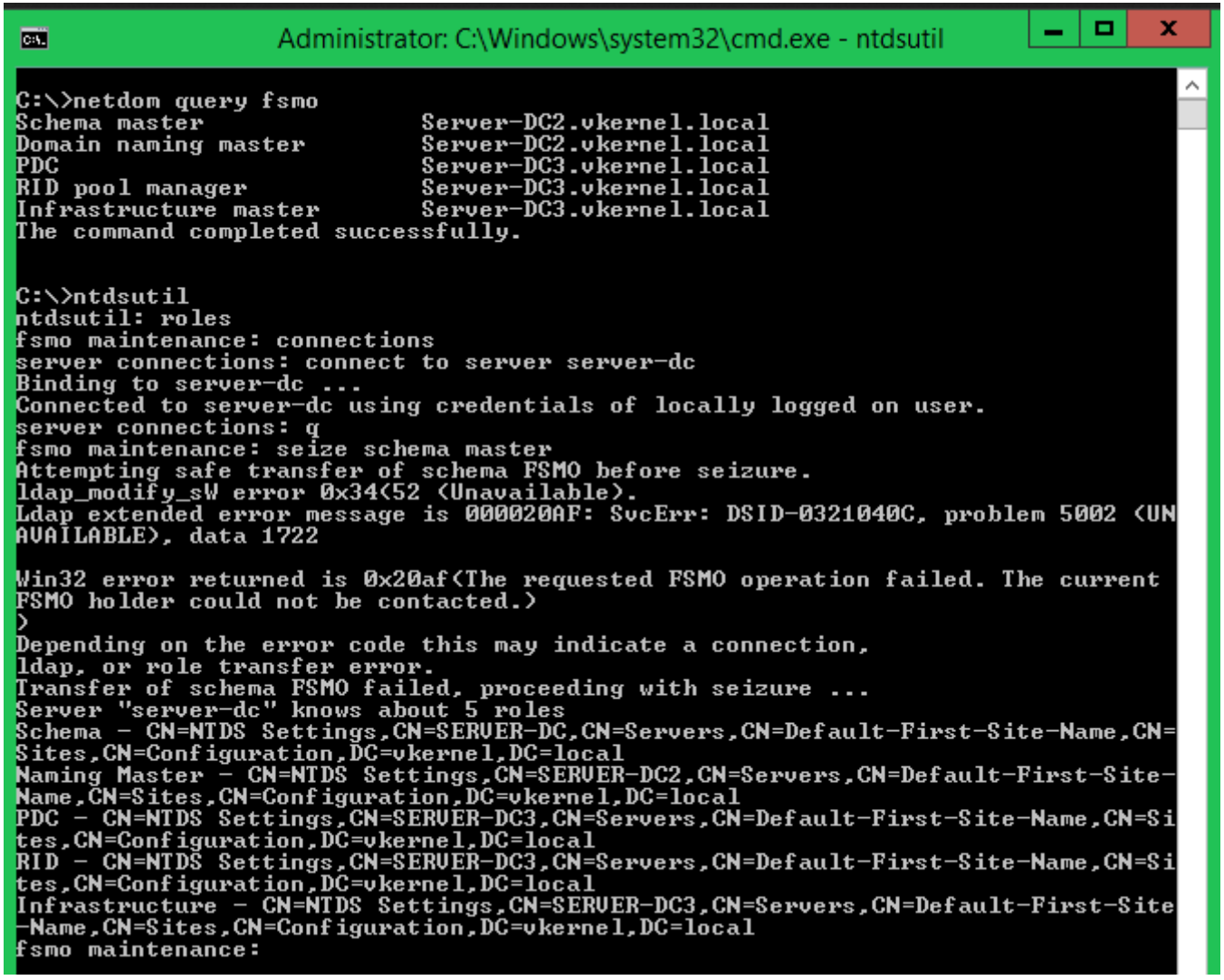
```
Seize naming master
Seize infrastructure master
Seize PDC
Seize RID master
Seize schema master
```

You will get a message to confirm the action. If you are sure that you want to seize the role, press **Yes**.



It will take a few moments because the tool tries to contact the old owner of the FSMO role and after it fails to do that, then it will actually seize the role.




Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - ntdsutil
C:\>netdom query fsmo
Schema master Server-DC2.vkernel.local
Domain naming master Server-DC2.vkernel.local
PDC Server-DC3.vkernel.local
RID pool manager Server-DC3.vkernel.local
Infrastructure master Server-DC3.vkernel.local
The command completed successfully.
C:\>ntdsutil
ntdsutil: roles
fsmo maintenance: connections
server connections: connect to server server-dc
Binding to server-dc ...
Connected to server-dc using credentials of locally logged on user.
server connections: q
fsmo maintenance: seize schema master
Attempting safe transfer of schema FSMO before seizure.
ldap_modify_sW error 0x34(52 (Unavailable).
Ldap extended error message is 000020AF: SvcErr: DSID-0321040C, problem 5002 (UNAVAILABLE), data 1722
Win32 error returned is 0x20af(The requested FSMO operation failed. The current FSMO holder could not be contacted.)
Depending on the error code this may indicate a connection,
ldap, or role transfer error.
Transfer of schema FSMO failed, proceeding with seizure ...
Server "server-dc" knows about 5 roles
Schema - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER-DC,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=vkernel,DC=local
Naming Master - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER-DC2,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=vkernel,DC=local
PDC - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER-DC3,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=vkernel,DC=local
RID - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER-DC3,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=vkernel,DC=local
Infrastructure - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER-DC3,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=vkernel,DC=local
fsmo maintenance:

And is done, the FSMO role was seized successfully. Now let the replication do it’s magic. One important note to make here again, is to make sure you don’t put into the network the old domain controller (in case you make it work somehow) that had the same FSMO role you just seized, it will just mess up the topology.

As you see, transferring or seizing FSMO roles are not difficult processes but sometimes they are necessary. Also, knowing what each role does is important because that way you know what to expect and how to fix the problem.