SYSVOL replication using DFS Replication

DFS Replication replaces the File Replication Service (FRS) as the replication engine for replicating the AD DS SYSVOL folder in domains that use the Windows Server 2008 domain functional level.

To facilitate migrating existing SYSVOL folders to DFS Replication, Windows Server 2008 includes a tool that helps to migrate the replication of existing SYSVOL folders from FRS to DFS Replication. This tool:

- Enables administrators to initiate the migration of SYSVOL folders to the DFS Replication service by specifying all required options and has intelligent predefined defaults.

- Provides mechanisms for administrators to troubleshoot potential problems that could occur during migration.

- Has monitoring capabilities that enable administrators to view the progress of the migration process.

The results of using the Dcpromo tool on a computer running Windows Server 2008 vary depending on the domain functional level:

- If the domain functional level is Windows Server 2008, the server will use DFS Replication for SYSVOL replication.

- If the domain functional level is Windows Server 2003, the server will use FRS for SYSVOL replication.

Domain controllers use a special shared folder named SYSVOL to replicate logon scripts and Group Policy object files to other domain controllers. Windows 2000 Server and Windows Server 2003 use File Replication Service (FRS) to replicate SYSVOL, whereas Windows Server 2008 uses the newer DFS Replication service when in domains that use the Windows Server 2008 domain functional level, and FRS for domains that run older domain functional levels.

To use DFS Replication to replicate the SYSVOL folder, you can either create a new domain that uses the Windows Server 2008 domain functional level, or you can use the procedure that is discussed in this document to upgrade an existing domain and migrate replication to DFS Replication.