

Rename a domain controller

To rename a domain controller, we can use "**netdom**" to complete it.

Prerequisites

- Make sure the domain functional level is Windows Server 2003 or later

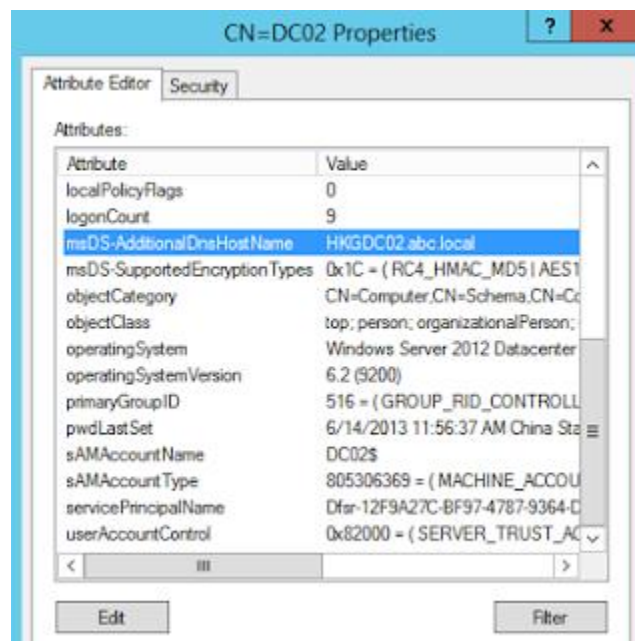
In my lab environment, there is 2 domain controllers named DC01 and DC02. I would like to rename DC02 to HKGDC02. 2 domain controllers were installed Windows Server 2012 with Active Directory Domain Services and the domain name is abc.local. The forest functional level and domain functional level is Windows Server 2003.

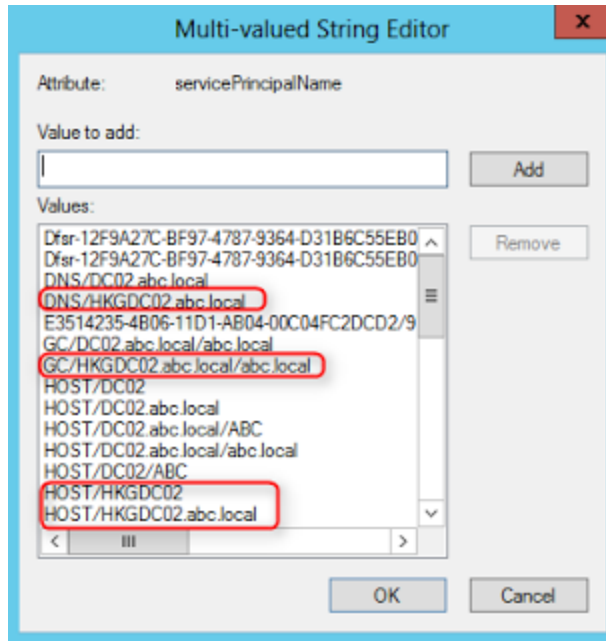
1. On DC02, log in as Domain Administrator.
2. Launch "**Command Prompt**" as administrator.
3. Perform "**netdom computername DC02.abc.local /add:HKGDC02.abc.local**".

```
C:\>netdom computername DC02.abc.local /add:HKGDC02.abc.local
Successfully added HKGDC02.abc.local
as an alternate name for the computer.

The command completed successfully.
```

This command added the additional DNS Host Name and update service principal name (SPN) attributes in Active Directory for this computer account.



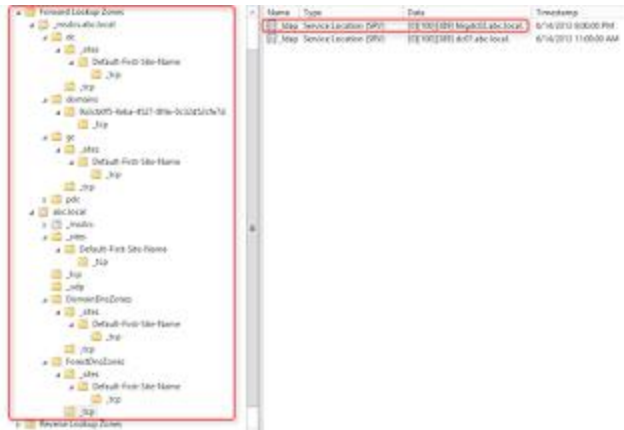


Remark: Make sure all domain controllers of this domain received this update from Active Directory replication.

4. Perform "netdom computername DC02.abc.local /makeprimary:HKGDC02.abc.local".

```
C:\>netdom computername DC02.abc.local /makeprimary:HKGDC02.abc.local
Successfully made HKGDC02.abc.local
the primary name for the computer. The computer must be rebooted for this name
change to take effect. Until then this computer may not be able to authenticate
users and other computers, and may not be authenticated by other computers in
the forest. The specified new name was removed from the list of alternate
computer names. The primary computer name will be set to the specified new
name after the reboot.
The command completed successfully.
```

5. Restart DC02.
6. On HKGDC02, log in as Domain Administrator.
7. Launch "DNS Manager".
8. Make sure all DNS resource records of HKGDC02 have been updated.

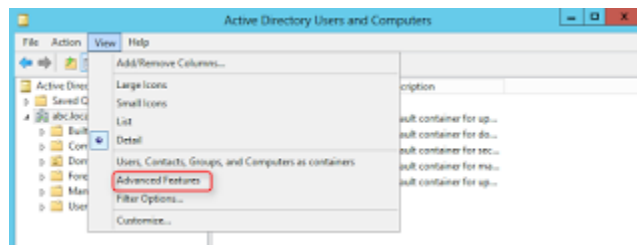


9. Launch "Command Prompt" as administrator.
10. Perform "netdom computername HKGDC02.abc.local /remove:DC02.abc.local" to remove the old computer name of HKGDC02.

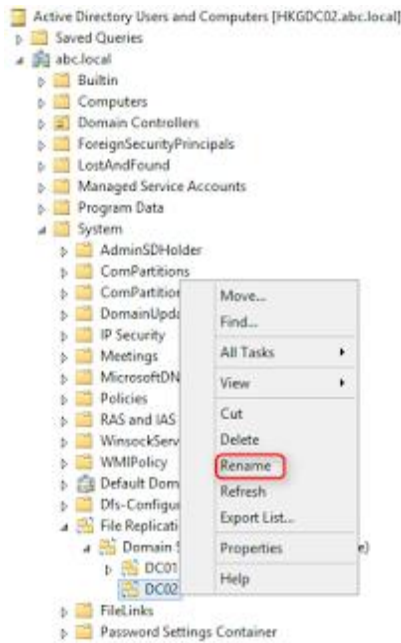
```
C:\>netdom computername HKGDC02.abc.local /remove:DC02.abc.local
Successfully removed DC02.abc.local
as an alternate name for the computer.

The command completed successfully.
```

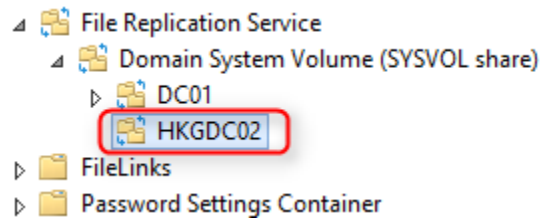
11. Launch "Active Directory Users and Computers".
12. On the menu, click "View > Advanced Features".



13. Expand "abc.local > System > File Replication Service > Domain System Volume (SYSVOL share) > DC02".
14. Right-click "DC02", select "Rename".



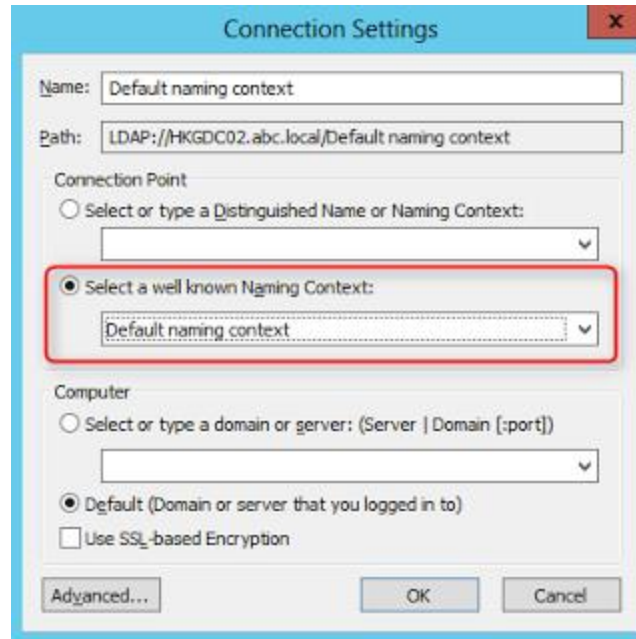
15. Enter "HKGDC02".



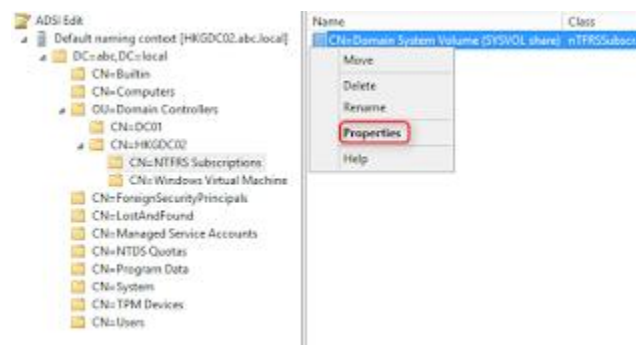
16. Launch "ADSI Edit" by performing "adsiedit.msc" in Command Prompt.
 17. Right-click "ADSI Edit", select "Connect to".



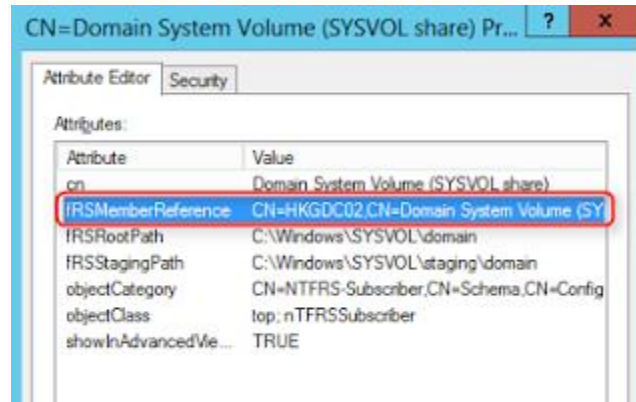
18. Make sure "Default naming context" is selected.



19. Click "OK".
20. Expand "Default naming context > DC=abc,DC=local > OU=Domain Controllers > CN=HKGDC02 > CN=NTFRS Subscription".
21. On right pane, right-click "CN=Domain System Volume (SYSVOL share)", select "Properties".



22. Make sure the name of "fRSMemberReference" was changed to new name.

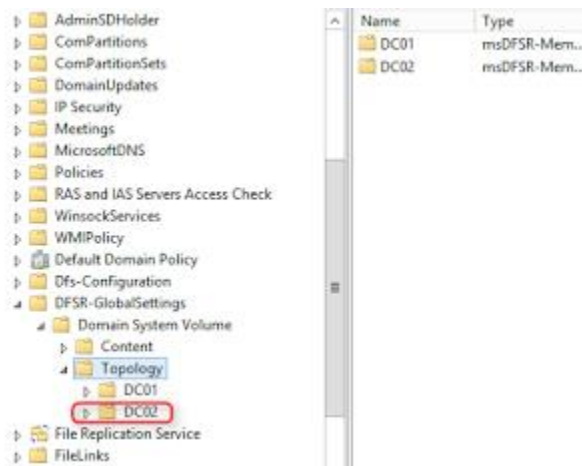


23.

Click

"OK".

If the domain is used DFS replication for SYSVOL, we can navigate to **abc.local > System > DFSR-GlobalSettings > Domain System Volume > Topology > DC02**" in Active Directory Users and Computers to rename the domain controller.



To verify the setting, launch "ADSI Edit" and then navigate to "Default naming context > DC=abc,DC=local > OU=Domain Controllers > CN=HKGDC02 > CN=DFSR-LocalSettings".

Right-click "CN=Domain System Volume", select "Properties".

