

How can I forcibly transfer (seize) some or all of the FSMO Roles from one DC to another?

If a DC becomes unreliable, try to get it back on line, and transfer the FSMO roles to a reliable computer. Administrators should use extreme caution in seizing FSMO roles. This operation, in most cases, should be performed only if the original FSMO role owner will not be brought back into the environment. Only seize a FSMO role if absolutely necessary when the original role holder is not connected to the network.

What will happen if you do not perform the seize in time? This table has the info:

FSMO Role	Loss implications
Schema	The schema cannot be extended. However, in the short term no one will notice a missing Schema Master unless you plan a schema upgrade during that time.
Domain Naming	Unless you are going to run DCPROMO, then you will not miss this FSMO role.
RID	Chances are good that the existing DCs will have enough unused RIDs to last some time, unless you're building hundreds of users or computer object per week.
PDC Emulator	Will be missed soon. NT 4.0 BDCs will not be able to replicate, there will be no time synchronization in the domain, you will probably not be able to change or troubleshoot group policies and password changes will become a problem.
Infrastructure	Group memberships may be incomplete. If you only have one domain, then there will be no impact.

Important: If the RID, Schema, or Domain Naming FSMOs are seized, then the original domain controller must not be activated in the forest again. It is necessary to reinstall Windows if these servers are to be used again.

The following table summarizes the FSMO seizing restrictions:

FSMO Role	Restrictions
Schema	Original must be reinstalled
Domain Naming	
RID	

PDC Emulator	Can transfer back to original
Infrastructure	

Another consideration before performing the seize operation is the administrator's group membership, as this table lists:

FSMO Role	Administrator must be a member of
Schema	Schema Admins
Domain Naming	Enterprise Admins
RID	Domain Admins
PDC Emulator	
Infrastructure	

To seize the FSMO roles by using Ntdsutil, follow these steps

Caution: Using the Ntdsutil utility incorrectly may result in partial or complete loss of Active Directory functionality.

1. On any domain controller, click Start, click Run, type *Ntdsutil* in the Open box, and then click OK.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 5.2.3790]
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```

```
C:\WINDOWS>ntdsutil
ntdsutil:
```

1. Type *roles*, and then press ENTER.

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

Note: To see a list of available commands at any of the prompts in the Ntdsutil tool, type *?*, and then press ENTER.

1. Type *connections*, and then press ENTER.

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

1. Type *connect to server <servername>*, where *<servername>* is the name of the server you want to use, and then press ENTER.

```
server connections: connect to server server100
```

Binding to server100 ...
Connected to server100 using credentials of locally logged on user.
server connections:

1. At the server connections: prompt, type *q*, and then press ENTER again.

server connections: q
fsmo maintenance:

1. Type *seize <role>*, where *<role>* is the role you want to seize. For example, to seize the RID Master role, you would type *seize rid master*:

Options are:

Seize domain naming master
Seize infrastructure master
Seize PDC
Seize RID master
Seize schema master

1. You will receive a warning window asking if you want to perform the seize. Click on

Yes.



fsmo maintenance: Seize infrastructure master
Attempting safe transfer of infrastructure FSMO before seizure.
ldap_modify_sW error 0x34(52 (Unavailable)).
Ldap extended error message is 000020AF: SvcErr: DSID-03210300, 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 infrastructure FSMO failed, proceeding with seizure ...

Server "server100" knows about 5 roles

Schema - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER200,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-
Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=dpetri,DC=net

Domain - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER100,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-
Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=dpetri,DC=net

PDC - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER100,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-
Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=dpetri,DC=net

RID - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER200,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-Site-
Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=dpetri,DC=net

Infrastructure - CN=NTDS Settings,CN=SERVER100,CN=Servers,CN=Default-First-
Site-Name,CN=Sites,CN=Configuration,DC=dpetri,DC=net

fsmo maintenance:

Note: All five roles need to be in the forest. If the first domain controller is out of the forest then seize all roles. Determine which roles are to be on which remaining domain controllers so that all five roles are not on only one server.

1. Repeat steps 6 and 7 until you've seized all the required FSMO roles.
2. After you seize or transfer the roles, type q, and then press ENTER until you quit the Ntdsutil tool.

Note: Do not put the Infrastructure Master (IM) role on the same domain controller as the Global Catalog server. If the Infrastructure Master runs on a GC server it will stop updating object information because it does not contain any references to objects that it does not hold. This is because a GC server holds a partial replica of every object in the forest.