

[Remove AD DS using the Remove Roles Wizard in Server Manager](#)

The following procedure shows the steps to remove AD DS using the Remove Roles Wizard in Server Manager.

Administrative credentials

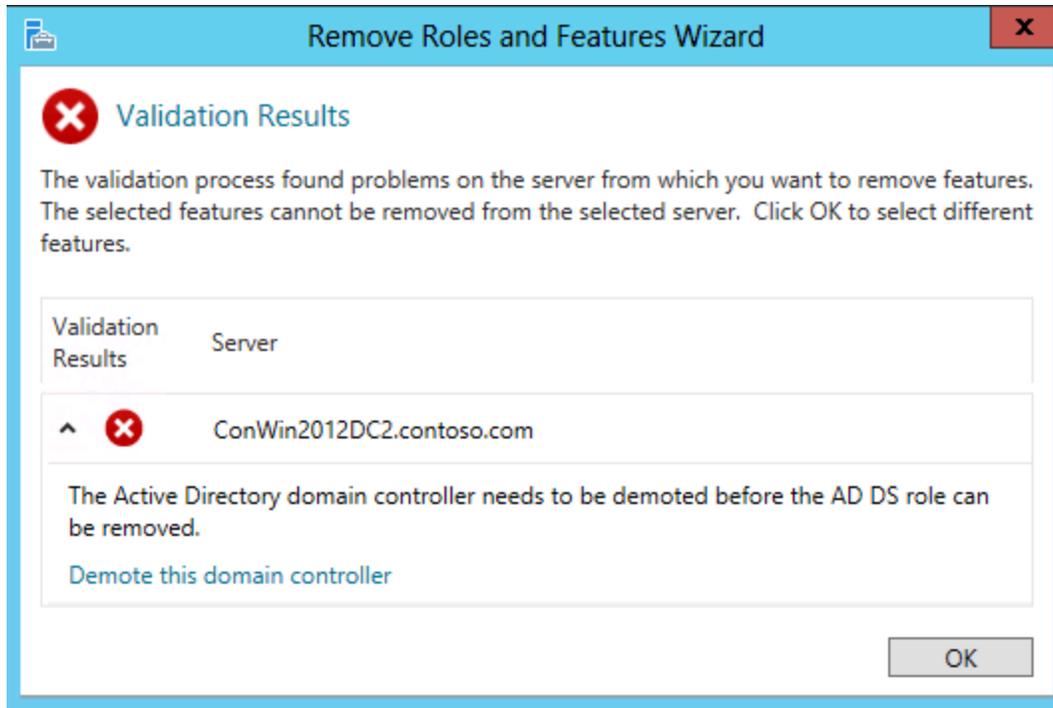
To remove a domain controller, you must be a member of the Domain Admins group in the domain. To remove the last domain controller in a domain or forest, you must be a member of the Enterprise Admins group.

Note

If you force the removal of AD DS while the domain controller is started in Directory Services Restore Mode (DSRM), credentials are optional.

[To Remove AD DS using the Remove Roles Wizard](#)

1. In Server Manager, click **Manage**, and then click **Remove Roles and Features**.
2. On the **Before you begin** page, review the information and then click **Next**.
3. On the **Select destination server** page, click the name of the server that you want to remove AD DS from and then click **Next**.
4. On the **Remove server roles** page, clear the check box for **Active Directory Domain Services** and any other server roles that you want to remove, such as **DNS Server**, and then on the **Remove Roles and Features Wizard** dialog box, click **Remove Features**, and then click **Next**.
5. The Remove Roles and Features Wizard returns the following validation error:



The validation error appears by design because the AD DS server role binaries cannot be removed while the server is running as a domain controller. Click **Demote this domain controller**.

6. On the **Credentials** page, specify credentials to remove AD DS. If previous attempts to remove AD DS on this domain controller have failed, then you can select the **Force the removal of this domain controller** check box. If you are removing the last domain controller in the domain, click **Last domain controller in the domain** check box. Click **Next**.
7. On the **Warnings** page, review the information about the roles hosted by the domain controller, click **Proceed with removal**, and then click **Next**.
8. On the **Removal Options** page:

Note

This page does not appear if you chose **Force the removal of this domain controller**.

- If you plan to reinstall the domain controller using the same domain controller account, click **Retain the domain controller metadata**.

In addition, if either of the following two options appears, it must be selected before you can proceed.

- If you are removing the last DNS server that hosts the zones hosted on this domain controller, click **Remove this DNS zone (this is the last server that hosts the zone)**.

Important

This option will be shown only if the domain controller is the last DNS server for the zone.

- If you want to delete the application partitions, click **Remove application partitions**.

Click **Next**.

9. On the **New Administrator Password** page, type and confirm the password for the local Administrator account for the server, and then click **Next**.
10. On the **Review Options** page, click **Demote**.

The server will restart automatically to complete the domain controller demotion. Continue with the next steps, which are needed to fully remove the AD DS server role binaries after the machine restarts to complete the demotion.

11. In Server Manager, click **Manage**, and then click **Remove Roles and Features**.
12. On the **Before you begin** page, review the information and then click **Next**.
13. On the **Select destination server** page, click the name of the server that you want to remove AD DS from and then click **Next**.
14. On the **Remove server roles** page, clear the check box for **Active Directory Domain Services** and any other server roles that you want to remove, such as **DNS Server**. On the **Remove Roles and Features Wizard** dialog box, clear the **Remove management tools (if applicable)** check box if you plan to administer another domain controller from this server, and click **Remove Features**, and then click **Next**.
15. On the **Remove features** page, clear the check box for any feature you want to remove and then click **Next**.
16. On the **Confirm removal selections** page, click **Remove**.
17. After the role is removed, click **Close**, and restart the server.

Remove AD DS using Windows PowerShell

directory partition, cannot be retained if you remove AD DS.

Remove AD DS using Windows PowerShell

Windows PowerShell allows you to script the removal of AD DS. If you plan to demote a domain controller temporarily, you do not need to remove and then reinstall the AD DS server role.

To view the syntax and parameter options for removing AD DS using the ADDSDeployment module in Windows PowerShell, type the following command:

```
get-help Uninstall-ADSDomainController
```

The command syntax for removing AD DS is as follows. Optional parameters appear within brackets.

```
Uninstall-ADSDomainController [-skipprechecks] -LocalAdministratorPassword <SecureString> [-Credential <PS Credential>] [-DemoteOperationsMasterRole] [-DNSDelegationRemovalCredential <PS Credential>] [-ForceRemoval] [-IgnoreLastDCInDomainMismatch] [-IgnoreLastDNSServerForZone] [-LastDomainControllerInDomain] [-NoRebootOnCompletion] [-RemoveApplicationPartitions] [-RemovedDNSDelegation] [-RetainDCMetadata] [-Force] [-WhatIf] [-Confirm] [<common parameters>]
```

```
Uninstall-ADSDomainController -ForceRemoval [-skipprechecks] -LocalAdministratorPassword <SecureString> [-Credential <PS Credential>] [-DemoteOperationsMasterRole] [-NoRebootOnCompletion] [-Force] [-WhatIf] [-Confirm] [<common parameters>]
```

Tip

Normally on demotion, any warnings with high importance will require explicit acknowledgment of the user. To ensure that those warnings do not wait for user acknowledgment, specify `-force` option. The UI always passes the `-Force` flag.

The `-Forceremoval` option is typically used to remove AD DS when the domain controller has no connectivity with other domain controllers.

For example, to remove AD DS from an additional domain controller in a domain and be prompted to set the local Administrator password, type the following command:

Note

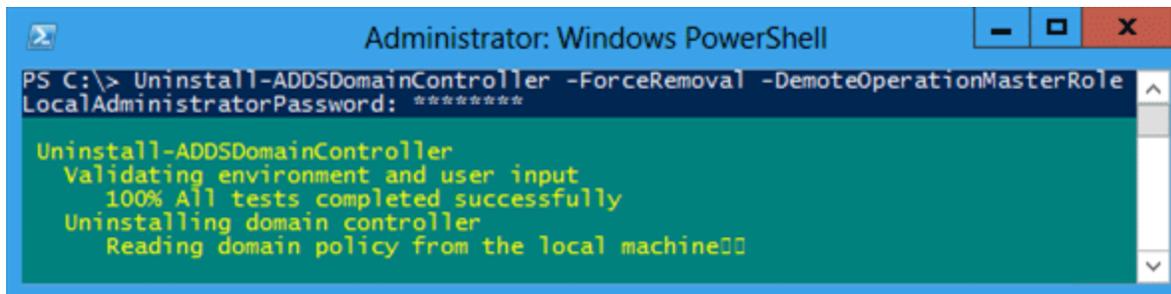
You will be prompted to supply the local Administrator password.

```
Uninstall-ADSDomainController
```

To remove AD DS from an additional domain controller in a domain and be prompted to set the local Administrator password but not prompted to confirm the command, type the following command:

```
Uninstall-ADSDomainController -confirm:$false
```

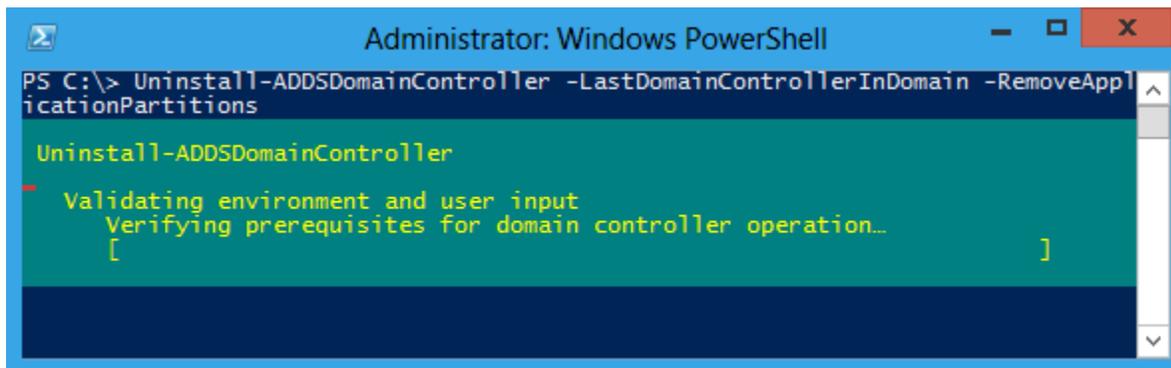
Here is an example of forcibly demoting with its minimal required arguments of **-forceremoval** and **-demoteoperationmasterrole**. The **-credential** argument is not required because the user logged on as a member of the Enterprise Admins group:



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\> Uninstall-ADDSDomainController -ForceRemoval -DemoteOperationMasterRole
LocalAdministratorPassword: *****

Uninstall-ADDSDomainController
Validating environment and user input
100% All tests completed successfully
Uninstalling domain controller
Reading domain policy from the local machine
```

Here is an example of removing the last domain controller in the domain with its minimal required arguments of **-lastdomaincontrollerindomain** and **-removeapplicationpartitions**:



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\> Uninstall-ADDSDomainController -LastDomainControllerInDomain -RemoveApplicationPartitions

Uninstall-ADDSDomainController
- Validating environment and user input
  Verifying prerequisites for domain controller operation...
  [ ]
```