

# Adding DNS Alias | Replacing File Server

<https://www.edwardsd.co.uk/work/2020/04/adding-dns-alias-replacing-file-server/>

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/help/3181029/smb-file-server-share-access-is-unsuccessful-through-dns-cname-alias>

[https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2008-R2-and-2008/cc835082\(v=ws.10\)](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2008-R2-and-2008/cc835082(v=ws.10))

When replacing a file server with new server and new name you probably want to keep the old name and add a redirect. Originally, I thought this was a simple “change the DNS IP” and job done but there’s a little bit more to it than just that!

**1) Locate OLDSERVER entry in DNS and delete it.**

**2) If the OLDSERVER server AD object still exists, you need to delete it. Failing to remove the old computer object will result in this error:**

*Unable to add NEWSERVER.*

*as an alternate name for the computer.*

*The error is: Cannot create a file when that file already exists.*

*The command failed to complete successfully.*

**3) Run this command to add the server alias:**

```
netdom computername NEWSERVER /add:OLDSERVER
```

**Note:** if you have subdomains in use (sub.domain.com) then you need to specifically define this otherwise the object will add “oldserver.domain.com” rather than “oldserver.sub.domain.com”

**4) Register the machine in DNS**

```
IPConfig /RegisterDNS
```

**5) Run this command to check the aliases are shown on the machine**

```
netdom computername NEWSERVER /enum
```

## 6) Final check to show what SPF entries have been created:

```
setspn -l NEWSERVER
```

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