

# Using NTDSUTIL Metada Cleanup to Remove a Failed/Offline Domain Controller Object.

<https://chinnychukwudozie.com/2014/01/27/using-ntdsutil-metada-cleanup-to-remove-a-failedoffline-domain-controller-object/>

In this post, I would like to talk about using the ntdsutil utility for metadata cleanup. A domain controller failure 'DC00' recently occurred in my lab. Running the `repadmin /replsum` command confirmed a replication error and showed DC00 as unavailable:

```
metadata cleanup>repadminerror
```

Since a dcpromo was obviously out of the question, I used the Ntdsutil metadata cleanup command to effect the removal in the following steps.

Start the Ntdsutil Tool:

Open a command prompt as an administrator. At the prompt, type ntdsutil and press enter. This put me directly in the ntdsutil mode. Entering 'help' shows all the options directly available :

```
ntds help
ntds help found or type unknown
```

At the Ntdsutil prompt, select and type `metadata cleanup` command and press enter.

At the metadata cleanup prompt, type `connections` and press enter.

At the server connections prompt, type `connect to server ws2012r2` and press enter. Where ws2012r2 is a domain controller dns name.

After connecting to the domain controller, type quit at the server connections prompt to exit out to the `metadata cleanup` prompt.

Now at the `metadata cleanup` prompt, type `select operation target` and press enter. Entering this mode, will enable me select the sites, domains and servers I intend to work with.

`metadata cleanup02` unknown

`ntdsselect` and or type unknown

From the help options available at `select operation target`, select, and type `list domains`. Press enter.

At the `select operation target` type `select domain 0`. Where domain 0 is the intended domain.

At the next `select operation target` prompt, type list sites and press enter.

At the next `select operation target` prompt, type `select site 0` and press enter.

At the next `select operation target` prompt, type `list servers in site` and press enter.

At the next `select operation target` prompt, type `select server 1` where server 1 is the offline domain controller object I intend to remove. Press enter.

At the next `select operation target` prompt, type `quit` to exit out to the `metadata cleanup` prompt.

At the next `metadata cleanup` prompt, type `Remove selected server`.

`metadata cleanup03` unknown

`metadata cleanup01` unknown

`metadialog` type unknown

At the 'Server Remove Confirmation Dialog', click yes to remove the failed Domain Controller server object. After the removal is successful, I exit out of the `ntdsutil` tool by typing `quit` all the way up. I ran the `repadmin /replsummary` command again to verify and the result shows no replication errors.

`metadata cleanup05 repadminnoerrors`

I still had to go into the DNS forward lookup and reverse lookup zones to manually remove references to the offline domain controller object. I hope this helps.

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