Need to Know

Setting up Server Time Synchronization in SBS 2003

To configure SBS2003 to receive reference time sync from an external source you will need to configure the Windows Time Service.

Using ISA

You will need to open port 123 UDP using the following procedure so the time service can get out and sync with the external time source.

1. Logon to the SBS 2003 as the administrator
2. Click **Start, Programs, Microsoft ISA Server, ISA Management Programs, Microsoft ISA Server** and select **ISA Management**.
3. In the ISA Management console tree, expand **Servers and Arrays**, expand **servername**, expand **Access Policy**, and right click on **IP Packet Filter**.
4. Click **New, Filter**. Name the new filter **Time** and click **Next**.
5. Select **Allow packet transmission** and click **Next**.
6. In the **Filter Type** dialog box, select **Custom**.
7. Set the **IP protocol** to **UDP**.
8. Set the direction to **Send receive**.
9. Set the **Local port** to **Fixed port** and the **Port number** to **123**.
10. Set the **Remote port** to **Fixed port** and set it to **123**.
11. Click **OK**.
12. Accept the default selection of **Default IP address for each external interface on the ISA Server computer** and click **Next**.
13. In the **Apply this packet filter to** windows, select **All computers** and click **Next**.
14. Review the summary information and click **Finish**.
15. You will need to restart ISA for the packet filter to take effect.

Synchronize Logon time

It is also a good idea to have all the workstation synchronize their time with the server when they login. This is not necessary for Windows XP Professional client computers.

To time synchronize non-Windows XP Professional client computers modify the SBS_LOGIN_SCRIPT.bat file located in the %systemroot%\SYSVOL\%domainname%\scripts directory of the SSBS 2003 server machine. This file has one line by default. Modify this by adding the word **call** to the beginning of the line, and then add the following as the second line :

call net time /set /yes

<u>Synchronizing server with external source</u>

Run the following commands once at the SBS 2003 console :

net time /setSNTP:<time server>
net stop w32time
net start w32time

You can use time.windows.com as the time server. Thus, the first line would read :

net time /setSNTP:time.windows.com

See Microsoft KB216734 for further information.

You can see what server is used as an external source by running the following at the command prompt :

net time /querysntp

<u>Time service gets stopped</u>

If you chose the "Router" option when you ran the Configure Email and Internet Connection Wizard, the time service is turned off. Why ? because some routers are dial on demand; the time service would cause the router to excessively dial up the ISP, resulting in a potentially expensive connection pattern. So check that the time service is set to automatically start in the services console.