How to install ZCB on a Read-Only Domain Controller

Information

Special instructions must be followed to install ZCB on a Read-Only Domain Controller (RODC). These instructions are largely centered around the *amandabackup* user.

The *amandabackup* user is an integral part of ZCB functionality. Please see What is the amandabackup user? for more details.

Step 1: Create the *amandabackup* user

By definition, users cannot be added to Active Directory on a Read-Only Domain Controller. The *amandabackup* user must be created on another machine on the domain. ZCB cannot be installed on a RODC until *amandabackup* is created as a domain user.

There are two options available to create the *amandabackup* user in Active Directory prior to installation on a Read-Only Domain Controller.

Option 1: Create *amandabackup* automatically by installing ZCB on another domain machine.

The *amandabackup* user can be created automatically. Simply install ZCB on another machine on the same domain as the RODC. If no *amandabackup* user exists, the installer will attempt to create it.

You must choose to create *amandabackup* as a Domain user during this step. Creating a local *amandabackup* user is not sufficient.

The machine used for this purpose must not be a Read-Only Domain Controller.

Option 2: Create *amandabackup* manually in Active Directory

The *amandabackup* user can be created manually by following these steps.

1. Open Active Directory Users and Computers and connect to a writable Domain Controller.
2. Create a new user named *amandabackup*
3. Grant the following roles to the new *amandabackup* user.
    a. Domain Users
    b. Backup Operators
    c. Administrators
    d. Users

> It is only necessary to create the domain *amandabackup* user once on any given domain. Once created, any subsequent ZCB installation on any machine, including Read-Only Domain Controllers, will detect the domain *amandabackup* user and prompt for the password.
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> Thus, if ZCB needs to be installed on multiple Read-Only Domain Controllers in a single domain, Step 1 only needs to be performed once. All subsequent RODC installs can begin with step #2.

Step 2: Verify that the domain *amandabackup* user was replicated to the Read-Only Domain Controller

In most cases, users added to Active Directory will automatically appear on other Domain Controllers, including Read-Only Domain Controllers, via scheduled replication processes.

Replication can be triggered manually between Domain Controllers using the Active Directory Site and Services tool.

Step 3: Install ZCB on the Read-Only Domain Controller

Once *amandabackup* is available on the RODC, install ZCB.

During installation, the domain *amandabackup* user created in step 1 will be detected. The installer will prompt you for the user password.

Enter the user password. Installation will proceed.

Step 4: Configure your backups

Once ZCB is installed, configure your backups!

All backup types are available on a RODC, just like any other Windows machine.