

How to enable write caching on domain controller

Once a server is promoted to a DC, Windows 2008 R2 in my case, write cache is disabled by default. You can try to enable it, but it will revert back to disabled. This is default behavior to protect AD Database.

You should not "hack" to enable it on Production Server, but what if you really want it on Dev/Test environment. Some workarounds

Manual Enabling or Disabling the Disk Write Caching

- Right-click My Computer , and then click Properties .
- Click the Hardware tab.
- Click Device Manager .
- Click the plus sign (+) next to the Disk Drives branch to expand it.
- Right-click the drive on which you want to enable or disable disk write caching, and then click Properties .
- Click the Disk Properties tab.
- Click to select or clear the Write Cache Enabled check box as appropriate.
- Click OK.

Dskcache.exe Utility

Get Dskcache.exe from <http://support.microsoft.com/?id=811392> to enable Write Cache on start up script

```
c:\dskcache.exe +w
```

```
exit
```

```
Start > gpedit.msc then go to
```

```
Local Computer Policy\Computer Configuration\Windows Settings\Scripts
```

Registry hack

Path: HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\NTDS\Parameters

Value: "DSA Heuristics"

Type: REG_SZ

Setting this to "1" (Note: the type MUST be a string type) prevents AD service from disabling write cache.

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