

How to Back Up Active Directory in Windows

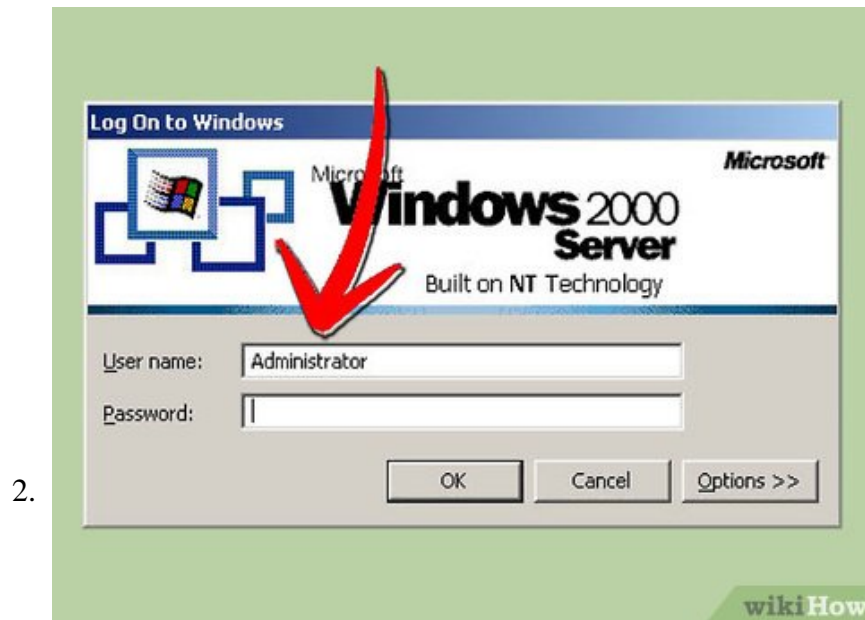
Active Directory is a network structure that stores domain and network information about all computers and devices as well as user and device software settings. It resides on each domain controller in an organization and replicates itself...

Method 1 of 2:

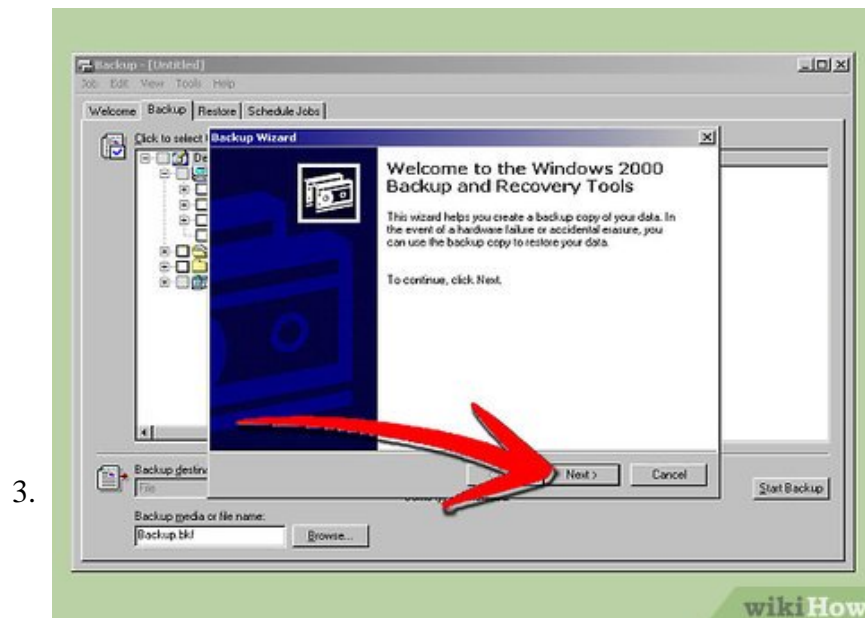
How to Backup Active Directory on Windows 2000 and 2003 Servers



Understand what constitutes a good backup to properly plan a backup schedule. At least two domain controllers should be backed up in each domain, including one that is an operations master role holder. The backup should contain the system state and the contents of the system disk. Backups should be less than 60 days old.

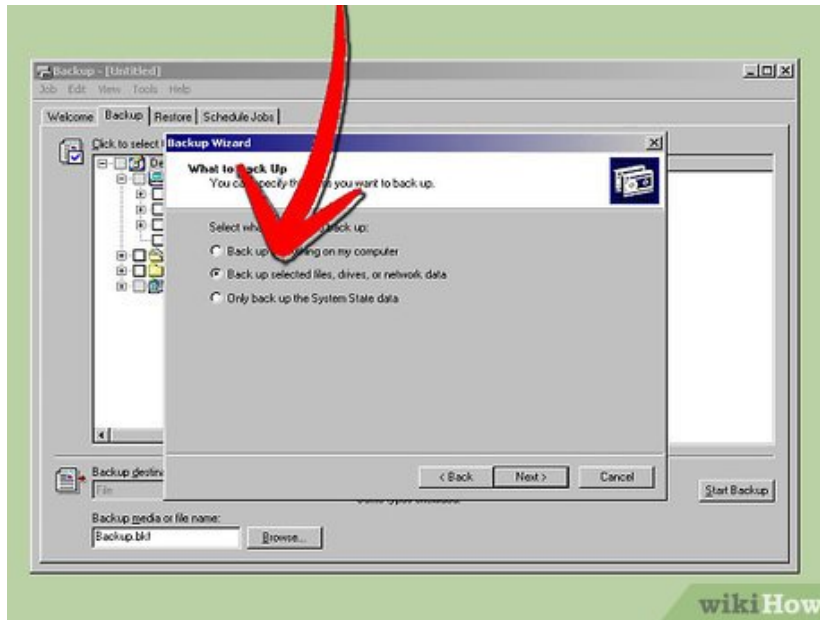


Log on to the Domain Controller locally as an administrator or a backup operator.



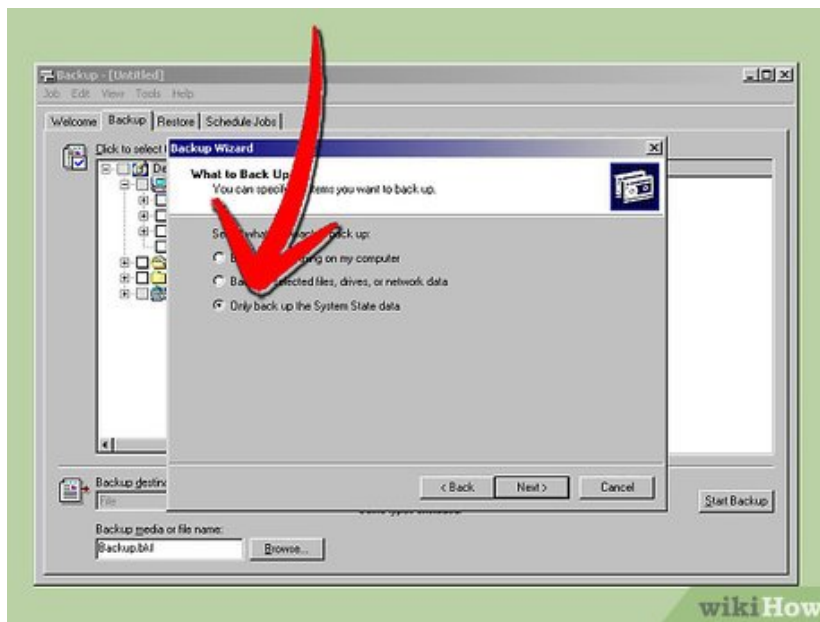
Left-click on the start button. Navigate to Programs, Accessories, System Tools. Select "Backup." Click on the backup wizard button and choose "next."

4.



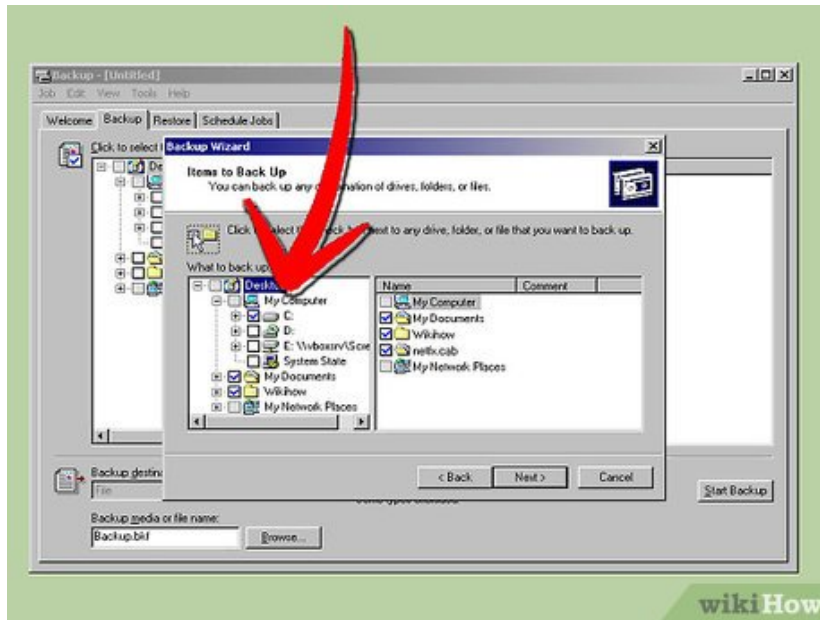
Choose "back up selected files, drives, or network data."

5.



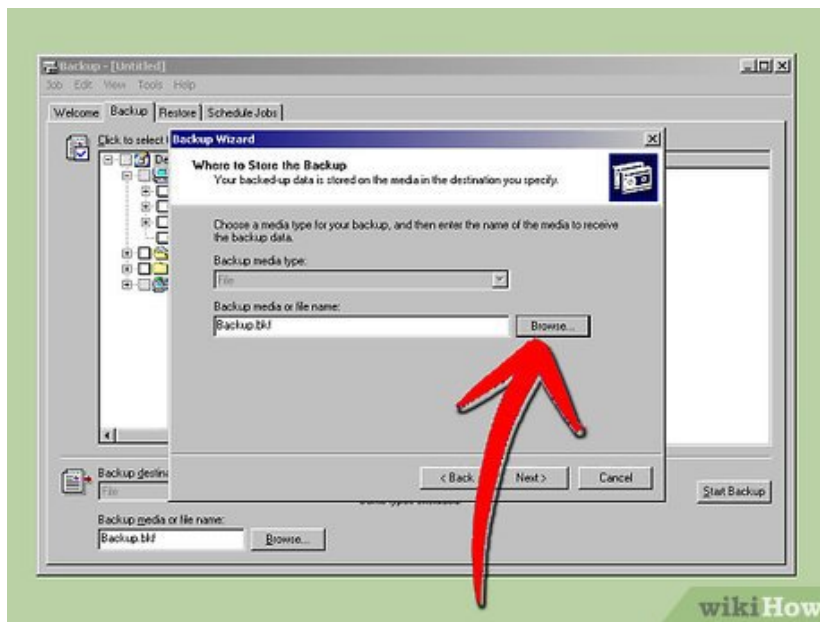
Select "System State" on the screen that asks what items to back up.

6.



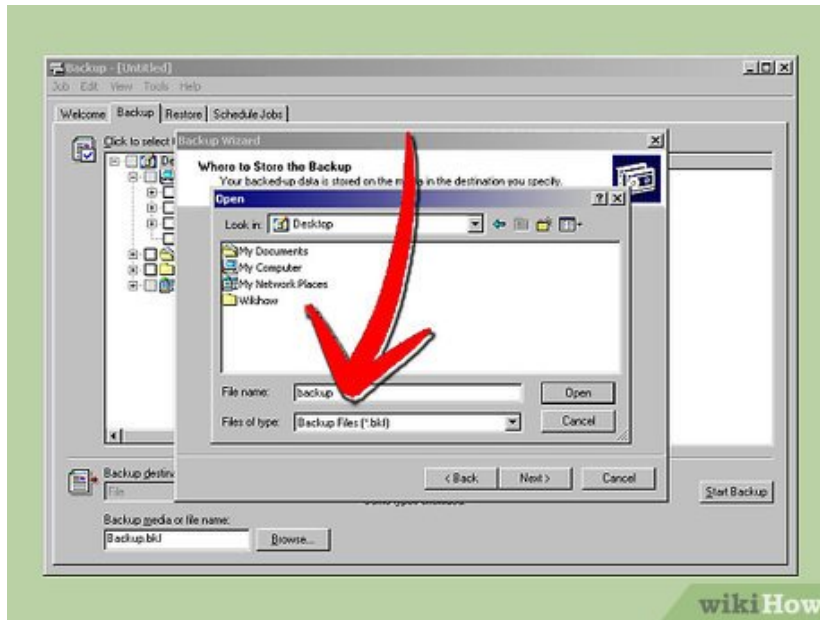
Click the plus sign next to the drive letter that contains the system files to expand the selection. Select "system disk." Click "next."

7.



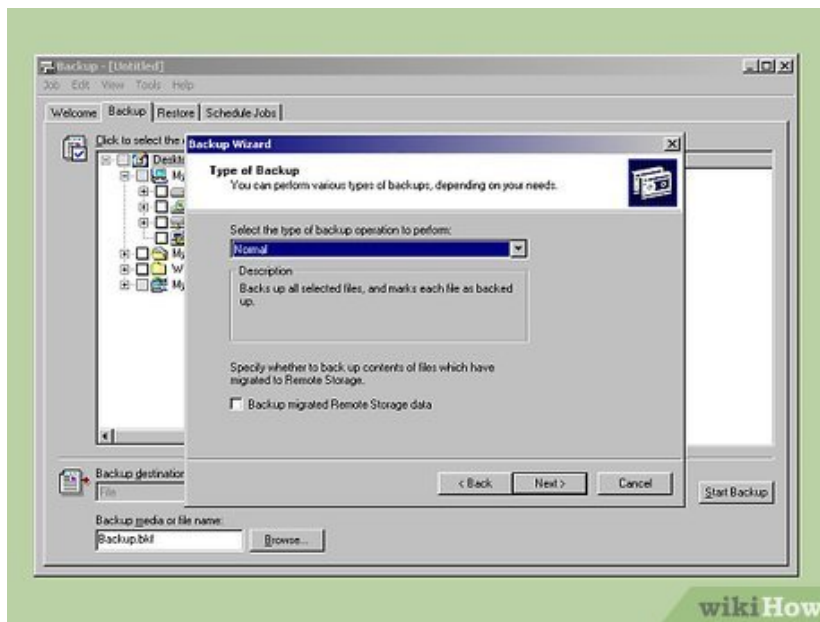
Specify a folder or tape device to backup to in the "Where to Store the Backup" choice.

8.



Name the file if using file backup, or select the tape to be used if using a tape in the "Backup Media or File Name" box.

9.



Make sure the selection "Prompt to replace data" is included under the "How" category. If necessary, select the Advanced button and follow the prompts until reaching the Media Options screen. Choose "Replace the data on the media with this backup."

10.

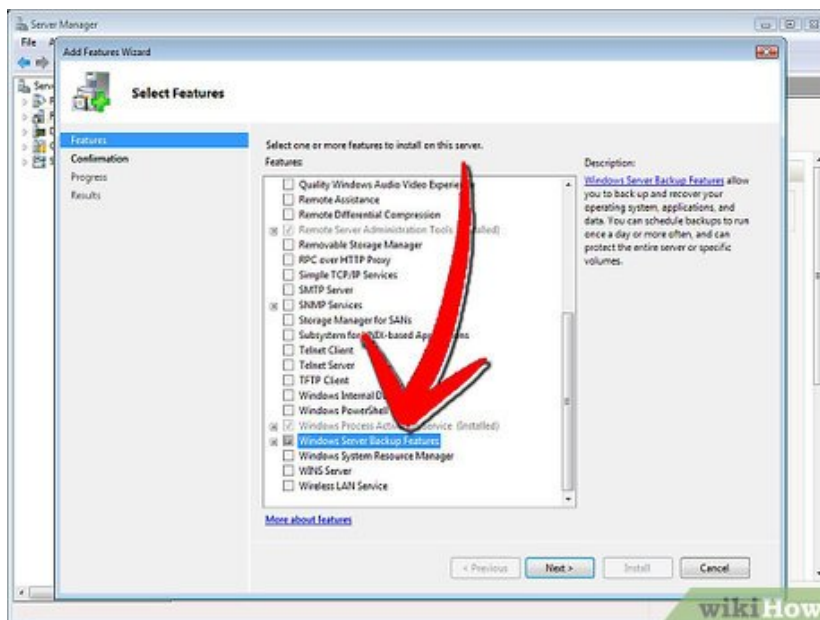


Follow the prompts to the "finish" screen. Choose "yes" to overwrite data.

Method 2 of 2:

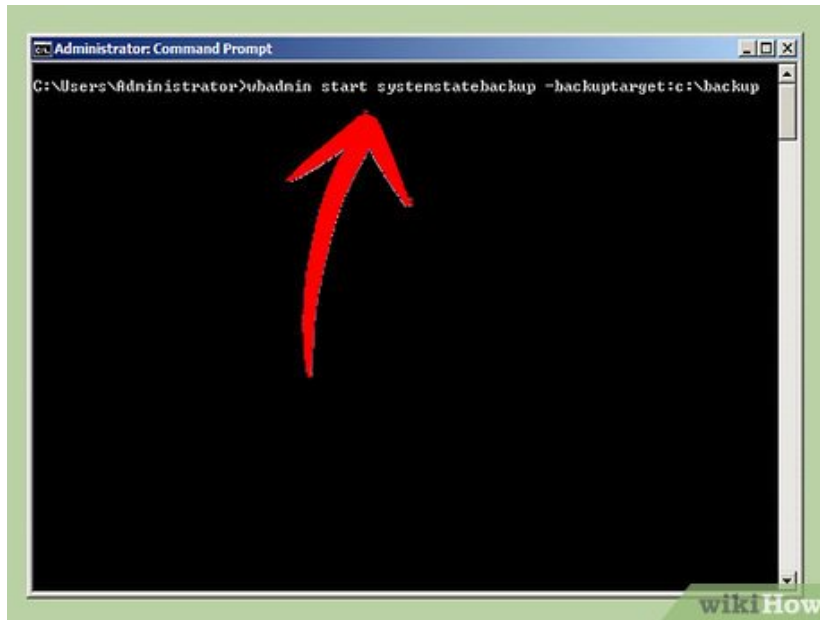
How to Backup Active Directory on Windows 2008 Servers

1.



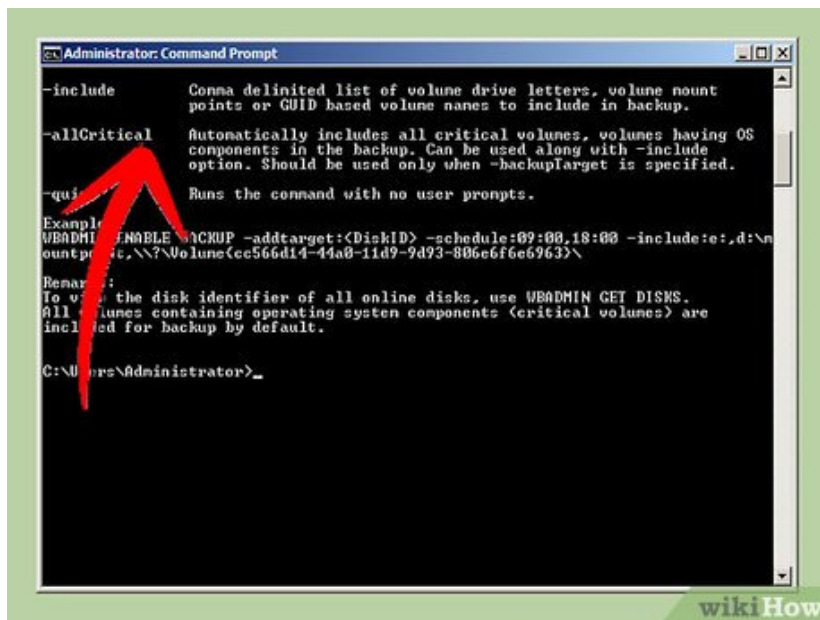
Open Server Manager. Choose "add features" and install Windows Server Backup if it is not already installed.

2.



Click start, run and command to get to a command line. Type "wbadmin start systemstatebackup."

3.



Add the parameter "-allcritical" to back up all critical volumes instead of just system state data. This will back up the whole volume.

```
Administrator: Command Prompt
C:\Users\Administrator>wbadmin enable backup /?
wbadmin 1.0 - Backup command-line tool
(C) Copyright 2004 Microsoft Corp.

ERROR - Command syntax incorrect. Error: /?. See usage below.

Usage: WBADMIN ENABLE BACKUP
[-addtarget <BackupTargetDisk>]
[-removetarget <BackupTargetDisk>]
[-schedule <timeToRunBackup>]
[-include <volumesToInclude>]
[-allCritical]
[-quiet]

Creates a daily backup schedule or modifies an existing backup schedule. With
no options specified, displays the current scheduled backup settings.

-addtarget      Storage location for backups. Requires you to specify target
                as a disk identifier. The disk will be formatted before use
                and any existing data on it would be permanently erased.

-removetarget   Storage location specified in existing backup schedule.
                Requires you to specify target as a disk identifier.

-schedule       Comma delimited times of day specified as HH:MM.

-include        Comma delimited list of volume drive letters, volume mount
                points or GUID based volume names to include in backup.

-allCritical    Automatically includes all critical volumes, volumes having OS
                components in the backup. Can be used along with -include
                option. Should be used only when -backupTarget is specified.
```

4.

Use the command line tool to create scheduled backups. Scheduled backups must be backed up to a local physical dedicated drive.

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