Understand Best Practices for the Transition to New VAs

Contents

Introduction

This document describes best practices for the transition process to new Umbrella VA instances to replace other VAs or non-VA local DNS servers.

Background Information

Scenarios for new Virtual Applicances (VAs) include:

- Deploying VAs for the first time
- Replacing an existing VM Host with a new host
- Spinning up a new VA instance at a different IP as an old instance
    - For example, if asked to do so by support
- Transitioning to VAs at different IP addresses
- Transitioning VAs to another Umbrella Organization
- Transitioning away from using VAs

Deploy the New Virtual Appliance VMs

The first step is to make the DNS server we are transitioning **to** operational. In most cases, this is deploying a new Virtual Appliance into operation at its new permanent IP address.

Status check:

- Old DNS/VA: Up and running on IP A. Receiving all DNS.
- New VA: Up and running on IP B
- DHCP: IP B

Transition the DNS to the New VAs

In this step, adjust the current DNS settings (typically DHCP-given) for the network from the old DNS settings to the new ones for the new VA. Since DHCP leases expire over time, ensure that the old local DNS server remains operational at least as long as your DHCP lease expiration to avoid any interruption in DNS.

Status check:

- Old DNS/VA: Up and running on IP A. Receiving some DNS.
- New VA: Up and running on IP B Receiving some DNS.
- DHCP: IP A. Older leases can still have IP B

Remove the Old VA VMs

*Skip this step if the DNS servers being transitioned **from** are not VAs.

Once all users' DHCP leases have expired and updated to the new DNS servers, validate that the old DNS server is not receiving any DNS queries. Correct any remaining static entries sending DNS to these old IPs. At this time, the transition is complete. If the old DNS server is a VA, you can now delete it and its Umbrella Dashboard entry. If the old DNS server is a DC or local DNS server for your local records, keep it since the VA uses it for local DNS domains.

Status check:

- Old VA: Taken Down. Old Local DNS remains if still used for local DNS via VAs or Active Directory
- New VA: Up and running on IP B. Receiving all DNS.
- DHCP: IP B