

Exchange 2003 – Disaster Recovery Analyzer Tool (ExDRA 1.0)

Written by Marc Grote - <mailto:grotem@it-training-grote.de>

Abstract

In this article I will show you how to use the new Exchange Server 2003 Disaster Recovery Analyzer Tool (ExDRA).

Let's begin

The Exchange Server Disaster Recovery Analyzer collects configuration data and header information from your Exchange databases and transaction log files. ExDRA analyzes all database headers and creates a list of problems with your database and how to resolve problems with your Exchange databases.

ExDRA requirements

Component	Requirement
Operating system	Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP, Windows 2000 Server family, or Windows Server 2003 family required; Windows XP recommended
Computer and processor	Personal computer with 133-megahertz (MHz) or higher processor; 1.0-gigahertz (GHz) or higher processor recommended. Dual processors for topologies with more than 100 Exchange servers are recommended
Memory	256 megabytes (MB) of RAM required; 256 megabytes (MB) for every 50 Exchange servers in the topology recommended
Hard disk	10 MB of available hard disk space for tool installation; 2 MB of free space per server, per scan required for the data output
Display	VGA or higher-resolution monitor
Input device	Mouse or compatible input device
Messaging system	Mixed-mode or native-mode Exchange Server 2003, Exchange 2000 Server, and Exchange Server 5.5 system; Exchange Server 2003 recommended. Note: Pure Exchange Server 5.5 topologies are not supported
Dependencies	Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1 IIS Common Files

Download and installation

You can download ExDRA from [here](#). After downloading you must install the package. Installation is easy. Simply follow the installation instructions.

Using ExDRA

Before you can use ExDRA you have to dismount the concerned Exchange Information Store if it is not down under other circumstances.

If you want to check for ExDRA updates on every startup, select the option *Check for updates on startup*. Next click *Go to the Welcome screen* and start the wizard.

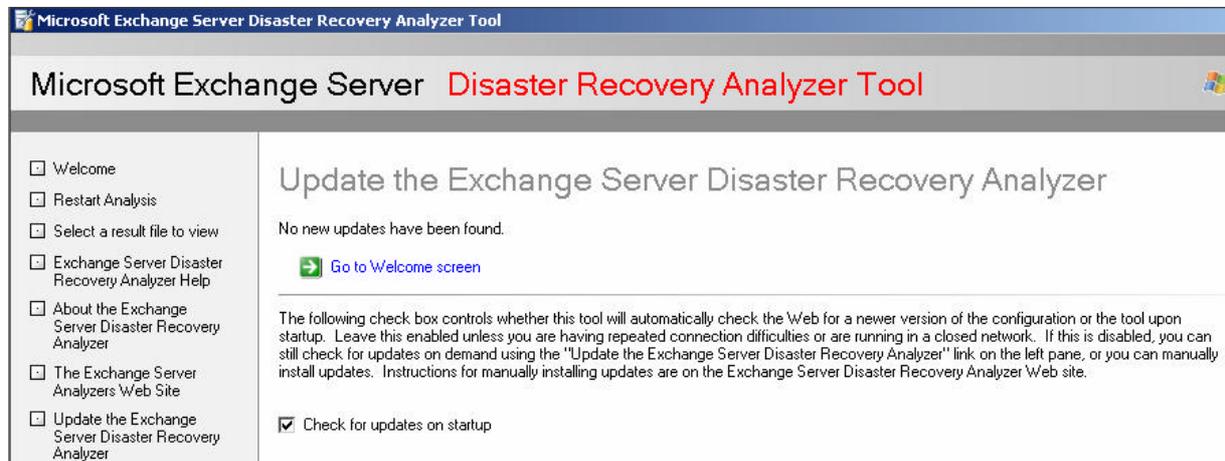


Figure 1: ExDRA start screen

The Exchange Server Disaster Recovery Analyzer Tool scans your dismantled Exchange databases and transaction logfiles for shutdown reason and other problems. ExDRA is supported for Exchange Server 2000 Service Pack 3 and later and Exchange Server 2003.



Figure 2: ExDRA Welcome screen

Select *Auto Detect* to let ExDRA discover available databases and transaction logfiles in their default location on Exchange Server (C:\program filesexchsrvr\mdbdata).

Select *Manual Input (Advanced)* to manually enter the path to the databases and transaction logfiles.

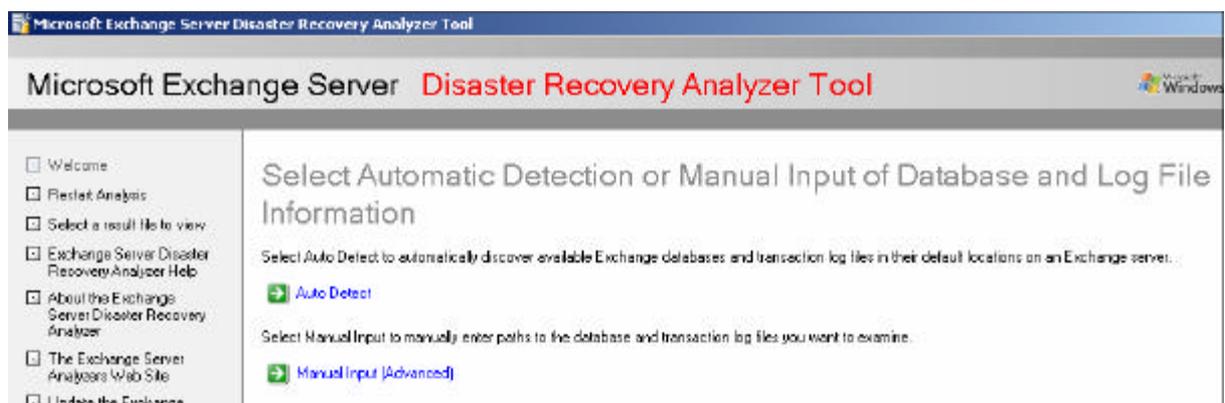


Figure 3: Select Auto Detect or Manual Input for examining the database location

Enter the Exchange Server Name (in this example LONDON) and as an optional component the name of a Domain Controller. If your currently logged on account has not enough permissions to read the Exchange Server configuration, you can specify an account with proper permissions.



Figure 4: Enter Server and User Information

If your Exchange Server has multiple Storage Groups, you must select the Storage Group where the Exchange database to check is located.



Figure 5: Select the Exchange Storage Group

Next you must select the Exchange Server database to be analyzed. Only dismounted databases can be selected.



Figure 6: Select the Exchange Server database to be analyzed

It could take a while until ExDRA has inspected the selected database and transaction logfiles.



Figure 7: Take a short break until ExDRA has checked the database and transaction logfiles

The following page shows the analysis results of the ExDRA check. Because I only dismounted the Exchange database, ExDRA stated that the Database is in a *Clean ShutDown* state. There is some additional information what to do if you are unable to mount a database even if the database is in a Clean Shutdown state.



Figure 8: ExDRA analysis results

After you clicked *Next* ExDRA will display some very useful information about the database like Log- and DB-Signatures and many more.

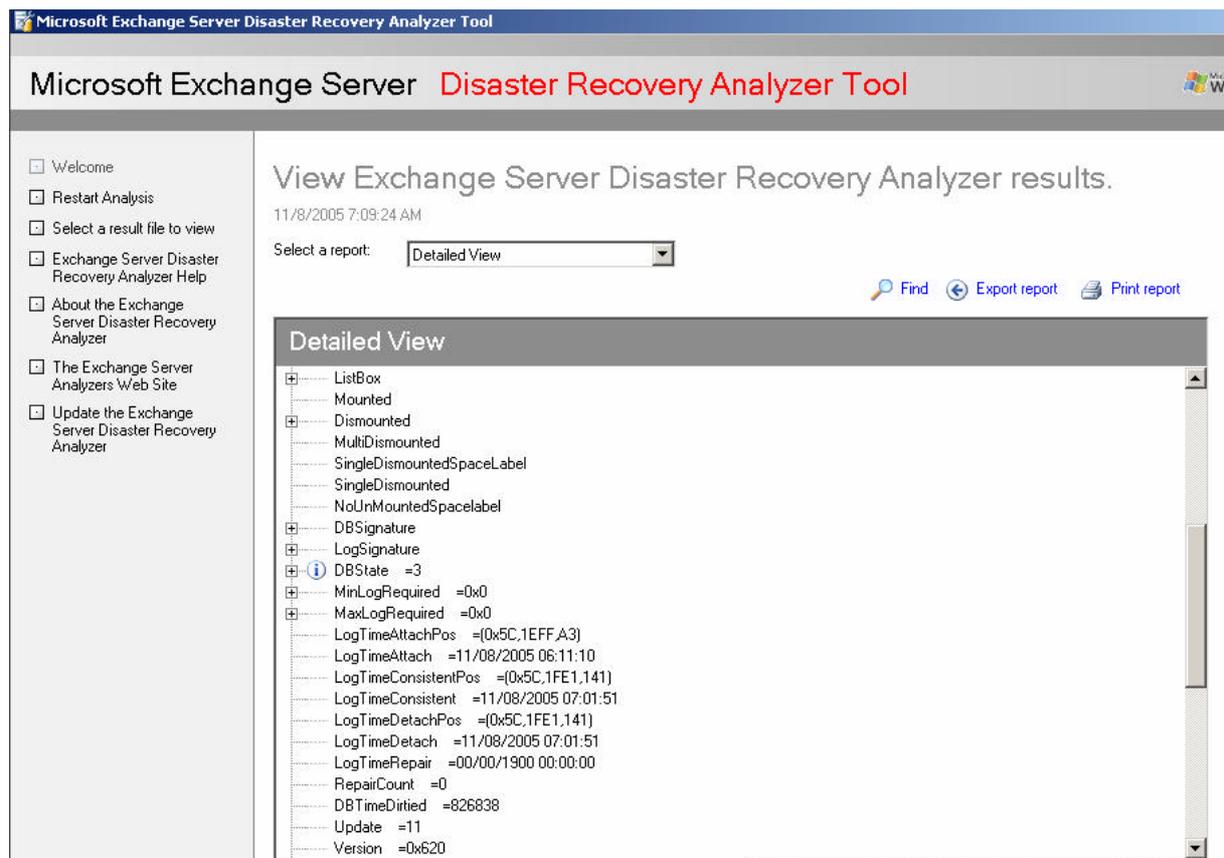


Figure 9: Detailed information about the database state

Now let's make the work a little bit harder for ExDRA. For the following example I dismount the Exchange database named *Crashtest* and deleted the associated STM database file.

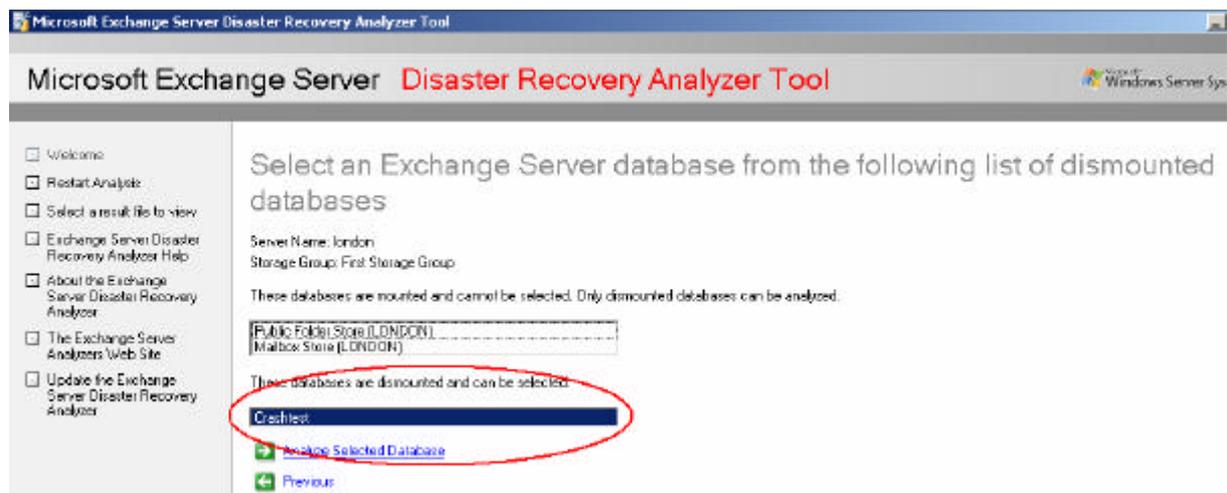


Figure 10: Selected the Crashtest database

After some Database and transaction logfile processing ExDRA tells us that it could not find the *Crashtest.stm* file and shows us some possible solutions to locate a copy of the STM file if it is lost or to run [Eseutil](#).

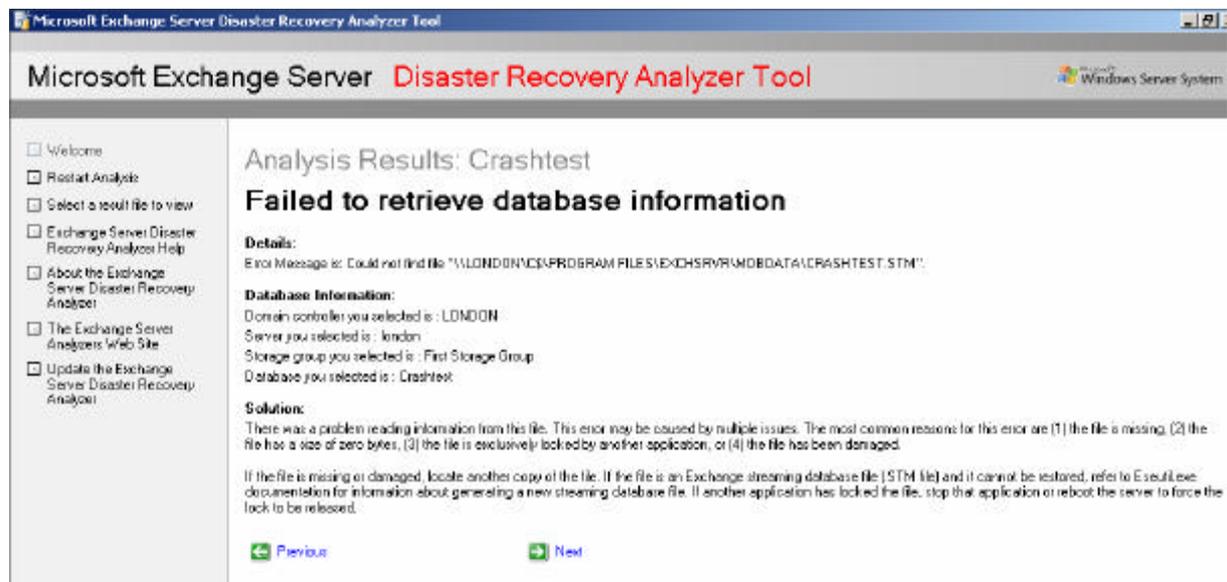


Figure 11: Detailed information about the database state

On the following page you can select a report to view Exchange Server Disaster Recovery Analyzer results.



Figure 12: exDRA Reports page

Conclusion

ExDRA 1.0 is the first version and has many potential to be a single place for administrators for disaster recovery purposes. The Exchange team plans to use ExDRA as an all in one place where an Administrator has to go to do disaster recovery, from recovery storage group management and through actually getting mailboxes back online.

Related Links

Microsoft Exchange Server Disaster Recovery Analyzer Tool v1.0

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=C86FA454-416C-4751-BD0E-5D945B8C107B&displaylang=en>

Microsoft Exchange Server Performance Troubleshooting Analyzer Tool v1.0

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=4BDC1D6B-DE34-4F1C-AEBA-FED1256CAF9A&displaylang=en>

System Requirements for Microsoft Exchange Server Analyzer Tools

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/exchange/downloads/2003/analyzers/sysregs.msp>

New additions to the 'Analyzer' Tool Family

<http://blogs.technet.com/exchange/archive/2005/11.aspx>