

## Episode Title: Upgrade an existing forest

### Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Explain the AD DS backup process
2. Explain the importance of AD DS functional levels
3. Monitor AD DS health

### Key Points:

#### Key Point 1

Backing up Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) is critical for ensuring data integrity, availability, and recoverability of the domain objects.

#### Key Point 2

Depending on the age of the forest and domain, you might need to upgrade the functional level of either. If you have removed all legacy domain controllers, ensure that you have also upgraded the domain and forest functional levels to leverage the latest features.

#### Key Point 3

By thoroughly testing and validating changes, you reduce the risk of disruptions and improve the overall reliability of your infrastructure and services.

- If additional resources are used during the episode, they can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode (e.g. diagrams, no powerpoints)

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### External Resources:

If external resources were used during this episode, you can reference the following external resources for supplementary tools and information, if none were used, then this section will be blank:

- Upgrade domain controllers to a newer version of Windows Server  
: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/identity/ad-ds/deploy/upgrade-domain-controllers>