

ACTIVE DIRECTORY (AD) INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

DCMWORKS AD INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENTS SAVE UP TO \$100K

Many companies and organizations have standardized their environment using Microsoft's Active Directory as the primary authentication and authorization infrastructure. While AD is based upon a Windows architecture, flexibility is built in to be able to integrate other authentication technologies such as Mac and many versions of Unix.

An assessment of an AD architecture that has been in place for some time often leads to major cost savings for our clients. We recommend modifications to the original setup to remedy inefficiencies, provide risk versus reward analyses for implementing upgrades, and a list of updates to address the current needs of the organization.

ACTIVE DIRECTORY OVERVIEW

Active Directory is an application suite riding on top of the Windows Server Operating System. In addition to Windows OS, there is a Domain Naming System (DNS) requirement. Windows Server also includes an RFC-compliant DNS application.

There are three major sub-components of Active Directory:

- Active Directory Sites & Services (ADSS)
- Active Directory Users & Computers (ADUC)
- Active Directory Domains & Trusts (ADDT)

While it is possible to create an Active Directory by using the click next, next, next method; it is very often better to consult or use an experienced technical person to assist in the creation and setup.

Over time there is also a need to expand, upgrade, modify, tune up and

ASSESSMENT BENEFITS

- REDUCED WAN TRAFFIC FROM OPTIMIZING AD SITES & SERVICES
- REDUCED LOGIN AND AUTHENTICATION DELAYS
- IMPROVED REPLICATION OF NEWLY CREATED OBJECTS TO REMOTE SITES
- ALL SYSTEMS USE SAME UNIVERSAL TIME SETTINGS REGARDLESS OF TIME ZONE
- SYSTEMS AND USERS "FIND" SERVERS, SHARES, STORAGE FROM OPTIMIZED DNS
- GROUP POLICIES APPLIED QUICKER
- GROUP POLICIES CONSOLIDATED AND OPTIMIZED
- REDUNDANT GROUP POLICIES ELIMINATED
- REDUCING WAN TRAFFIC
- ORGANIZATION UNITS OPTIMIZED

ASSESSMENT DELIVERABLES

- FINDINGS REPORT
- ANALYSIS REPORT
- STABILITY, REDUNDANCY, UPGRADE & MIGRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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DATA CENTER MANAGEMENT & MIGRATION

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ACTIVE DIRECTORY (AD) INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

ACTIVE DIRECTORY SITES & SERVICES (ADSS)

- REVIEW IP SCHEMA
- REVIEW WAN/LAN CONFIGURATION TO ENSURE TOPOLOGY MATCHES DESIGN IMPLEMENTED IN ADSS
- REVIEW SITE LINKS AND SITE LINK BRIDGES
- REVIEW REPLICATION CONNECTORS
- REVIEW REPLICATION TIMING
- REVIEW GLOBAL CATALOG SETTINGS
- REVIEW SITE TOPOLOGY GENERATOR (STG) CONFIGURATION
- REVIEW DHCP (OPTIONAL, THOUGH HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

ACTIVE DIRECTORY USERS & COMPUTERS (ADUC)

- REVIEW ORGANIZATION UNIT CONFIGURATION
- REVIEW TIME SERVICES
- REVIEW DNS
- REVIEW DOMAIN CONTROLLERS (DCs)
 - REVIEW HARDWARE CONFIGURATION
 - REVIEW VIRTUAL HARDWARE CONFIGURATION
 - REVIEW DC EVENT LOGS
 - SYSTEM
 - SECURITY
 - APPLICATION
 - DIRECTORY SERVICES
 - DNS
 - REVIEW GROUP POLICY OBJECTS (GPOs)
- REVIEW OTHER OS INTEGRATIONS
 - VMWARE
 - MAC
 - UNIX VARIATIONS
- ANALYZE DFS/DFSR USAGE (DISTRIBUTED FILE SYSTEM/DISTRIBUTED FILE SYSTEM REPLICATION)
- HEALTH CHECK
 - FIND UNUSED USER OBJECTS
 - FIND EMPTY COMPUTER GROUPS

ACTIVE DIRECTORY DOMAINS & TRUSTS (ADDT)

- REVIEW DOMAINS
- REVIEW TRUSTS
- ONE-WAY
- TWO-WAY
- FEDERATION

OTHER ITEMS ANALYZED

- REVIEW TOOLS FOR CREATION AND REMOVAL OF ANY DOMAIN OBJECT
- REVIEW TOOLS FOR MONITORING HEALTH OF THE ACTIVE DIRECTORY ENVIRONMENT
- REVIEW TOOLS FOR REPORTING ON THE HEALTH OF THE ACTIVE DIRECTORY ENVIRONMENT

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