



5 Challenges in Active Directory Management and How to Manage Them

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Agenda

- Active Directory General Limitations
- Password and User management
- Provisioning and de-provisioning – consistency through centralized management
- How to successfully perform granular restores of AD objects
- Active monitoring of managed and unmanaged changes
- Better management of security through delegation of roles

Active Directory Limitations

- ❑ Active Directory Users and Computers (ADUC) offers very limited management capabilities
- ❑ Creation and management of users and computers is cumbersome
- ❑ There's no easy way to customize user and computer objects
- ❑ Delegation of routine tasks to IT staff is difficult

Active Directory Limitations

- ❑ Active Directory lacks Web-based interface
- ❑ ADUC suffers from the limitations imposed by MMC
- ❑ Managing and resetting user passwords is a major pain point for IT departments
- ❑ Users must rely on IT to unlock their accounts
- ❑ Search functionality is limited

Active Directory Limitations

- ❑ Managing objects and security across domains and forests is not very easy
- ❑ Group Policy Management Console (GPMC) offers better management of GPOs but still lacks enhanced functionality (no quality reporting, rudimentary application of WMI filters, etc.)
- ❑ ADUC offers very limited customization

Active Directory Limitations

- ❑ Better management of permissions for Users and Groups is sorely missing in AD
- ❑ There is no single tool to centrally manage AD
- ❑ There is no built-in reporting capability included with ADUC
- ❑ NTDSUTIL, perhaps the most important tool in AD, is the most cumbersome AD tool and has no GUI version

Active Directory Limitations

- ❑ ADUC does not accommodate change management
- ❑ AD lacks change notifications and alerts
- ❑ Current AD versions lack a Recycle Bin feature
- ❑ There has been no significant improvement in ADUC in almost 10 years

5 Major Challenges in Active Directory Management

- Password and User management
- Provisioning and deprovisioning – consistency through centralized management
- How to successfully perform granular restores of AD objects
- Active monitoring of managed and unmanaged changes
- Better management of security through delegation of roles

Password Management Challenges

- According to researchers, up to 40% of all helpdesk calls can be related to password reset issues
- People have trouble remembering passwords so they use simple passwords, write them down, reuse old passwords, share them with friends, or forget their passwords

Password Management Challenges

- ❑ Users do not have the ability to reset their own forgotten passwords
- ❑ Users cannot unlock their own account
- ❑ People are told to remember complex passwords and then change them frequently
- ❑ Intruder lockout feature can be used as a denial of service (DoS) attack
- ❑ Built-in Administrator account cannot be locked out (unless you use PassProp.exe)

Provisioning and Deprovisioning

- Businesses have a need to provision and deprovision User accounts automatically
- Creation of multiple accounts requires scripting or third-party tools
- ADUC is not designed for automatic deprovisioning of User accounts
- MMCs are not an ideal solution to centralize all the Active Directory tools

Granular Restore of AD Objects

- ❑ AD is not designed to offer quick, granular restore of objects
- ❑ Restoration of AD objects is not only cumbersome, it requires shutting down the Domain Controller
- ❑ To restore individual objects you must go through numerous hoops
- ❑ In most cases, authoritative restores first require non-authoritative restores

Change Management Issues

- ❑ AD lacks active monitoring of managed and unmanaged changes
- ❑ Changes to GPOs cannot be easily monitored
- ❑ You can't automatically get notified if users are added to the Administrators group
- ❑ Management of changes to security groups is difficult

Delegation of Roles

- ❑ Large enterprises heavily rely on role-based security
- ❑ Delegation of roles functionality in AD is severely limited
- ❑ You can't create your own roles to better manage security
- ❑ There is no easy way to view delegated roles, or to find out who made what modifications and when

CionSystems AD Solutions

- CionSystems addresses AD limitations by offering the following solutions
 - Active Directory Manager
 - Active Directory Reporter
 - Active Directory Change Notifier (Auditor)
 - Provisioning System
 - Active Directory Enterprise Self-Service
 - Active Directory Recovery Manager
 - DirSync for Azure AD, Office365

CionSystems AD Solutions



- Active Directory Manager
 - Web-based interface
 - Supports Multiple domains
 - Reports available on demand or scheduled (e-mailed)
 - Roles-based delegation
 - Search & replace, search & compare functionality
 - Simplifies activities like resetting passwords, unlocking user accounts, changing contacts, etc.

CionSystems AD Solutions

- Active Directory Reporter
 - Web-based interface
 - Fully customizable dashboard
 - Extensive built-in library with more than 300 standard reports
 - Save reports in CVS, DOC, HTML, XLS and LIDF formats
 - No scripting knowledge required
 - Excellent for regulatory compliance
 - Reports can be configured for automatic delivery



CionSystems AD Solutions



- Active Directory Reporter
 - Out-of-the-box available reports

- Active Directory User Reports
- Active Directory Logon Reports
- Active Directory Password Reports
- Active Directory Computer Reports
- Active Directory Site Reports
- Active Directory Security Reports
- Active Directory Exchange Reports
- Active Directory GPO Reports
- Active Directory File & Printer Reports
- Active Directory Policy Reports
- Active Directory Replication Reports
- Active Directory Terminal Server Reports
- Active Directory OU Reports
- Active Directory Schema Reports
- Active Directory Group Reports
- Active Directory Trust reports
- Systems Inventory Report
- Disk Utilization report

CionSystems AD Solutions

- Active Directory Change Notifier
 - Get alerts when changes are made to the objects on your domain
 - E-mails are received in real-time
 - Filtering based on containers and type of change



CionSystems AD Solutions

- Active Directory Enterprise Self-Service
 - Web-based solution
 - Help end users make account changes securely
 - Allows users to reset their own password and unlock their account by answering pre-configured questions
 - Administrators can give controlled access so users can update their personal contact details
 - All changes made by users are tracked
 - Generate comprehensive reports



CionSystems AD Solutions

- CionSystems products now include:
 - Temporary User Management
 - Create/Enable AND disable/delete users at scheduled times
 - Approval Process
 - User creation goes through an approval process (policy driven)
 - Temporary Group Membership Support
 - Schedule adding and removing Users and Groups
 - Delete Users
 - Deleted users are archived

References

- [Cleaning Up After AD](#)
- [Additional Account Info Tab for Users Properties](#)
- [Searching Active Directory Objects](#)
- [Lighten Up the Group Policy Load](#)

CionSystems, Inc.

- CionSystems home page:
<http://cionsystems.com>
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Thank You!