

Re: Active Directory Value Proposition

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.active_directory/2005-11/msg00444.html

- *From:* "SRVMAINT00" <apherson@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 28 Nov 2005 01:30:32 -0600
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Thanks for getting back to us, Kurt. It is reassuring, although not quite as articulated as yours, our business case definitely resonated ... and it was good. It's nice being in a proactive environment, here. We get a lot of support up and down the food chain. We owe you one.

msw

"Kurt" <lorentzenkurt@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:11o4b325gi45076@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> Here's my evaluation based on the questions:

>

> Two or 3 computers? No way.

>

> 5 computers? If the environment is distributed enough and turnover is regular -- maybe.

>

> 10 computers? You bet. Even without exchange and such, central management is

> crucial (IMHO) at this point. Passwords, remote administration, group policy

> all play into easier management and (you mentioned how little time you have)

> less administrative overhead. Set up properly with a (well maintained)

> default user profile, OU's if required for the distribution of policy,

> re-directed "My Documents" and "Application Settings" for archival and

> backup purposes -- which leads to centralized backups (including open file

> options that work without the expense of an agent on each workstation),

> DNS-Integrated DHCP, central logon scripts --- I just wouldn't do it any

> other way. The \$650.00 for S2K3 Standard will pay for itself in no time vs

> the time spent maintaining a workgroup scenario.

>

>> What would be the three chief reasons?

> 1) Central administration of accounts, permissions, and policy.

> 2) Remote administration.

> 3) Granular permissions/rights for individual users according to need.

>

>> What is your opinion of the value of Active Directory versus risks on a

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one

> > to four scale (1=lowest)

>

> What are the risks? No backup? No disaster recovery plan? Are the risks WITH

> AD really any different than WITHOUT AD – given the same lack of planning?

> A good DC will have redundant Disks (a Mirror at the very least).

Redundant

> (or at least a cold spare) power supply. Daily backups (tape drive or some

> kind of NAS). If you really want to protect yourself from downtime, put up

a

> second DC. It doesn't have to be as robust as the "big one", and it'll

keep

> you going if the main one dies, plus it'll make AD restoration a breeze.

>

> I don't see a lot of gray area here. Either you're in need of a central op

> or you're not. Once you cross the line, I'd say your main consideration is

> not risk vs reward, but more cost vs reward (and selling the reward vs cost

> to the folks who control the \$\$). You'll need a server, server OS, and

> plenty of time to join workstations, transfer user account settings from

> local to AD accounts. There's lots of planning. Obviously, you don't want

> everybody to be a domain admin. What about local admin? Everybody? Or just

a

> few? What are the software ramifications (of apps you are currently

running

> and will keep) ? Do you need to set up a test environment? What are the

> associated costs of that? If you're not migrating from something else, the

> danger of rendering your network unusable is fairly low as long as you're

> bringing up a NEW server as the DC (HIGHLY recommended !). You can always

> log into the local accounts even after you've joined the domain, and the

> old permissions and such will still be valid. After the domain is fully

> functional and all of the bugs have been ousted you can delete all the

local

> accounts (one at a time, making sure nothing breaks as a result).

>

> ...kurt

>

>

> "SRVMAINT00" <apherson@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

> [news:bgagf.62\\$SA4.4628@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:bgagf.62$SA4.4628@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> > Thank-you for responding, Kurt. It isn't so much a matter of capacity,

> > but

> > time. Personally, I have decades of time-in-grade, however have had more

> > of

> > a large infrastructure view, this Global Directory Services and so on

are

> > driven differently as a matter of scale. I have been unable to get a

firm

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• **References:**

- ◆ **Active Directory Value Proposition**
◇ *From:* Joseph G. Earl
 - ◆ **Re: Active Directory Value Proposition**
◇ *From:* Kurt
 - ◆ **Re: Active Directory Value Proposition**
◇ *From:* SRVMAINT00
 - ◆ **Re: Active Directory Value Proposition**
◇ *From:* Kurt
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