



Synchronizing
Active Directory to
LDAP

White Paper

Introduction

In today's security climate companies expect users to choose a long cryptic password for their account. This greatly increases the difficulty that a hacker has to go through to break into an account. However it really makes it hard for a user to remember their password, particularly if that company then decided to enforce frequent password expiration.

The issue become significantly compounded when each user has to remember several passwords. It's no wonder that companies try to reduce the number of accounts that users are required to use.

If your company already has an existing LDAP server, it is possible to synchronize this with Active Directory in Windows 2000. This reduces the number of accounts your users have to remember, plus it reduces the administrative cost of separate account regimes, and it reduces the number of calls to the help desk to reset passwords.

Active Directory Synchronization

Active directory has the capacity to be synchronized to other directories via the LDAP protocol. There are 3 ways to do this, using Microsoft tools, using third party tools or exploiting the ADSI interface.

Microsoft MetaDirectory Services

Microsoft MetaDirectory Services (MMS) can be used to synchronize LDAP and Active Directory (AD) uni- or bi-directionally, as well as synchronize other directory types such as Exchange, NDS, Oracle 8i. MMS is XML configurable to the various formats, however does have several limitations.

The MMS software is available at no cost through authorized Microsoft Consulting Partners.

Third Party Tools

One company that iTCO Engineers have worked with provides a tool to synchronize AD to LDAP. This works as a scheduled service to transfer changes the LDAP directory to AD.

ADSI Interface

One of our senior engineers at iTCO has researched a programmatic solution to “referring” AD to LDAP. At this point this research is still considered “in test”, but does show significant promise for companies trying to eliminate multiple sign-on’s.



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