

How Cisco IT Migrated to Microsoft Active Directory

Automated migration and provisioning tools reduce cost of migrating to Active Directory and simplify training and troubleshooting.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Automated migration
- Automated provisioning
- Automated network topology updates
- Consistent server configurations worldwide
- ROI in 16 months

“Web-based proxy management is our way of delivering a globally distributed service through a centrally managed server. No matter where you are in the world, Active Directory behaves the same.”

– **Dave Jones, Directory Services Architect, Cisco Systems**

The Cisco Systems IT group traditionally maintained separate network operating system (NOS) and Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directories for each application and desktop operating system. The company wanted to consolidate and also to add an enterprise directory.

Managing disparate NOS and LDAP directory services—50 in the lab environment alone—created problems. Users had to keep track of multiple user accounts and passwords to log into different systems. Administrators had to be trained on different systems. Cisco developers had to write different code for every directory that their applications accessed. Cisco IT incurred high training costs for each directory, and multiple directories made it more difficult to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Cisco IT overcame these challenges by migrating to Microsoft Active Directory for both its NOS directories and an enterprise directory. Active Directory is deployed in 12 locations worldwide on the Cisco global Wide Area Network. Cisco employees around the world can authenticate locally through the nearest site.

An automated migration utility enabled Cisco IT to migrate for just \$630 per desktop. This compares to an industry average of \$2100 to \$3000 (source: Gartner). One-time migration cost savings totalled \$1.5 million.

Automated provisioning. Approximately 100 batch provisioning scripts capture changes from the master database—including employee hires and departures—and execute daily. Administration costs have dramatically decreased.

Automated updates to network topology. To keep the topology up-to-date without daily, manual updates, Cisco IT wrote a script that pulls config files from Cisco routers and adds new topology information to Active Directory.

ROI in 16 months. Ongoing operational cost savings for Windows services total \$2.3 million. Cost savings for UNIX services total \$2 million compared to SunOne, or \$4.3 million compared to Sun Network Information Service (NIS+).

In 48 months, Cisco will save \$2.3 million in ongoing operational costs for Windows services alone

Case Study: http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ciscoit/work/case_studies/business_applications_dl1.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the entire case study or for additional Cisco IT case studies on a variety of business solutions, visit Cisco on Cisco: Inside Cisco IT www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit

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