

Why Active Directory

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Introduction

With regards to Riordan Manufacturing acquiring new servers with Microsoft Server 2003 the a company must look at migrating to Active Director in order to facilitate the streamlining of work for the Information Technology Department. The benefits of such a move and how it is to be accomplished. Moving to Active Directory will save Riordan Manufacturing money over time.

Discussion

Active Directory will give the System/Network Administrator more control over group policies. With the advanced control over group policies, the Network/System Administrator will gain according to Microsoft “Enhanced Security... Improved Customer Satisfaction and Reduced Help Desk Cost... Increased Data Safety and Availability... Flexible Control Over the Computing Environment...Increased Productivity” (Microsoft, 2002,p.5). With the advanced control over policies, the System/Network Administrator can prevent unauthorized access by users to sensitive data on the servers and other users’ computers on the network. With Active Directory, the System/Network Administrator can enforce standardized desktops and server environments reducing the amount of calls to the helpdesk for broken links and software incompatibility. Active Directory gives the System/Network Administrator the ability to have more control over backing up of the data on the systems and recovery of lost data through the utilization of group policies. Active Directory gives the System/Network Administrator the ability to define and enforce organizational standards through the utilization of group policies. The IDC group did a study and determined, “Windows

Server 2003 is 28.6% less expensive than Windows NT server and 11.5% less expensive than Windows 2000 Server when measured on the basis of a three-year TCO” (Gillen, 2004, p.1). As one can see from the IDC study, it is cost effective to move to Windows 2003 and use Active Directory.

The best way to accomplish using Active Directory is to look at the current business model of Riordan Manufacturing. When looking at figure 1, our organization chart you will see a natural structure of the business model. It is a simple matter to turn this organization chart into Organizational Units and this in turn helps create the Active Directory schema. An Organization Unit according to Mehta P. is “OU [Organization Unit] allows further breakdown of each domain allowing to create additional boundaries for admin and security” (Mehta). Looking at figure 2, you will see how the organization chart helped in the creating of the Active Directory schema. In figure 2, you will also see how Active Directory helped in the creation of an IP addressing standardization for the Information Technology Department. Looking at figure 2, each department has its own container and this type of layout will enhance and improve the security of the network. Active Directory is a key role in the development and enhancement of the security of the network as a whole.

From the information in this report, one can see Active Directory is important from several aspects. First Active Directory is a key role in the improvement of security and standardization throughout the company also moving to Microsoft 2003 Servers will save the company 28.6% more money over staying with Microsoft NT Servers. This one fact alone should make the choice of moving to Active Directory a simple choice.

Figure 1

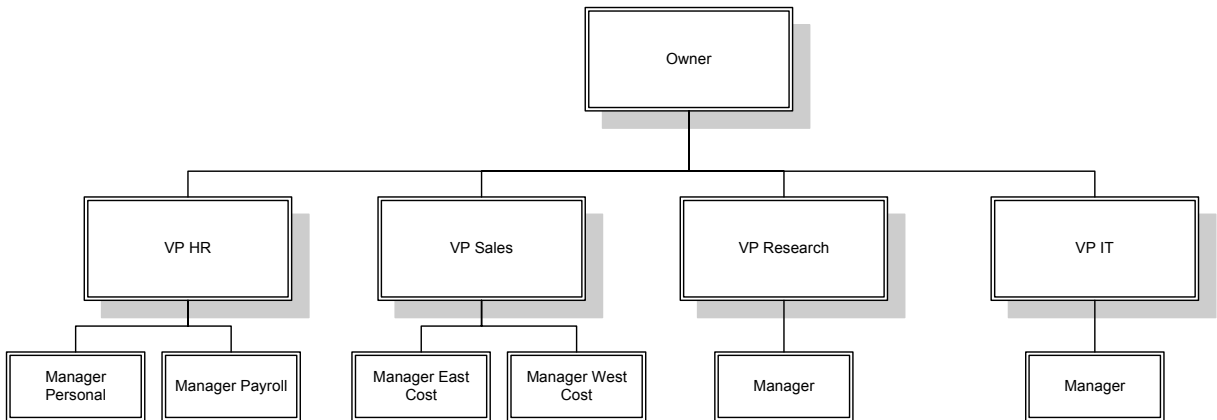
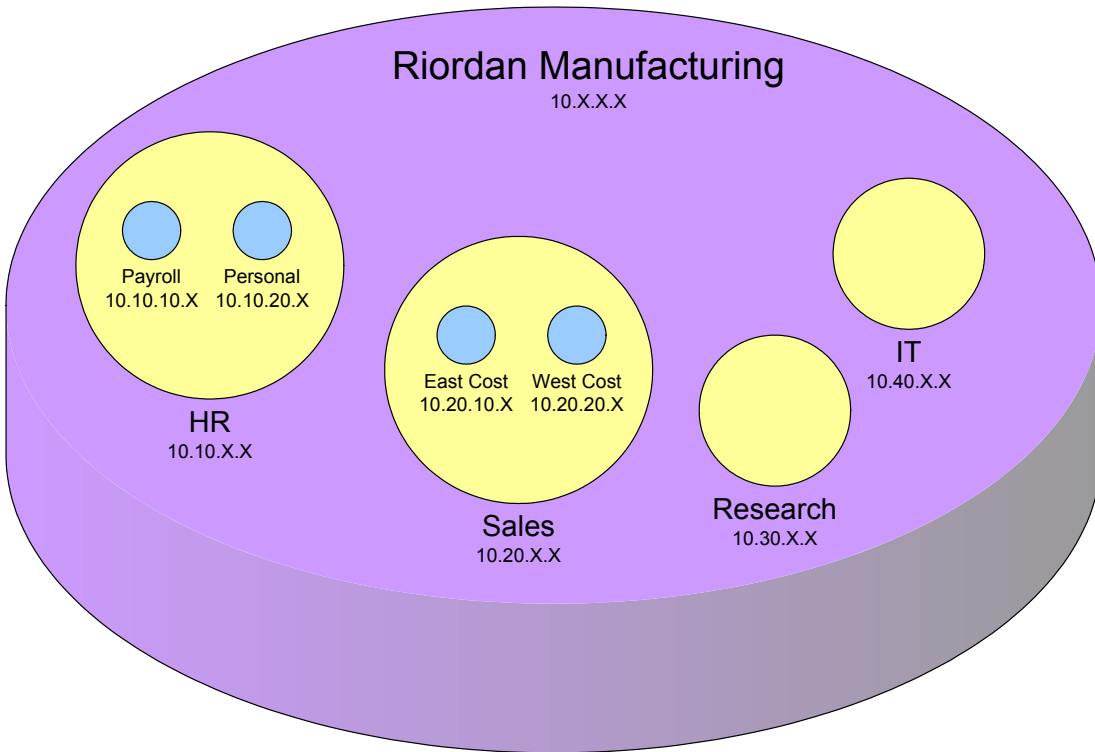


Figure 2



Reference

Gillen A., Melenovsky, M. Perry, R. (2004, May). *Evaluating the Business Benefits for Windows Users of Deploying Windows Server 2003*. Retrieved January 14, 2005, from <http://www.idc.com>.

Mehta P. *POS 427 Windows Networking week 1*[Data File] Retrieved January 14, 2005, from mycampus.phoenix.edu.

Microsoft Corporation. (2002, November). *Why Upgrade From Windows NT 4.0 to Windows Server 2003*. Retrieved January 14, 2005, from www.microsoft.com.