# Glossary: Active Directory

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**Glossary: Active Directory-related Terminology**

**Active Directory** — A Hierarchical Database, a secure environment where users can interact either with each other or with network components all according to the business rules of the enterprise.

**AD/AM —** A special directory service that is an add-on to WS03 and that is designed to run as a pure lightweight application protocol (LDAP) directory. Its schema is much smaller than AD's, though — it contains 30 objects and 160 attributes.

**Application Partition —** This partition has several features such as the ability to host several instances of the same application and COM+ components on the same physical machine, but for the purposes of replication, this partition can be defined as a specific group of domain Controller IP addresses or DNS names. For example, WS03 automatically creates a forest-wide application partition for forest-wide DNS data so this information will be available on all domain controllers with the DNS role in the forest.

**Attributes** — Component describing object class properties.

**Classes** — Component defining object types within Active Directory.

**Domain** — The Security and Replication Boundary, Domains act as discrete object containers within the forest, can be regrouped into trees. Domains contain objects such as users, computers, servers, domain controllers, printers, file shares, applications, etc… Domains contain rules that apply to these objects.

**Domain Controllers** — Active Directory core service providers, DCs in the same domain share the same information.

**Domain Naming Master** — The master service that controls and authorizes domain naming within the forest.

**Domain Naming System** — Domain naming system defines the boundaries of the forest.

**Domain Specific Contents —** Every object that is defined solely within the scope of a particular domain.

**Forest** — Active Directory global security boundary, the largest single partition for any given database structure. AD protects the schema and the database structure.

**Forest trusts** — Link between global AD partitions.

**Generic Accounts** — Named according to function rather than individual. Use for 3 activities: Testing, Development, Training.

**GCPD —** Global Child Production Domain

**Global Catalog** — Allows forests to share a portion of their entire AD database. GC supports research and indexing of forest-wide information.

**Global Catalog Server** — Holds a copy of the forest-wide database within each domain. It has three functions: Find objects, allow User Principal Name (UPN) logons, and support Universal groups.

**Group** — Used for application of security rights. Three groups exist: Universal for entire forest, Global between domains, and Domain Local within a single domain.

**Group Policy Object** — Specific to a domain only, parameter settings which can be applied to objects within the directory.

**Infrastructure Master** — Manages two critical tasks: Update of references from objects in its domain to objects in other domains and update and modification of group members within the domain.

**Multi-master Replication** — Data can be modified on any DC and is replicated to all other DCs within a domain.

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**Namespace** — Defines the scope of AD, based on the hierarchical nature of DNS Namespace defines the structure of the database and the relationship between its objects, based on an X.500 naming scheme that identifies containers when naming objects.

**Object** — Instance of an object class

**Operation Masters (OM)** — AD services that manage requests for specific information changes at either the forest or the domain level.

**Organizational Unit** — Administration Boundary, container designed as object repositories. OU contains AD objects and their properties, and data, provide groupings that can be used for administrative or delegation purposes and used to delegate management, designed to help support the data/service concept of Active Directory. Default OUs: Users, computers and Domain Controllers.

**PFRD —** Protected Forest Root Domain

**Policy** — Default Domain Policy and Default Domain Controller Policy, a set of rules that govern the interaction between a subject and an object within a domain.

**Primary Domain Controller Emulator (PDC)** — PDC provides backward compatibility to Windows NT. In native forest, manages password changes and synchronizes time between DCs.

**Protected Forest Root Domain (PFRD)** — Contains critical forest-wide management groups and users as well as critical forest-wide services.

**Relative ID (RID)** — The master service that is responsible for the assignation of relative IDs to other domain controllers within the domain.

**Replication** — Function that keeps distributed databases synchronized.

**Schema** — Database structure

**Schema master** — The master service that maintains the structure of the forest database and authorizes schema changes.

**Scope of Active Directory** — The naming boundary for a given forest.

**Security policies** — Global domain security rules.

**SGCD —** Single Global Child Domain

**Site** — Physical partitions that control replication by creating boundaries based on IP addressing.

**Site topology** —Determines how each of the database containers will be linked to the others for replication purposes.

**Tree** — Name-Dependant AD Partition, Tree segregated from each other through their DNS name.

**UPN** — User Principal Name, composed of the username along with a global forest root name. Ex.: name.surname@tandt.com