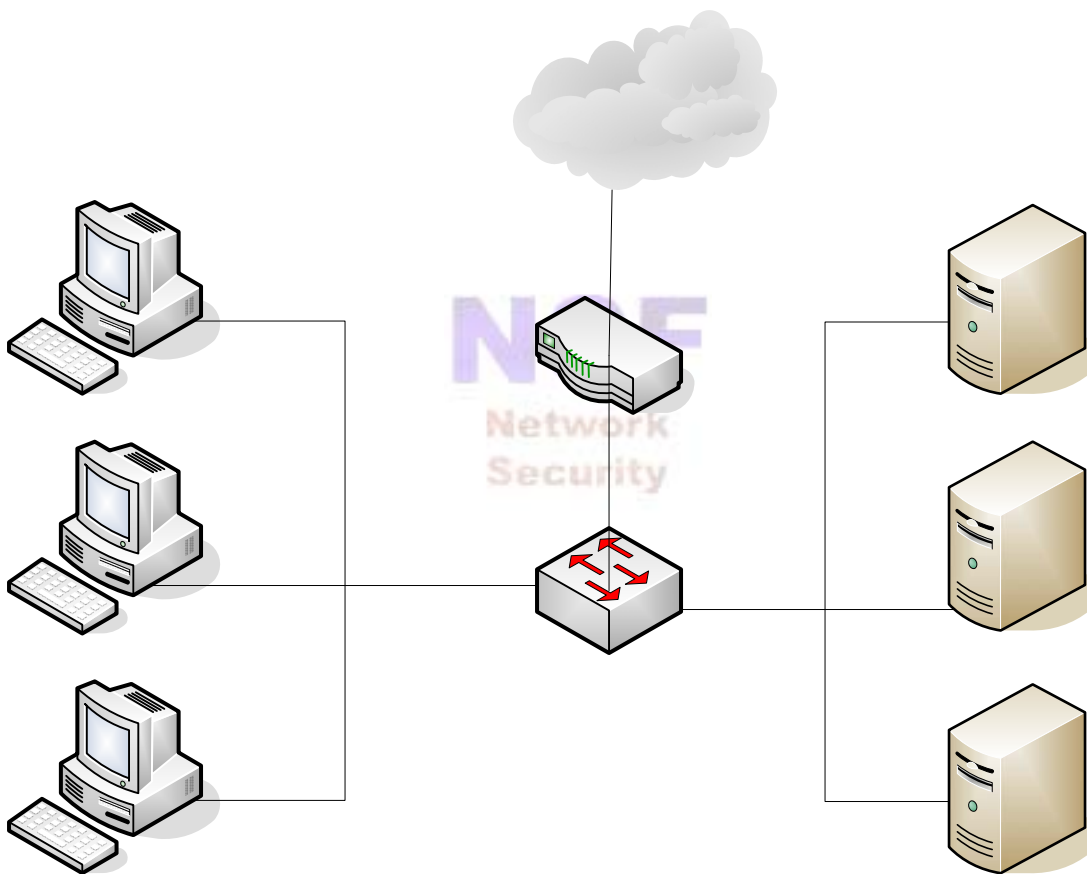


Active Directory Implementation Plan

Needs: A centralized authentication and policy server that provides a domain with a single point of administration for user accounts, computer accounts and system policies.

Step 1) Before you ever turn on your to-be domain controller, you first must lay out the design for the network. What I mean is that you need to know the TCP/IP subnet and layout for the network that you are going to build. Assuming this is already done, let's proceed to the install. If this has not been done, stop reading and do this now. Planning is essential to avoid major setbacks and reinstalls. See the VERY basic layout for a network below. It is designed for simplicity and ease of use, however, design your network as you see fit.



NOTE*** When initially setting up a PC to be a domain controller it is recommended to go over the hardware carefully and make sure it is in excellent condition and that it is a stable computer. (I recommend buying a machine with a great warranty and possibly two to assist in redundancy) If you only have one DC and it goes down, the whole network goes down.

Step 2) If installing from the vendor supplies Windows Server 2003 Enterprise CDs, follow the default install, only configure the password for the “administrator” account to what it is currently set to via the Server Security Policy. If loading the OS from a pre-

built image, the sysprepped image should load automatically and will bring you to the same point.

Step 3) After the OS is completely loaded and you have logged in initially as the administrator, the preparation for loading AD can begin. First you must configure the TCP/IP information with what you had initially designed for the Domain Controller. It is imperative to provide static TCP/IP information to prevent unnecessary complications. After setting static information, configure the Server's Computer Name as something representative of the computer's role or follow a pre-selected naming scheme which would have been established in the initial planning of the network.

Step 4) After the TCP/IP settings and Computer name have been configured, uninstall or disable any unneeded applications or features (such as games, sound services, audio applications, productivity software, etc.). Remove anything that will not be specifically needed for the role of the server.

Step 5) After the system has been streamlined for its role, then you will promote it to a domain controller. To do this click on Start > Run > type "dcpromo" and hit enter. This will initiate the wizard to walk you through the initial setup and configuration of Active Directory.

Step 6) When going through the wizard, you should have had all of the information needed from the network plan that was created before Step 1. This includes the name of the domain, if it is a new domain or if it will be another domain controller for an existing forest or if it will be a new tree in the existing forest.

Step 7) After selecting default options you will be prompted for DNS, this falls back on your Network design. Typically if this is for a small network, installing DNS on the domain controller is adequate.

Step 8) After completing the wizard, it will install active directory and you will have to reboot the PC.

Step 9) Now you must setup the domain structure. Here you will layout the OUs (Organizational Units) and you can set these up specifically to the network design.

Step 10) Create user accounts using role-base access.