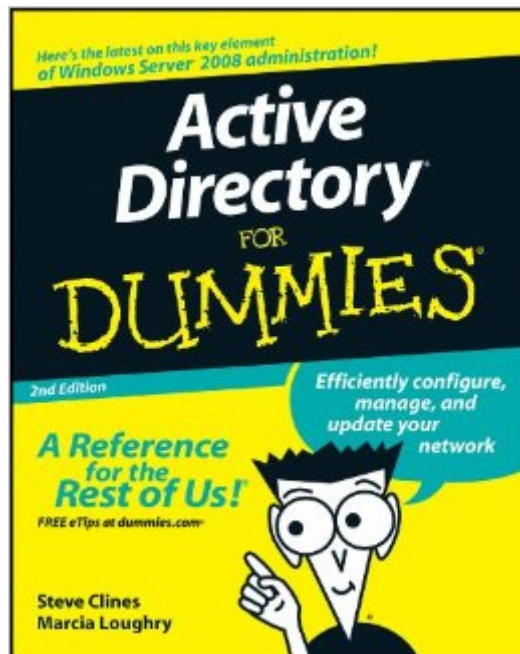


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# Active Directory For Dummies



## Synopsis

Whether you're new to Active Directory (AD) or a savvy system administrator looking to brush up on your skills, *Active Directory for Dummies, 2nd Edition* will steer you in the right direction! Since its original release, Microsoft's implementation of the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP) for the Windows Server line of networking software has become one of the most popular directory service products in the world. If you are involved with the design and support of Microsoft directory services and/or solutions, you really need this book! You'll understand the basics of AD and utilize its structures to simplify your life and secure your digital environment. You'll discover how to exert fine-grained control over groups, assets, security, permissions, and policies on a Windows network and efficiently configure, manage, and update the network. You'll find new and updated material on security improvements, significant user interface changes, and updates to the AD scripting engine, password policies, accidental object deletion protection, and more. You will learn how to:

- Navigate the functions and structures of AD
- Understand business and technical requirements and determine goals
- Become familiar with physical components like site links, network services, and site topology
- Manage and monitor new features, AD replication, and schema management
- Maintain AD databases
- Avoid common AD mistakes that can undermine network security

Complete with lists of the ten most important points about AD, and ten cool Web resources, and ten troubleshooting tips, *Active Directory For Dummies, 2nd Edition* is your one-stop guide to setting up, working with, and making the most of Active Directory. Note: CD-ROM/DVD and other supplementary materials are not included as part of eBook file. Note: The Kindle edition of this book does not include any CDs or DVDs.

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## Customer Reviews

Doing Active Directory right was important to my small technology company, so I bought more than ten books on Active Directory, Windows 2000 Server, and DNS. This Dummies book I took home and planned to skim through it first, thinking it would be a nice quick introduction. The book got mislaid, and I did not pick it up again until I was nicely up to speed with Active Directory and had done several installations. I read it anyway on a Saturday night as a quick review and was surprised at the clear style, nice organization, and adequacy of its coverage of the subject matter. If you have just a day or two to get up to speed with this important new Microsoft technology, this book will certainly do. System administrators and architects will want a more technical treatment.

One of my students told me about this book and brought it to class. I hadn't expected so much technical content from a Dummies book. This little book really should be the starting point for anyone interested in Active Directory.

The fantastic complexity of Windows 2000 Active Directory almost makes the title of this book an oxymoron. Win2K presents a huge paradigm shift to network administrators, since the Active Directory is a completely new, radically different beast from what Windows NT was. Understanding AD and how it works takes patience...it isn't accidental that there are 1000+ page books out there on setting up and maintaining an AD infrastructure. This book doesn't aim to help you do specific tasks in AD, but what it does very well is explain in basic terms what AD is and does, how it is structured, and give you the frame of reference you need before you delve further in. But I'm not sure how many people need to [pay] for this book when there are other books out there that deal much more extensively in the workings of AD. The bottom line is that computer enthusiasts curious about the central feature of Win2K and newbie administrators of Win2K who have little or no

experience with NT4 will find it a useful primer on AD. For anyone else, it's probably better to put the [money] toward one of the more detailed, albeit less plainspoken, AD guides.

The book *Active Directory for Dummies* is easy to read without sacrificing technical content. The author gives practical advice on how to implement and use active directory, not just technical description of the product. Worth the money.

I got this book free at the EDS booth at the Windows 2000 launch in San Francisco. I didn't expect it to be this good. It's described as entry-level to Active Directory, but there is a lot of good technical stuff. I recommend it.

I needed a high level presentation of AD and thought this was the right book for me. Unfortunately, it does not read like a book but rather like a collection of articles with no connection other than being grouped by topic. I think it would have been much easier to convey the concepts with an example that would have been used throughout the book to illustrate the kind of needs that AD would address for company ACME and how the latter would go about implementing and deploying AD. I give it 2 stars because I am sure it will be useful as a reference book once I get a better grasp of the AD concepts through other sources.

When Microsoft took an elegant simple schema from UNIX and redesigned it into a convoluted might mare called "Active Directory" it was time for this book. Turns out that "Active Directory" is not active or a directory; who would have guessed? Well this book starts you off with correcting concepts and even lets you know that with the new terminology that the definition of "domain" has been changed. A lot of time *Dummies* books are too busy being cute; this one however is so packed with helpful information that it does not have time to be cute. This book takes you from ground zero to up and running while helping avoid common pit falls.

As a programmer I bought this book because most of the time the "Dummies" series is pretty good. Not so for this title. It would be better titled "Active Directory for Experienced Users." By the end of chapter 3 my head was spinning with all the heavy jargon they use (mostly C.I.P.U. meaning, clear if previously understood). By chapter 4 I gave up and had no more understanding of A.D. then when I started. In fact, I was more confused than ever. And I still had not seen one single line of code that could show me how to access the dad-blamed thing! Here's an example of what awaits the reader in

chapter 4, p. 58: "DNS uses SRV records to map AD services, such as a domain controllers and global catalogs, to specific server names." Got that?? And it just gets worse from there, with more and more Ivory Towered theory, but nothing you can sink your teeth into. A.D. cannot be learned from any book. It takes class room instruction, along with a teacher who can start at the beginning, not like this book that jumps right into the middle of things. A.D. is just too complicated a subject for beginners who think any book can teach them the basics. Save your money for a college level class at your community college. You might then come back to this book later on for a more advanced treatment of this topic.

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