

# Active Directory modernization

Strengthen security and cyber resilience by consolidating your Active Directory and cleaning up your configurations.

## The Challenge

As the core identity system for most organizations today, Active Directory (AD) provides the vital authentication and authorization services necessary for users to do their jobs and for processes and services to run.

However, AD is such a large and complex system that it can sprawl out of control in a very short period of time — and many AD environments have existed for years or even decades. Well-intentioned but overwhelmed IT pros address new issues that arise with workarounds that are intended to be temporary but end up calcifying in place as the team moves on to the next fire that needs to be put out. M&As exacerbate the problem by multiplying the number of AD environments that must be managed.

## How this affects you

Active Directory sprawl overloads limited IT resources, hurts user satisfaction and productivity, and increases software and hardware costs. But the most critical effect is often serious damage to security and cyber resilience.

# 94%

of organizations know that AD modernization mitigates risk by reducing the attack surface.

That's because AD sprawl limits insight into and control over crucial IT assets like accounts, security groups, powerful servers and Group Policy. Adversaries can take advantage of the resulting security gaps to slip into the network, escalate their permissions and move laterally until they reach your sensitive data and systems. The result can be a devastating data breach, hefty ransom demand or costly downtime.



# Security through migration

## A better way

Active Directory modernization helps you reduce these risks. It involves consolidating your various environments through Active Directory migration, so that you end up with just a single forest with one domain to manage — but it doesn't stop there.

As part of the process, you also conduct a thorough review of security across the entire environment to identify and mitigate risks, as well as rationalize and update security to align with your current business requirements. And you implement ongoing governance, protection and monitoring.

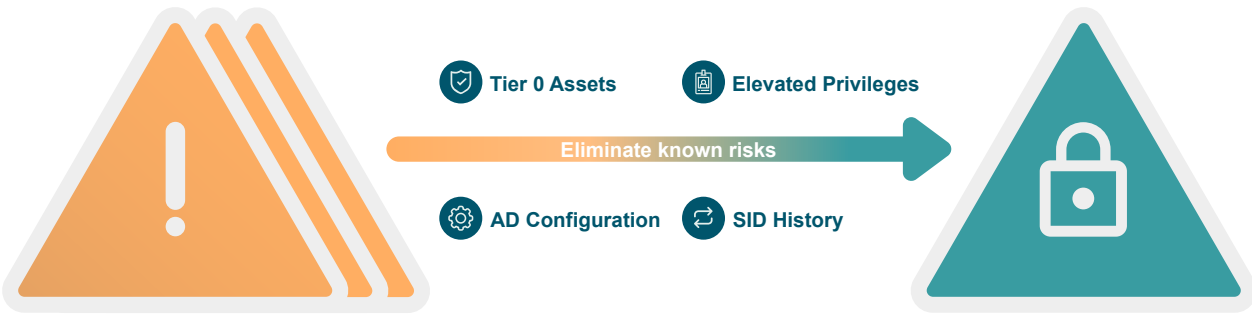
The result is an AD environment that is as secure and resilient as possible.

## What you can do with Quest Active Directory Modernization Suite

Quest is an industry leader in both Active Directory security and migration. Here are just four of the key Active Directory modernization use cases that Quest solutions can address, efficiently and effectively.

### Identify and protect critical (Tier 0) assets.

As AD becomes larger and more convoluted, IT teams lose crucial visibility. Who has access to what? Which services are business-critical and what servers do they run on? What are the effective Group Policy settings?



With Quest solutions, you can definitively identify your Tier 0 assets, including powerful servers, privileged security groups and users with elevated access rights. Moreover, you can reduce the risk associated with those critical assets in two ways: by minimizing the number of Tier 0 assets you have and by strictly controlling access to ones that remain, including preventing unwanted changes to them.

#### **Understand and manage elevated access.**

Quest solutions deliver unmatched insight into accounts with elevated access. These accounts are a top target of adversaries because they provide access to sensitive data and critical systems. Examples include admin accounts, accounts assigned to members of departments like HR and Finance, and service accounts used to run workloads like Exchange, SharePoint and SQL Server.

By consolidating domains with Quest migration tools, you immediately reduce the number of privileged accounts in the environment, and then prune other unnecessary permissions. Equally important, Quest enables you to manage elevated access moving forward by ensuring that all changes to privileges are sanctioned and documented.

**AD modernization involves a migration to consolidate forests and domains; review and honing of security; and implementation of ongoing governance.**

#### **Eliminate SID History risks.**

One insidious cause of excessive rights is a technical artifact of migration called SID History. In concert with trusts between domains, this attribute enables migrated users to continue to access non-migrated resources.

But rights granted through SID History are easy for IT pros to miss, so users often end up retaining access they no longer need. That access can be misused by the account owner or abused by an adversary who hijacks the account.

Modernizing your AD with Quest enables you to eliminate SID History without jeopardizing productivity. You set up permissions in the target domain that align with your business needs. Then you can delete SID History from all user accounts and remove the trust, wiping away all the associated risks.

#### **Address AD configuration sprawl.**

Tier 0 includes not just critical servers and accounts, but two other key elements: Group Policy and trusts.

- Group Policy is a powerful feature of AD that helps administrators centrally manage users and computers across a domain. Over the years, organizations often build up such an enormous set of Group Policy objects (GPOs) that they can no longer understand exactly what policies are being applied where, and attackers eagerly abuse the gaps. With Quest solutions, you can identify outdated, redundant and conflicting GPOs and clean up your Group Policy to ensure both security and productivity — and to keep it that way through effective change management and change blocking.
- Trusts are essentially bridges between AD domains and forests that enable users to access resources in other environments. Unfortunately, trusts are often configured once and completely forgotten. As a result, an adversary who breaches the least-secure forest can move laterally to other forests. Quest solutions empower you to consolidate down to a single domain in a single forest — eliminating the need for trusts and all the complexity and risk that comes with them.

#### **About Quest**

Quest creates software solutions that make the benefits of new technology real in an increasingly complex IT landscape. From database and systems management, to Active Directory and Microsoft 365 migration and management, and cybersecurity resilience, Quest helps customers solve their next IT challenge now. Quest Software. Where next meets now.