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### ABOUT LIKewise ENTERPRISE

Likewise Enterprise integrates Linux, Unix, and Mac computers with Microsoft Active Directory, securely authenticates users with their domain credentials, and controls access to resources.

<http://www.LikewiseSoftware.com>

# Likewise and Active Directory Bring Multiple Advantages over LDAP

## Active Directory and LDAP

Microsoft Active Directory integrates and prepackages two key logical components: an LDAP server and a Kerberos Key Distribution Center, or KDC. The KDC authenticates users with the highly secure Kerberos 5 protocol, eliminating insecure plain-text passwords. The LDAP server authorizes users and groups for access to servers, workstations, applications, and other resources. On the base of this pre-build LDAP server and KDC, Active Directory adds a range of built-in user interfaces to manage users, groups, and computers with its LDAP-based directory. As such, Active Directory radically simplifies system administration by providing a pre-build system for setting and enforcing security policies, managing passwords, controlling access, and configuring computers with group policies. Likewise Enterprise extends the power of Active Directory to Linux, Unix, and Mac OS X.

## Likewise Enterprise and Active Directory

Likewise Enterprise integrates computers running Linux, Unix, and Mac with Active Directory, yielding a range of benefits for users, system administrators, and security managers.

Users get one ID and single sign-on: They log on once to a workstation that is authenticated through Active Directory and receive Kerberos-based single sign-on for other computers and the applications that run on them. System administrators rest easy with the knowledge that users are securely authenticated with Kerberos 5 and authorized for access to resources and applications. Managers see their operational costs drop as their Linux, Unix, and Mac machines are centrally managed within Active Directory and configured en masse with Likewise group policies. Security managers find help in their quest for regulatory compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley and the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard.

### Disadvantages of an LDAP Solution

Implementing a custom LDAP solution is a long road to a common IT destination – improving security by controlling access and easing system administration by managing machines from a central location. A custom LDAP solution inevitably comes up short. Here's why:

- With LDAP, you must use certificates and, for example, SSL for security, requirements that add a lot of complexity.
- LDAP does not provide site affinity; computers are unable to find the most efficient domain controller if their location changes.
- No cached credentials: If a laptop or another computer is disconnected from the network or if the LDAP server goes down, a user cannot log on.
- No group policies to centrally configure and manage workstations and servers en masse.
- Incomplete set of user interfaces for managing an LDAP-based directory; for more information, see *Active Directory Service Interfaces -The Easy Way to Access and Manage LDAP-Based Directories* at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/archive/winntas/maintain/featusability/adsildap.mspx>.
- Not proven and much less robust, especially in the face of an enterprise network with multiple domains.

Most enterprises that have implemented a custom LDAP solution have ultimately found it to be insufficient for their needs because such systems are difficult to support, lack required functionality, and do not scale, resulting in time wasted and money misspent.

**Simply put: Microsoft Active Directory is a secure, scalable, stable, and proven identity management system. A custom LDAP solution is not.**

### References

For complete information about the advantages of Microsoft Active Directory, see

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2003/technologies/directory/activedirectory/default.mspx>.

