



U.S. Army

EMC Global Services successfully supports migration to the latest Microsoft technology for optimized IT operations

Industry

Government

Services

- Infrastructure Upgrade/Migration
- Consolidation and Management
- Managed Services

Benefits

- More manageability
- The ability to leverage the capabilities of Active Directory
- Increased user productivity through improved access and messaging capabilities
- Improved fault tolerance
- A \$363,980 savings through efficient migration practices

Key Microsoft technologies

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Active Directory
- Microsoft Exchange Server 2003

Like many government entities, the United States Army and NETCOM are focused on ensuring the most cost-efficient and effective IT operations to meet their user communities' needs and requirements. To deliver the business value required from its current IT investments, the Army recognized a need to optimize its current solution and migrate from Windows NT4 to the newest Microsoft technologies to allow for a more robust and secure IT infrastructure.

The Army believed that Microsoft's product line of Windows Server 2003, Active Directory, and Exchange would meet the objectives of its Joint Vision 2021 initiative by centralizing directory and mail services into a single U.S. Army domain. Joint Vision 2021 embodies a concept of worldwide information superiority, requiring systems that are secure, dependable, and interoperable.

EMC® Global Services, Microsoft Practice was engaged to support this initiative based on its knowledge of Active Directory and its process for conducting successful migrations.

"Our experience at Fort Drum with EMC has been very positive," says Paul Dailey, Deputy Director of Information Management, Ft. Drum. "The staff is technically proficient, diligent, eager to meet NETCOM requirements, and can strike a balance between those requirements and the needs of the local customer—us."

Planning for success

The EMC Microsoft Practice and the Army worked together to identify key objectives to ensure the success of the initiative. The first step was to conduct a site readiness assessment for migration of the user accounts and servers to a supported infrastructure based on Windows Server 2003. The next step was to identify risks based on the information discovered. It was also important to bring stakeholders together to ensure effective communications and the ability to share relevant information. The actual implementation process would involve the migration of 701 servers and 32,065 workstations into the Army CONUS AD Windows Server 2003 forest using Quest and NetIQ tools at 11 CONUS geographically dispersed sites.

This comprehensive plan resulted in the successful migration of 11 Army CONUS installations from Windows NT4 to the U.S. Army CONUS Active Directory forest. The project also encompassed the Army's first Exchange Server 2003 to Exchange Server 2003 migration from a rogue forest into the CONUS Exchange organization.

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The U.S. CONUS Active Directory forest reduces the burden of administration while improving fault tolerance and security. The consolidation yields more manageability, leverages capabilities of Active Directory-enabled applications, and provides improved access and messaging capabilities for greater user productivity. The implementation of these migration strategies, which ensured repeatable processes across all teams and installations, also produced a \$363,980 savings for the Army.

“EMC has exceeded the requirements for our migration, and due to its commitment, we are currently 45 days ahead of the migration plan originally submitted to NETCOM,” says Joel Thoreson, operations manager, director of Information Management, Ft. Eustis.

“Without EMC's technical assistance and strong customer focus, our Active Directory migration effort here at Soldier Systems Center would not have been completed within the established time frames,” adds Robert Costa, director of Information Management, U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, Natick, MA.



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Customer Profile
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