

Support for Active Directory (AD) in TAS

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Whenever a client wants to use a file server, it must first authenticate itself. The authentication mechanism is determined by the environment, so in some cases the client must use the host's scheme, in others, it must use a proxy host or an LDAP gateway. One of the most common authentication methods deployed these days is the use of an Active Directory Server (ADS).

TotalNET Advanced Server Software (TAS) allows you to specify which authentication service should be used for each file service you configure. This note specifically describes how TAS supports the Active Directory scheme.

User Environment

Sites that use multiple Windows-based clients often include systems called Active Directory Servers (ADS). These servers are repositories of information about users who might need to use file servers. Before any client system can access a file server's files, it must authenticate itself by contacting an ADS. The ADS will either grant or deny access to a file server, depending on settings configured by an administrator. In order for this scheme to work, the file servers (such as TAS) must be able to communicate with AD servers so they know whether a client who is trying to access it, has been granted access or not.

AD environments can be complex to configure, and it is important that all the

variables are exactly right in order for the system to work as expected. TAS therefore includes an intuitive set of forms in its graphical user interface (GUI) for configuring AD settings. Also provided, is a command line interface for those who understand the environment and prefer to work in a command shell.

Benefits

The benefits of using TAS in an AD environment include:

- TAS can be used in an existing AD environment with minimal configuration and no changes to clients or AD servers.
- TAS file services can be configured to authenticate via both ADS and Primary Domain Controller (PDC) concurrently.
- The interface for setting up TAS in the AD environment is simple and easy to use.
- No special training is needed for administrators who are familiar with AD. All the existing AD utilities can be used.

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