

Managing and Maintaining Windows Server 2008 Active Directory Servers

Course Outline Module 1: Managing an Active Directory Server Lifecycle

This module explains how to support and maintain Active Directory servers to meet changing business requirements in an enterprise environment.

Lessons

- Planning an Active Directory Server Deployment
- Using Active Directory Server Deployment Technologies
- Adding AD DS Server Roles
- Removing AD DS Server Roles

Lab : Managing and Maintaining a Windows Server 2008 Domain Controller

- Evaluating the Need for AD DS Promotion
- Meeting the Need by Adding a Role
- Managing a Change Request for an RODC by Using the Command Line
- Developing a Management and Maintenance Plan
- Evaluating the Management and Maintenance Plan

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Plan an Active Directory server deployment.
- Identify different approaches to Active Directory server deployment.
- Add an AD DS server role.
- Remove an AD DS server role.

Module 2: Creating Baselines for Active Directory Servers

This module explains how to create baselines using the WRPM and through analysis, make decisions to improve server performance.

Lessons

- Baseline Methodologies for Active Directory Servers
- WRPM Overview
- Using Metrics to Create Baselines for Active Directory Servers

Lab : Creating Baselines for Active Directory Servers

- Involving Users in Baseline Development
- Choosing Relevant WRPM Counters and Durations

- Evaluating and Revising a Baseline Document in the Face of Business Changes

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Define strategies for developing baselines.
- Explain the use of the WRPM as a baseline creation and revision tool.
- Describe some of the specific metrics that may be relevant for the different Active Directory roles.

Module 3: Monitoring the System Health of Active Directory Servers

This module explains how to create and evaluate a monitoring plan based on business needs and environments. It also explains how to determine the health of Active Directory servers using performance monitoring and even log triggers.

Lessons

- System Health Overview
- Using Long-Term Monitoring to Identify Trends
- Setting Thresholds and Alerts for Short-Term Monitoring
- Choosing the Appropriate Windows Server 2008 Monitoring Tools

Lab : Monitoring the Active Directory Server Roles

- Setting a Performance Alert to Meet a Business Goal
- Discussing Alert Response Strategies
- Building a Case for Configuration Change

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Define system health, server health, and Active Directory health.
- Define the best procedures to ensure system health and optimal performance for Active Directory servers.
- Set thresholds and alerts that are used for short-term monitoring.
- Describe the Windows Server 2008 monitoring tools and how to decide when the different tools are appropriate in different business situations.

Module 4: Managing Active Directory Domain Services

This module explains how to implement the methodology of maintaining Windows Server 2008 AD DS.

Lessons

- Restarting and Restoring Active Directory
- Overview of the Flexible Single Master Operations (FSMO) Roles
- Planning Sites and Replication
- Managing RODCs
- Methods of Managing Windows Server Core
- Best Practices for GPOs and Links

- Delegating Active Directory Administration

Lab : Managing AD DS

- Offline Defragging of the Active Directory Database
- Evaluating an RODC with Read-Only DNS Solution
- Making Site Replication Decisions
- Group Policy Link Strategies

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the impact of Windows Server 2008 methods for restarting Active Directory without rebooting.
- Define the FSMO roles and the Global Catalog pseudo-role.
- Explain the importance of site definitions and how to optimize the AD DS replication activity.
- Explain the functionality of RODCs and the key benefits with RODCs deployed.
- Explain the methods of managing Windows Server Core.
- Identify the best practices for Group Policy Objects (GPOs) and links.
- State the pros and cons of delegating administration of Active Directory.

Module 5: Maintaining Security for Active Directory Servers

This module explains how to deploy proven methods to harden the Active Directory servers.

Lessons

- Server Hardening Techniques
- Using the MBSA to Discover and Remove Security Holes
- Using Fine-Grained Password Policies to Simplify Network Organization
- Planning Security Auditing
- Enhancing Physical Security

Lab : Maintaining Security for the Active Directory Servers

- Manually Implementing AD DS Server Hardening
- Assessing Ongoing Security Requirements
- Deploying Fine-Grained Password Policies

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Describe the techniques used for manual server hardening.
- Use the MBSA to discover and remove security holes.
- Explain why you would use fine-grained password policies and how to maintain them.
- Explain when to perform security auditing and how to define a proper security baseline.

- Explain how to solve physical security problems and the ramifications of lax security policies.

Module 6: Managing Active Directory Service Roles

This module explains how to add non-AD-DS service roles to a Windows Server 2008 network and manage those roles with supplied tools.

Lessons

- Using Windows Server 2008 Tools for AD CS
- Implementing AD LDS
- AD FS Overview
- AD RMS Overview

Lab : Managing Active Directory Service Roles

- Installing the AD LDS Role
- Identifying Ongoing Management Concerns
- Using Windows Server 2008 Tools for Managing AD LDS

After completing this module, students will be able to:

- Use the Windows Server 2008 tools to operate Certificate Services.
- Explain when to use AD LDS.
- Identify management concerns with Active Directory Federation Services (AD FS).
- Identify management concerns with Active Directory Rights Management Services (AD RMS).