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AWS Directory Service provides multiple ways to use Amazon Cloud Directory and Microsoft Active Directory (AD) with other AWS services. Directories store information about users, groups, and devices, and administrators use them to manage access to information and resources. AWS Directory Service provides multiple directory choices for customers who want to use existing Microsoft AD or Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)–aware applications in the cloud. It also offers those same choices to developers who need a directory to manage users, groups, devices, and access.

Which to Choose

You can choose directory services with the features and scalability that best meets your needs. Use the following table to help you determine which AWS Directory Service directory option works best for your organization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do you need to do?</th>
<th>Recommended AWS Directory Service options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I need Active Directory or LDAP for my applications in the cloud</td>
<td>Select <a href="https://aws.amazon.com/adservice/">AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory</a> (Standard Edition or Enterprise Edition) if you need an actual Microsoft Active Directory in the AWS Cloud that supports Active Directory–aware workloads, or AWS applications and services such as Amazon WorkSpaces and Amazon QuickSight, or you need LDAP support for Linux applications. Use <a href="https://aws.amazon.com/adservice/">AD Connector</a> if you only need to allow your on-premises users to log in to AWS applications and services with their Active Directory credentials. You can also use AD Connector to join Amazon EC2 instances to your existing Active Directory domain. Use <a href="https://aws.amazon.com/adservice/">Simple AD</a> if you need a low-scale, low-cost directory with basic Active Directory compatibility that supports Samba 4–compatible applications, or you need LDAP compatibility for LDAP-aware applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I develop cloud applications that manage hierarchical data with complex relationships</td>
<td>Use <a href="https://aws.amazon.com/adservice/">Amazon Cloud Directory</a> if you need a cloud-scale directory to share and control access to hierarchical data between your applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I develop SaaS applications</td>
<td>Use <a href="https://aws.amazon.com/adservice/">Amazon Cognito</a> if you develop high-scale SaaS applications and need a scalable directory to manage and authenticate your subscribers and that works with social media identities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AWS Directory Service Options

AWS Directory Service includes several directory types to choose from. For more information, select one of the following tabs:
AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory

Also known as AWS Managed Microsoft AD, AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory is powered by an actual Microsoft Windows Server Active Directory (AD), managed by AWS in the AWS Cloud. It enables you to migrate a broad range of Active Directory–aware applications to the AWS Cloud. AWS Managed Microsoft AD works with Microsoft SharePoint, Microsoft SQL Server Always On Availability Groups, and many .NET applications. It also supports AWS managed applications and services including Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, Amazon QuickSight, Amazon Chime, Amazon Connect, and Amazon Relational Database Service for Microsoft SQL Server (RDS for SQL Server).

AWS Managed Microsoft AD is approved for applications in the AWS Cloud that are subject to U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) compliance when you enable compliance for your directory.

All compatible applications work with user credentials that you store in AWS Managed Microsoft AD, or you can connect to your existing AD infrastructure with a trust and use credentials from an Active Directory running on-premises or on EC2 Windows. If you join EC2 instances to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD, your users can access Windows workloads in the AWS Cloud with the same Windows single sign-on (SSO) experience as when they access workloads in your on-premises network.

AWS Managed Microsoft AD also supports federated use cases using Active Directory credentials. Alone, AWS Managed Microsoft AD enables you to sign in to the AWS Management Console. With AWS Single Sign-On, you can also obtain short-term credentials for use with the AWS SDK and CLI, and use preconfigured SAML integrations to sign in to many cloud applications. By adding Azure AD Connect, and optionally Active Directory Federation Service (AD FS), you can sign in to Microsoft Office 365 and other cloud applications with credentials stored in AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

The service includes key features that enable you to extend your schema, manage password policies, and enable secure LDAP communications through Secure Socket Layer (SSL)/Transport Layer Security (TLS). You can also enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) for AWS Managed Microsoft AD to provide an additional layer of security when users access AWS applications from the Internet. Because Active Directory is an LDAP directory, you can also use AWS Managed Microsoft AD for Linux Secure Shell (SSH) authentication and for other LDAP-enabled applications.

AWS provides monitoring, daily snapshots, and recovery as part of the service—you add users and groups to AWS Managed Microsoft AD, and administer Group Policy using familiar Active Directory tools running on a Windows computer joined to the AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain. You can also scale the directory by deploying additional domain controllers and help improve application performance by distributing requests across a larger number of domain controllers.

AWS Managed Microsoft AD is available in two editions: Standard and Enterprise.

- **Standard Edition**: AWS Managed Microsoft AD (Standard Edition) is optimized to be a primary directory for small and midsize businesses with up to 5,000 employees. It provides you enough storage capacity to support up to 30,000* directory objects, such as users, groups, and computers.

- **Enterprise Edition**: AWS Managed Microsoft AD (Enterprise Edition) is designed to support enterprise organizations with up to 500,000* directory objects.

  * Upper limits are approximations. Your directory may support more or less directory objects depending on the size of your objects and the behavior and performance needs of your applications.

**When to use**

AWS Managed Microsoft AD is your best choice if you need actual Active Directory features to support AWS applications or Windows workloads, including Amazon Relational Database Service for Microsoft SQL Server. It's also best if you want a standalone AD in the AWS Cloud that supports
Office 365 or you need an LDAP directory to support your Linux applications. For more information, see AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 7).

**AD Connector**

AD Connector is a proxy service that provides an easy way to connect compatible AWS applications, such as Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon QuickSight, and Amazon EC2 for Windows Server instances, to your existing on-premises Microsoft Active Directory. With AD Connector, you can simply add one service account to your Active Directory. AD Connector also eliminates the need of directory synchronization or the cost and complexity of hosting a federation infrastructure.

When you add users to AWS applications such as Amazon QuickSight, AD Connector reads your existing Active Directory to create lists of users and groups to select from. When users log in to the AWS applications, AD Connector forwards sign-in requests to your on-premises Active Directory domain controllers for authentication. AD Connector works with many AWS applications and services including Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, Amazon QuickSight, Amazon Chime, Amazon Connect, and Amazon WorkMail. You can also join your EC2 Windows instances to your on-premises Active Directory domain through AD Connector using seamless domain join. AD Connector also allows your users to access the AWS Management Console and manage AWS resources by logging in with their existing Active Directory credentials. AD Connector is not compatible with RDS SQL Server.

You can also use AD Connector to enable multi-factor authentication for your AWS application users by connecting it to your existing RADIUS-based MFA infrastructure. This provides an additional layer of security when users access AWS applications.

With AD Connector, you continue to manage your Active Directory as you do now. For example, you add new users and groups and update passwords using standard Active Directory administration tools in your on-premises Active Directory. This helps you consistently enforce your security policies, such as password expiration, password history, and account lockouts, whether users are accessing resources on premises or in the AWS Cloud.

**When to use**

AD Connector is your best choice when you want to use your existing on-premises directory with compatible AWS services. For more information, see Active Directory Connector (p. 110).

**Simple AD**

Simple AD is a Microsoft Active Directory–compatible directory from AWS Directory Service that is powered by Samba 4. Simple AD supports basic Active Directory features such as user accounts, group memberships, joining a Linux domain or Windows based EC2 instances, Kerberos-based SSO, and group policies. AWS provides monitoring, daily snapshots, and recovery as part of the service.

Simple AD is a standalone directory in the cloud, where you create and manage user identities and manage access to applications. You can use many familiar Active Directory-aware applications and tools that require basic Active Directory features. Simple AD is compatible with the following AWS applications: Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, Amazon QuickSight, and Amazon WorkMail. You can also sign in to the AWS Management Console with Simple AD user accounts and to manage AWS resources.

Simple AD does not support trust relationships, DNS dynamic update, schema extensions, multi-factor authentication, communication over LDAPS, PowerShell AD cmdlets, or FSMO role transfer. Simple AD is not compatible with RDS SQL Server. Customers who require the features of an actual Microsoft Active Directory, or who envision using their directory with RDS SQL Server should use AWS Managed Microsoft AD instead. Please verify your required applications are fully compatible with Samba 4 before using Simple AD. For more information, see https://www.samba.org.

**When to use**
You can use Simple AD as a standalone directory in the cloud to support Windows workloads that need basic AD features, compatible AWS applications, or to support Linux workloads that need LDAP service. For more information, see Simple Active Directory (p. 133).

Amazon Cloud Directory

Amazon Cloud Directory is a cloud-native directory that can store hundreds of millions of application-specific objects with multiple relationships and schemas. Use Amazon Cloud Directory if you need a highly scalable directory store for your application's hierarchical data.

When to use

Amazon Cloud Directory is a great choice when you need to build application directories such as device registries, catalogs, social networks, organization structures, and network topologies. For more information, see What is Amazon Cloud Directory? in the Amazon Cloud Directory Developer Guide.

Amazon Cognito

Amazon Cognito is a user directory that adds sign-up and sign-in to your mobile app or web application using Amazon Cognito User Pools.

When to use

You can also use Amazon Cognito when you need to create custom registration fields and store that metadata in your user directory. This fully managed service scales to support hundreds of millions of users. For more information, see Creating and Managing User Pools.

See AWS Regions and Endpoints documentation for a list of supported directory types per region.

Working with Amazon EC2

A basic understanding of Amazon EC2 is essential to using AWS Directory Service. We recommend that you begin by reading the following topics:

- What is Amazon EC2? in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances.
- Launching EC2 Instances in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances.
- What is Amazon VPC? in the Amazon VPC User Guide.
- Adding a Hardware Virtual Private Gateway to Your VPC in the Amazon VPC User Guide.
Setting Up AWS Directory Service

To work with AWS Directory Service, you need to meet the prerequisites for AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory, AD Connector, or Simple AD. For more information, see AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites (p. 8), AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110), or Simple AD Prerequisites (p. 134).

If you haven't already done so, you'll also need to create an AWS account and use the AWS Identity and Access Management service to control access.

Topics
- Sign Up for an AWS Account (p. 5)
- Create an IAM User (p. 5)

Sign Up for an AWS Account

Your AWS account gives you access to all services, but you are charged only for the resources that you use.

If you do not have an AWS account, use the following procedure to create one.

To sign up for AWS
2. Follow the online instructions.

Your root account credentials identify you to services in AWS and grant you unlimited use of your AWS resources, such as your WorkSpaces. To allow other users to manage AWS Directory Service resources without sharing your security credentials, use AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM). We recommend that everyone work as an IAM user, even the account owner. You should create an IAM user for yourself, give that IAM user administrative privileges, and use it for all your work.

Create an IAM User

The AWS Management Console requires your username and password so that the service can determine whether you have permission to access its resources. However, we recommend that you avoid accessing AWS using the credentials for your root AWS account; instead, we recommend that you use AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) to create an IAM user and add the IAM user to an IAM group with administrative permissions. This grants the IAM user administrative permissions. You then access the AWS Management Console using the credentials for the IAM user.

If you signed up for AWS but have not created an IAM user for yourself, you can create one using the IAM console.

To create an IAM user for yourself and add the user to an Administrators group
1. Use your AWS account email address and password to sign in as the AWS account root user to the IAM console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/iam/.
Create an IAM User

Note
We strongly recommend that you adhere to the best practice of using the Administrator IAM user below and securely lock away the root user credentials. Sign in as the root user only to perform a few account and service management tasks.

1. In the navigation pane of the console, choose Users, and then choose Add user.
2. For User name, type Administrator.
3. Select the check box next to AWS Management Console access, select Custom password, and then type the new user's password in the text box. You can optionally select Require password reset to force the user to create a new password the next time the user signs in.
4. Choose Next: Permissions.
5. On the Set permissions page, choose Add user to group.
6. Choose Create group.
7. For Filter policies, select the check box for AWS managed - job function.
8. In the Create group dialog box, for Group name type Administrators.
9. In the policy list, select the check box for AdministratorAccess. Then choose Create group.
10. Back in the list of groups, select the check box for your new group. Choose Refresh if necessary to see the group in the list.
11. Choose Next: Review to see the list of group memberships to be added to the new user. When you are ready to proceed, choose Create user.

You can use this same process to create more groups and users, and to give your users access to your AWS account resources. To learn about using policies to restrict users' permissions to specific AWS resources, go to Access Management and Example Policies.

To sign in as this new IAM user, sign out of the AWS Management Console, then use the following URL, where your_aws_account_id is your AWS account number without the hyphens (for example, if your AWS account number is 1234-5678-9012, your AWS account ID is 123456789012):

https://your_aws_account_id.signin.aws.amazon.com/console/

Enter the IAM user name and password that you just created. When you're signed in, the navigation bar displays "your_user_name @ your_aws_account_id".

If you don't want the URL for your sign-in page to contain your AWS account ID, you can create an account alias. From the IAM dashboard, click Customize and enter an alias, such as your company name. To sign in after you create an account alias, use the following URL:

https://your_account_alias.signin.aws.amazon.com/console/

For more information about using IAM policies to control access to your AWS Directory Service resources, see Using Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) for AWS Directory Service (p. 180).
AWS Managed Microsoft AD

AWS Directory Service lets you run Microsoft Active Directory (AD) as a managed service. AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory, also referred to as AWS Managed Microsoft AD, is powered by Windows Server 2012 R2. When you select and launch this directory type, it is created as a highly available pair of domain controllers connected to your virtual private cloud (VPC). The domain controllers run in different Availability Zones in a region of your choice. Host monitoring and recovery, data replication, snapshots, and software updates are automatically configured and managed for you.

With AWS Managed Microsoft AD, you can run directory-aware workloads in the AWS Cloud, including Microsoft SharePoint and custom .NET and SQL Server-based applications. You can also configure a trust relationship between AWS Managed Microsoft AD in the AWS Cloud and your existing on-premises Microsoft Active Directory, providing users and groups with access to resources in either domain, using single sign-on (SSO).

AWS Directory Service makes it easy to set up and run directories in the AWS Cloud, or connect your AWS resources with an existing on-premises Microsoft Active Directory. Once your directory is created, you can use it for a variety of tasks:

• Manage users and groups
• Provide single sign-on to applications and services
• Create and apply group policy
• Securely connect to Amazon EC2 Linux and Windows instances
• Simplify the deployment and management of cloud-based Linux and Microsoft Windows workloads
• You can use AWS Managed Microsoft AD to enable multi-factor authentication by integrating with your existing RADIUS-based MFA infrastructure to provide an additional layer of security when users access AWS applications.

Read the topics in this section to get started creating a AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, creating a trust relationship between AWS Managed Microsoft AD and your on-premises directories, and extending your AWS Managed Microsoft AD schema.

Topics

• Getting Started with AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 8)
• Key Concepts for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 13)
• Use Cases for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 15)
• How To Administer AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 18)
• Best Practices for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 86)
• Limits for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 90)
• Application Compatibility Policy for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 91)
• AWS Managed Microsoft AD Test Lab Tutorials (p. 92)
• Troubleshooting AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 106)

Related AWS Security Blog Articles

• How to Delegate Administration of Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory to Your On-Premises Active Directory Users
• How to Configure Even Stronger Password Policies to Help Meet Your Security Standards by Using AWS Directory Service for AWS Managed Microsoft AD
• How to Increase the Redundancy and Performance of Your AWS Directory Service for AWS Managed Microsoft AD by Adding Domain Controllers
• How to Enable the Use of Remote Desktops by Deploying Microsoft Remote Desktop Licensing Manager on AWS Managed Microsoft AD
• How to Access the AWS Management Console Using AWS Managed Microsoft AD and Your On-Premises Credentials
• How to Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AWS Services by Using AWS Managed Microsoft AD and On-Premises Credentials
• How to Easily Log On to AWS Services by Using Your On-Premises Active Directory

Getting Started with AWS Managed Microsoft AD

AWS Managed Microsoft AD creates a fully managed, Microsoft Active Directory in the AWS Cloud and is powered by Windows Server 2012 R2 and operates at the 2012 R2 functional level. When you create a directory with AWS Managed Microsoft AD, AWS Directory Service creates two domain controllers and adds the DNS service on your behalf. The domain controllers are created in different subnets in a VPC; this redundancy helps ensure that your directory remains accessible even if a failure occurs. If you need more domain controllers, you can add them later. For more information, see Deploy Additional Domain Controllers (p. 84).

Topics
• AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites (p. 8)
• Create Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory (p. 9)
• What Gets Created (p. 10)
• Admin Account (p. 12)

AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites

To create a AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, you need a VPC with the following:

• At least two subnets. Each of the subnets must be in a different Availability Zone.
• The following ports must be open between the two subnets that you deploy your directory into. This is necessary to allow the domain controllers that AWS Directory Service creates for you to communicate with each other. A security group will be created and attached to your directory to enable communication between the domain controllers.
  • TCP/UDP 53 - DNS
  • TCP/UDP 88 - Kerberos authentication
  • UDP 123 - NTP
  • TCP 135 - RPC
  • UDP 137-138 - Netlogon
  • TCP 139 - Netlogon
  • TCP/UDP 389 - LDAP
  • TCP/UDP 445 - SMB
  • TCP 636 - LDAPS (LDAP over TLS/SSL)
  • TCP 873 - Rsync
  • TCP 3268 - Global Catalog
  • TCP/UDP 1024-65535 - Ephemeral ports for RPC
• The VPC must have default hardware tenancy.
• You cannot create an AWS Managed Microsoft AD in a VPC using addresses in the 198.19.0.0/16 address space.
• AWS Directory Service does not support using Network Address Translation (NAT) with Active Directory. Using NAT can result in replication errors.

Multi-factor Authentication Prerequisites

To support multi-factor authentication with your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, you must configure either your on-premises or cloud-based Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server in the following way so that it can accept requests from your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory in AWS.

1. On your RADIUS server, create two RADIUS clients to represent both of the AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain controllers (DCs) in AWS. You must configure both clients using the following common parameters (your RADIUS server may vary):
   • **Address (DNS or IP):** This is the DNS address for one of the AWS Managed Microsoft AD DCs. Both DNS addresses can be found in the AWS Directory Service Console on the Details page of the AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory in which you plan to use MFA. The DNS addresses displayed represent the IP addresses for both of the AWS Managed Microsoft AD DCs that are used by AWS.
     
     **Note**
     If your RADIUS server supports DNS addresses, you must create only one RADIUS client configuration. Otherwise, you must create one RADIUS client configuration for each AWS Managed Microsoft AD DC.
   • **Port number:** Configure the port number for which your RADIUS server accepts RADIUS client connections. The standard RADIUS port is 1812.
   • **Shared secret:** Type or generate a shared secret that the RADIUS server will use to connect with RADIUS clients.
   • **Protocol:** You might need to configure the authentication protocol between the AWS Managed Microsoft AD DCs and the RADIUS server. Supported protocols are PAP, CHAP MS-CHAPv1, and MS-CHAPv2. MS-CHAPv2 is recommended because it provides the strongest security of the three options.
   • **Application name:** This may be optional in some RADIUS servers and usually identifies the application in messages or reports.

2. Configure your existing network to allow inbound traffic from the RADIUS clients (AWS Managed Microsoft AD DCs DNS addresses, see Step 1) to your RADIUS server port.

3. Add a rule to the Amazon EC2 security group in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain that allows inbound traffic from the RADIUS server DNS address and port number defined previously. For more information, see Adding Rules to a Security Group in the EC2 User Guide.

For more information about using AWS Managed Microsoft AD with MFA, see Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 21).

Create Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory

To create a new directory, perform the following steps. Before starting this procedure, make sure that you have completed the prerequisites identified in AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites (p. 8).

To create an AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose **Directories** and then choose **Set up directory**.
2. On the **Select directory type** page, choose **AWS Managed Microsoft AD**, and then choose **Next**.
3. On the **Enter directory information** page, provide the following information:

   **Edition**
   Choose from either the **Standard Edition** or **Enterprise Edition** of AWS Managed Microsoft AD. For more information about editions, see [AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory](#).

   **Directory DNS name**
   The fully qualified name for the directory, such as `corp.example.com`.

   **Directory NetBIOS name**
   The short name for the directory, such as `CORP`.

   **Directory description**
   An optional description for the directory.

   **Admin password**
   The password for the directory administrator. The directory creation process creates an administrator account with the user name `Admin` and this password.

   The password cannot include the word "admin."

   The directory administrator password is case-sensitive and must be between 8 and 64 characters in length, inclusive. It must also contain at least one character from three of the following four categories:
   - Lowercase letters (a-z)
   - Uppercase letters (A-Z)
   - Numbers (0-9)
   - Non-alphanumeric characters (~!@#$%^&*_-+=`|(){}[]:;"'<>,.?/)

   **Confirm password**
   Retype the administrator password.

4. On the **Choose VPC and subnets** page, provide the following information, and then choose **Next**.

   **VPC**
   The VPC for the directory.

   **Subnets**
   Choose the subnets for the domain controllers. The two subnets must be in different Availability Zones.

5. On the **Review & create** page, review the directory information and make any necessary changes. When the information is correct, choose **Create directory**. Creating the directory takes 20 to 40 minutes. Once created, the **Status** value changes to **Active**.

### What Gets Created

When you create a directory with AWS Managed Microsoft AD, AWS Directory Service performs the following tasks on your behalf:

- **Sets up Active Directory within the VPC running on two domain controllers for fault tolerance and high availability.** If you need more domain controllers, you can add them later. For more information, see [Deploy Additional Domain Controllers](#)(p. 84).

- **Creates an organizational unit (OU) that contains all of your AWS-related directory's objects.** This OU, which has the same name as the NetBIOS name that you typed when you created your directory (such
as Corp), is located in the domain root. The domain root is owned and managed by AWS. Two child OUs exist under this OU by default; **Computers** and **Users**. For example:

- Corp
  - Computers
  - Users
- Creates a directory administrator account with the user name Admin and the specified password. This account is located under the Users OU (For example, Corp > Users). You use this account to manage your directory in the AWS Cloud. For more information about this account, see Admin Account (p. 12).

  **Important**
  Be sure to save this password. AWS Directory Service does not store this password, and it cannot be retrieved or reset.

- Creates a new **AWS Reserved** OU to store all other AWS specific accounts.
- Creates a new **AWS Delegated Groups** OU to store all of the groups that you can use to delegate AWS specific permissions to your users. The following table describes all the delegated groups that are stored in this OU.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Account Operators</td>
<td>Members of this security group have limited account management capability such as password resets and unlocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Add Workstations To Domain Users</td>
<td>Members of this security group can join 10 computers to a domain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can manage AWS Managed Microsoft AD, have full control of all the objects in your OU and can manage groups contained in the AWS Delegated Groups OU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Distributed File System Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can add and remove FRS, DFS-R, and DFS name spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Domain Name System Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can manage Active Directory integrated DNS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can authorize Windows DHCP servers in the enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Enterprise Certificate Authority Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can deploy and manage Microsoft Enterprise Certificate Authority infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Fine Grained Password Policy Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can modify precreated fine-grained password policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Group Policy Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can perform group policy management tasks (create, edit, delete, link)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Kerberos Delegation Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can enable delegation on computer and user account objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWS Delegated Managed Service Account Administrators</td>
<td>Members of this security group can create and delete Managed Service Accounts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Admin Account

When you create an AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory, AWS creates an organizational unit (OU) to store all AWS related groups and accounts. For more information about this OU, see What Gets Created (p. 10). This includes the Admin account. The Admin account has permissions to perform the following common administrative activities for your OU:

- Add, update, or delete users, groups, and computers. For more information, see Add Users and Groups to AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 42).
- Add resources to your domain such as file or print servers, and then assign permissions for those resources to users and groups in your OU.
- Create additional OUs and containers.
- Delegate authority. For more information, see Overview of Managing Access Permissions to Your AWS Directory Service Resources (p. 177).
- Create and link group policies.
- Restore deleted objects from the Active Directory Recycle Bin.
- Create and configure group Managed Service Accounts. For more information, see Group Managed Service Accounts (p. 14).
- Configure Kerberos constrained delegation. For more information, see Kerberos Constrained Delegation (p. 15).

The Admin account also has rights to perform the following domainwide activities:

- Manage DNS configurations (add, remove, or update records, zones, and forwarders)
- View DNS event logs
- View security event logs
Only the actions listed here are allowed for the Admin account. The Admin account also lacks permissions for any directory-related actions outside of your specific OU, such as on the parent OU.

**Important**
AWS Domain Administrators have full administrative access to all domains hosted on AWS. See your agreement with AWS and the AWS Data Protection FAQ for more information about how AWS handles content, including directory information, that you store on AWS systems.

Key Concepts for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

You'll get more out of AWS Managed Microsoft AD if you become familiar with the following key concepts.

**Topics**
- Active Directory Schema (p. 13)
- Patching and Maintenance for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 14)
- Group Managed Service Accounts (p. 14)
- Kerberos Constrained Delegation (p. 15)

**Active Directory Schema**

A schema is the definition of attributes and classes that are part of a distributed directory and is similar to fields and tables in a database. Schemas include a set of rules which determine the type and format of data that can be added or included in the database. The User class is one example of a class that is stored in the database. Some example of User class attributes can include the user's first name, last name, phone number, and so on.

**Schema Elements**

Attributes, classes and objects are the basic elements that are used to build object definitions in the schema. The following provides details about schema elements that are important to know before you begin the process to extend your AWS Managed Microsoft AD schema.

**Attributes**

Each schema attribute, which is similar to a field in a database, has several properties that define the characteristics of the attribute. For example, the property used by LDAP clients to read and write the attribute is LDAPDisplayName. The LDAPDisplayName property must be unique across all attributes and classes. For a complete list of attribute characteristics, see Characteristics of Attributes on the MSDN website. For additional guidance on how to create a new attribute, see Defining a New Attribute on the MSDN website.

**Classes**

The classes are analogous to tables in a database and also have several properties to be defined. For example, the objectClassCategory defines the class category. For a complete list of class characteristics, see Characteristics of Object Classes on the MSDN website. For more information about how to create a new class, see Defining a New Class on the MSDN website.

**Object identifier (OID)**

Each class and attribute must have an OID that is unique for all of your objects. Software vendors must obtain their own OID to ensure uniqueness. Uniqueness avoids conflicts when the same
attribute is used by more than one application for different purposes. To ensure uniqueness, you can obtain a root OID from an ISO Name Registration Authority. Alternatively, you can obtain a base OID from Microsoft. For more information about OIDs and how to obtain them, see Object Identifiers on the MSDN website.

**Schema linked attributes**

Some attributes are linked between two classes with forward and back links. The best example is groups. When you look at a group it shows you the members of the group; if you look at a user you can see what groups it belongs to. When you add a user to a group, Active Directory creates a forward link to the group. Then Active Directory adds a back link from the group to the user. A unique link ID must be generated when creating an attribute that will be linked. For more information, see Linked Attributes on the MSDN website.

**Related Topics**

- When to Extend Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema (p. 64)
- Tutorial: Extending Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema (p. 64)

**Patching and Maintenance for AWS Managed Microsoft AD**

AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory, also known as AWS DS for AWS Managed Microsoft AD, is actually Microsoft Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS), delivered as a managed service. The system uses Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 for the domain controllers (DCs), and AWS adds software to the DCs for service management purposes. AWS updates (patches) DCs to add new functionality and keep the Microsoft Windows Server software current. During the patching process, your directory remains available for use.

**Ensuring Availability**

By default each directory consists of two DCs, each installed in a different Availability Zone. At your option, you may add DCs to further increase availability. AWS patches your DCs sequentially, during which time the DC that AWS is actively patching is unavailable. In the event that one or more of your DCs is temporarily out of service, AWS defers patching until your directory has at least two operational DCs. This lets you use the other operating DCs during the patch process, which typically takes 30 to 45 minutes per DC, although this time may vary. To ensure your applications can reach an operating DC in the event that one or more DCs is unavailable for any reason, including patching, your applications should use the Windows DC locator service and not use static DC addresses.

**Understanding the Patching Schedule**

To keep the Microsoft Windows Server software current on your DCs, AWS utilizes Microsoft updates. As Microsoft makes monthly rollup patches available for Windows Server, AWS makes a best effort to test and apply the rollup to all customer DCs within three calendar weeks. In addition, AWS reviews updates that Microsoft releases outside of the monthly rollup based on applicability to DCs and urgency. For security patches that Microsoft rates as Critical or Important, and that are relevant to DCs, AWS makes every effort to test and deploy the patch within five days.

**Group Managed Service Accounts**

With Windows Server 2012, Microsoft introduced a new method that administrators could use to manage service accounts called group Managed Service Accounts (gMSAs). Using gMSAs, service
administrators no longer needed to manually manage password synchronization between service instances. Instead, an administrator could simply create a gMSA in Active Directory and then configure multiple service instances to use that single gMSA.

To grant permissions so users in AWS Managed Microsoft AD can create a gMSA, you must add their accounts as a member of the **AWS Delegated Managed Service Account Administrators** security group. By default, the Admin account is a member of this group. For more information about gMSAs, see Group Managed Service Accounts Overview on the Microsoft TechNet website.

**Related AWS Security Blog post**
- How AWS Managed Microsoft AD Helps to Simplify the Deployment and Improve the Security of Active Directory–Integrated .NET Applications

### Kerberos Constrained Delegation

Kerberos constrained delegation is a feature in Windows Server. This feature gives service administrators the ability to specify and enforce application trust boundaries by limiting the scope where application services can act on a user’s behalf. This can be useful when you need to configure which front-end service accounts can delegate to their backend services. Kerberos constrained delegation also prevents your gMSA from connecting to any and all services on behalf of your Active Directory users, avoiding the potential for abuse by a rogue developer.

For example, let’s say user jsmith logs into an HR application. You want the SQL Server to apply jsmith’s database permissions. However, by default SQL Server opens the database connection using the service account credentials that apply hr-app-service’s permissions instead of jsmith’s configured permissions. You must make it possible for the HR payroll application to access the SQL Server database using the jsmith’s credentials. To do that, you enable Kerberos constrained delegation for the hr-app-service service account on your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory in AWS. When jsmith logs on, Active Directory provides a Kerberos ticket that Windows automatically uses when jsmith attempts to access other services in the network. Kerberos delegation enables the hr-app-service account to reuse the jsmith Kerberos ticket when accessing the database, thus applying permissions specific to jsmith when opening the database connection.

To grant permissions that allow users in AWS Managed Microsoft AD to configure Kerberos constrained delegation, you must add their accounts as a member of the **AWS Delegated Kerberos Delegation Administrators** security group. By default, the Admin account is a member of this group. For more information about Kerberos constrained delegation, see Kerberos Constrained Delegation Overview on the Microsoft TechNet website.

### Use Cases for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

With AWS Managed Microsoft AD, you can share a single directory for multiple use cases. For example, you can share a directory to authenticate and authorize access for .NET applications, Amazon RDS for SQL Server with Windows Authentication enabled, and Amazon Chime for messaging and video conferencing.

The following diagram shows some of the use cases for your AWS Microsoft AD directory, including the ability to grant your users access to external cloud applications and allow your on-premises AD users to manage and have access to resources in the AWS Cloud.
Use AWS Managed Microsoft AD for either of the following business use cases.

**Topics**
- Use Case 1: Sign in to AWS applications and services with AD credentials (p. 17)
- Use Case 2: Manage Amazon EC2 instances (p. 17)
- Use Case 3: Provide directory services to your AD-aware workloads (p. 17)
- Use Case 4: SSO to Office 365 and other cloud applications (p. 17)
- Use Case 5: Extend your on-premises AD to the AWS Cloud (p. 17)
Use Case 1: Sign in to AWS applications and services with AD credentials

You can enable multiple AWS applications and services such as the AWS Management Console, Amazon WorkSpaces, and Amazon RDS for SQL Server to use your AWS Microsoft AD directory. When you enable an AWS application or service in your directory, your users can access the application or service with their AD credentials.

For example, you can enable your users to sign in to the AWS Management Console with their AD credentials. To do this, you enable the AWS Management Console as an application in your directory, and then assign your AD users and groups to IAM roles. When your users sign in to the AWS Management Console, they assume an IAM role to manage AWS resources. This makes it easy for you to grant your users access to the AWS Management Console without needing to configure and manage a separate SAML infrastructure.

Use Case 2: Manage Amazon EC2 instances

Using familiar AD administration tools, you can apply AD Group Policy objects (GPOs) to centrally manage your Amazon EC2 for Windows or Linux instances by joining your instances to your AWS Microsoft AD domain.

In addition, your users can sign in to your instances with their AD credentials. This eliminates the need to use individual instance credentials or distribute private key (PEM) files. This makes it easier for you to instantly grant or revoke access to users by using AD user administration tools you already use.

Use Case 3: Provide directory services to your AD-aware workloads

AWS Microsoft AD is an actual Microsoft AD that enables you to run traditional AD-aware workloads such as Remote Desktop Licensing Manager and Microsoft SharePoint and Microsoft SQL Server Always On in the AWS Cloud. AWS Microsoft AD also helps you to simplify and improve the security of AD-integrated .NET applications by using group Managed Service Accounts (gMSAs) and Kerberos constrained delegation (KCD).

Use Case 4: SSO to Office 365 and other cloud applications

You can use AWS Microsoft AD to provide SSO for cloud applications. You can use Azure AD Connect to synchronize your users into Azure AD, and then use Active Directory Federation Services (AD FS) so that your users can access Microsoft Office 365 and other SAML 2.0 cloud applications by using their AD credentials.

Use Case 5: Extend your on-premises AD to the AWS Cloud

If you already have an AD infrastructure and want to use it when migrating AD-aware workloads to the AWS Cloud, AWS Microsoft AD can help. You can use AD trusts to connect AWS Microsoft AD to your existing AD. This means your users can access AD-aware and AWS applications with their on-premises AD credentials, without needing you to synchronize users, groups, or passwords.
For example, your users can sign in to the AWS Management Console and Amazon WorkSpaces by using their existing AD user names and passwords. Also, when you use AD-aware applications such as SharePoint with AWS Microsoft AD, your logged-in Windows users can access these applications without needing to enter credentials again.

### How To Administer AWS Managed Microsoft AD

This section lists all of the procedures for operating and maintaining an AWS Managed Microsoft AD environment.

**Topics**

- Secure Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory (p. 18)
- Monitor Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 27)
- Join an EC2 Instance to Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory (p. 30)
- Add Users and Groups to AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 42)
- Connect to Your Existing AD Infrastructure (p. 45)
- Extend Your Schema (p. 63)
- Maintain Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory (p. 68)
- Grant Users and Groups Access to AWS Resources (p. 72)
- Enable Access to AWS Applications and Services (p. 75)
- Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials (p. 83)
- Deploy Additional Domain Controllers (p. 84)

### Secure Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory

This section describes considerations for securing your AWS Managed Microsoft AD environment.

**Topics**

- Manage Password Policies for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 18)
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 21)
- Enable Secure LDAP Communications for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 23)
- Manage Compliance for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 26)

### Manage Password Policies for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

AWS Managed Microsoft AD enables you to define and assign different fine-grained password and account lockout policies (also referred to as fine-grained password policies) for groups of users you manage in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain. When you create an AWS Microsoft AD directory, a default domain policy is created and applied to the directory. This policy includes the following settings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enforce password history</td>
<td>24 passwords remembered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum password age</td>
<td>42 days *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates a default value.
Secure Your Directory

### Minimum Password Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum password age</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum password length</td>
<td>7 characters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password must meet complexity requirements</td>
<td>Enabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store passwords using reversible encryption</td>
<td>Disabled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: The 42 day maximum password age includes the admin password.

For example, you can assign a less strict policy setting for employees that have access to low sensitivity information only. For senior managers who regularly access confidential information you can apply more strict settings.

AWS provides a set of fine-grained password policies in AWS Managed Microsoft AD that you can configure and assign to your groups. To configure the policies, you can use standard Microsoft policy tools such as Active Directory Administrative Center (ADAC). To get started with the Microsoft policy tools, see Installing the Active Directory Administration Tools (p. 44).

**Topics**

- Supported Policy Settings (p. 19)
- Delegate Who Can Manage Your Password Policies (p. 20)
- Assign Password Policies to Your Users (p. 21)

**Related AWS Security Blog Article**

- How to Configure Even Stronger Password Policies to Help Meet Your Security Standards by Using AWS Directory Service for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

**Supported Policy Settings**

AWS Managed Microsoft AD includes five fine-grained policies with a non-editable precedence value. The policies have a number of properties you can configure to enforce the strength of passwords, and account lock-out actions in the event of login failures. You can assign the policies to zero or more Active Directory groups. If an end-user is a member of multiple groups and receives more than one password policy, Active Directory enforces the policy with the lowest precedence value.

**AWS Pre-Defined Password Policies**

The following table lists the five policies included in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory and their assigned precedence value. For more information, see Precedence (p. 20).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy name</th>
<th>Precedence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CustomerPSO-01</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CustomerPSO-02</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CustomerPSO-03</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CustomerPSO-04</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CustomerPSO-05</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Password Policy Properties

You may edit the following properties in your password policies to conform to the compliance standards that meet your business needs.

- Policy name
- Password history
- Minimum password length
- Minimum password age
- Maximum password age
- Store password using reversible encryption
- Password must meet complexity requirements

You cannot modify the precedence values for these policies. For more details about how these settings affect password enforcement, see AD DS: Fine-Grained Password Policies on the Microsoft TechNet website. For general information about these policies, see Password Policy on the Microsoft TechNet website.

Account Lockout Policies

You may also modify the following properties of your password policies to specify if and how Active Directory should lockout an account after login failures:

- Number of failed logon attempts allowed
- Account lockout duration
- Reset failed logon attempts after some duration

For general information about these policies, see Account Lockout Policy on the Microsoft TechNet website.

Precedence

Policies with a lower precedence value have higher priority. You assign password policies to Active Directory security groups. While you should apply a single policy to a security group, a single user may receive more than one password policy. For example, suppose jsmith is a member of the HR group and also a member of the MANAGERS group. If you assign CustomerPSO-05 (which has a precedence of 50) to the HR group, and CustomerPSO-04 (which has a precedence of 40) to MANAGERS, CustomerPSO-04 has the higher priority and Active Directory applies that policy to jsmith.

If you assign multiple policies to a user or group, Active Directory determines the resultant policy as follows:

1. A policy you assign directly to the user object applies.
2. If no policy is assigned directly to the user object, the policy with the lowest precedence value of all policies received by the user as a result of group membership applies.

For additional details, see AD DS: Fine-Grained Password Policies on the Microsoft TechNet website.

Delegate Who Can Manage Your Password Policies

You can delegate permissions to manage password policies to specific user accounts you created in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD by adding the accounts to the AWS Delegated Fine Grained Password
**Policy Administrators** security group. When an account becomes a member of this group, the account has permissions to edit and configure any of the password policies listed previously (p. 19).

**To delegate who can manage password policies**

1. Launch Active Directory Administrative Center (ADAC) from any managed EC2 instance that you joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain.
2. Switch to the **Tree View** and navigate to the **AWS Delegated Groups** OU. For more information about this OU, see What Gets Created (p. 10).
3. Find the **AWS Delegated Fine Grained Password Policy Administrators** user group. Add any users or groups from your domain to this group.

**Assign Password Policies to Your Users**

User accounts that are a member of the **AWS Delegated Fine Grained Password Policy Administrators** security group can use the following procedure to assign policies to users and security groups.

**To assign password policies to your users**

1. Launch Active Directory Administrative Center (ADAC) from any managed EC2 instance that you joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain.
2. Switch to the **Tree View** and navigate to **System\Password Settings Container**.
3. Double click on the fine-grained policy you want to edit. Click **Add** to edit the policy properties, and add users or security groups to the policy. For more information about the default fine-grained policies provided with AWS Managed Microsoft AD, see **AWS Pre-Defined Password Policies** (p. 19).

If you do not configure any of the five password policies in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, Active Directory uses the default domain group policy. For additional details on using **Password Settings Container**, see this Microsoft blog post.

**Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AWS Managed Microsoft AD**

You can enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory to increase security when your users specify their AD credentials to access **Supported Amazon Enterprise Applications** (p. 23). When you enable MFA, your users enter their username and password (first factor) as usual, and they must also enter an authentication code (the second factor) they obtain from your virtual or hardware MFA solution. These factors together provide additional security by preventing access to your Amazon Enterprise applications, unless users supply valid user credentials and a valid MFA code.

To enable MFA, you must have an MFA solution that is a Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server, or you must have an MFA plugin to a RADIUS server already implemented in your on-premises infrastructure. Your MFA solution should implement One Time Passcodes (OTP) that users obtain from a hardware device or from software running on a device such as a cell phone.

RADIUS is an industry-standard client/server protocol that provides authentication, authorization, and accounting management to enable users to connect to network services. AWS Managed Microsoft AD includes a RADIUS client that connects to the RADIUS server upon which you have implemented your MFA solution. Your RADIUS server validates the username and OTP code. If your RADIUS server successfully validates the user, AWS Managed Microsoft AD then authenticates the user against AD. Upon successful AD authentication, users can then access the AWS application. Communication between the
AWS Managed Microsoft AD RADIUS client and your RADIUS server require you to configure AWS security groups that enable communication over port 1812.

You can enable multi-factor authentication for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory by performing the following procedure. For more information about how to configure your RADIUS server to work with AWS Directory Service and MFA, see Multi-factor Authentication Prerequisites (p. 9).

**Note**
Multi-factor authentication is not available for Simple AD. However, MFA can be enabled for your AD Connector directory. For more information, see Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AD Connector (p. 120).

**To enable multi-factor authentication for AWS Managed Microsoft AD**

1. Identify the IP address of your RADIUS MFA server and your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.
2. Edit your Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) security groups to enable communications over port 1812 between your AWS Managed Microsoft AD IP end points and your RADIUS MFA server.
3. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
4. Choose the directory ID link for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.
5. Select the **Networking & security** tab.
6. In the **Multi-factor authentication** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Enable**.
7. On the **Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA)** page, provide the following values:

   **Display label**
   - Provide a label name.

   **RADIUS server DNS name or IP addresses**
   - The IP addresses of your RADIUS server endpoints, or the IP address of your RADIUS server load balancer. You can enter multiple IP addresses by separating them with a comma (e.g., `192.0.0.0,192.0.0.12`).

   **Note**
   RADIUS MFA is applicable only to authenticate access to the AWS Management Console, or to Amazon Enterprise applications and services such as Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon QuickSight, or Amazon Chime. AWS Directory Service does not support RADIUS Challenge/Response authentication. Users must have their MFA code at the time they enter their username and password. Alternatively, you must use a solution that performs MFA out-of-band such as SMS text verification for the user.

   **Port**
   - The port that your RADIUS server is using for communications. Your on-premises network must allow inbound traffic over the default RADIUS server port (UDP:1812) from the AWS Directory Service servers.

   **Shared secret code**
   - The shared secret code that was specified when your RADIUS endpoints were created.

   **Confirm shared secret code**
   - Confirm the shared secret code for your RADIUS endpoints.

   **Protocol**
   - Select the protocol that was specified when your RADIUS endpoints were created.

   **Server timeout (in seconds)**
   - The amount of time, in seconds, to wait for the RADIUS server to respond. This must be a value between 1 and 50.
Max RADIUS request retries

The number of times that communication with the RADIUS server is attempted. This must be a value between 0 and 10.

Multi-factor authentication is available when the RADIUS Status changes to Enabled.

8. Choose Enable.

Supported Amazon Enterprise Applications

All Amazon Enterprise IT applications including Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, Amazon WorkMail, Amazon QuickSight, and access to AWS Single Sign-On and AWS Management Console are supported when using AWS Managed Microsoft AD and AD Connector with MFA.

For information about how to configure basic user access to Amazon Enterprise applications, AWS Single Sign-On and the AWS Management Console using AWS Directory Service, see Enable Access to AWS Applications and Services (p. 75) and Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials (p. 83).

Related AWS Security Blog Article

- How to Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AWS Services by Using AWS Managed Microsoft AD and On-Premises Credentials

Enable Secure LDAP Communications for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) is a standard communications protocol used to read and write data to and from Active Directory. Some applications use LDAP to add, remove, or search users and groups in Active Directory or to transport credentials for authenticating users in Active Directory.

By default, communications over LDAP are not encrypted. This makes it possible for a malicious user to use network monitoring software to view data packets over the wire. This is why many corporate security policies typically require that organizations encrypt all LDAP communication.

To mitigate this form of data exposure, AWS Managed Microsoft AD provides an option for you to enable LDAP over Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)/Transport Layer Security (TLS), also known as LDAPS. With LDAPS, you can improve security across the wire and meet compliance requirements by encrypting all communications between your LDAP-enabled applications and AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.

Enable LDAPS

You must do most of the setup from the Amazon EC2 instance that you use to manage your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain controllers. The following steps guide you through enabling LDAPS for your domain in the AWS Cloud.

Topics

- Step 1: Delegate Who Can Enable LDAPS (p. 24)
- Step 2: Set Up Your Certificate Authority (p. 24)
- Step 3: Create a Certificate Template (p. 24)
- Step 4: Add Security Group Rules (p. 25)
Secure Your Directory

Step 1: Delegate Who Can Enable LDAPS

To enable LDAPS, you must be a member of the Admins or AWS Delegated Enterprise Certificate Authority Administrators group in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory or be the default administrative user (Admin account). If you prefer to have a user other than the Admin account setup LDAPS, then add this user to the Admins or AWS Delegated Enterprise Certificate Authority Administrators group in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.

Step 2: Set Up Your Certificate Authority

Before you can enable LDAPS, you must create a certificate issued by a Microsoft Enterprise Certificate Authority (CA) server that is joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain. Once created, the certificate must be installed on each of your domain controllers in that domain. This certificate lets the LDAP service on the domain controllers listen for and automatically accept SSL connections from LDAP clients.

Note

LDAPS with AWS Managed Microsoft AD does not support certificates that are issued by a standalone CA.

Depending on your business need, you have the following options for setting up or connecting to a CA in your domain:

• Create a subordinate Microsoft Enterprise CA – (Recommended) With this option you can deploy a subordinate Microsoft Enterprise CA server in the AWS Cloud that uses EC2 so that it works with your existing root Microsoft CA. For more information about how to set up a subordinate Microsoft Enterprise CA, see Install a Subordinate Certification Authority on the Microsoft TechNet website.

• Create a root Microsoft Enterprise CA – With this option you can create a root Microsoft Enterprise CA in the AWS Cloud using Amazon EC2 and join it to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain. This root CA can issue the certificate to your domain controllers. For more information about setting up a new root CA, see Install a Root Certification Authority on the Microsoft TechNet website.

For more information about how to join your EC2 instance to the domain, see Join an EC2 Instance to Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory (p. 30).

Step 3: Create a Certificate Template

After your Enterprise CA has been set up, you can create a custom LDAPS certificate template in Active Directory. The certificate template must be created with Server Authentication and Autoenroll enabled. For more information, see Create a New Certificate Template on the Microsoft TechNet website.

To create a certificate template

1. Log in to your CA with Admin credentials
2. Launch Server Manager, and then choose Tools, Certification Authority.
3. In the Certificate Authority window, expand your CA tree in the left pane. Right-click Certificate Templates and then choose Manage.
4. In the Certificate Templates Console window, right-click Domain Controller, and then choose Duplicate Template.
5. In the Properties of New Template window, switch to the General tab and change the Template display name to ServerAuthentication.
6. Switch to the Security tab and choose Domain Controllers in the Group or user names section. Select the Autoenroll check box in the Permissions for Domain Controllers section.
7. Switch to the Extensions tab, choose Application Policies in the Extensions included in this template section, and then choose Edit.
8. In the **Edit Application Policies Extension** window, choose **Client Authentication** and choose **Remove**. Click **OK** to create the **ServerAuthentication** certificate template, and then close the **Certificate Templates Console** window.

9. In the **Certificate Authority** window, right-click **Certificate Templates**, and choose **New, Certificate Template to Issue**.

10. In the **Enable Certificate Templates** window, choose **ServerAuthentication**, and then click **OK**.

**Step 4: Add Security Group Rules**

In the final step, you must open the Amazon EC2 console and add security group rules so that your domain controllers can connect to your Enterprise CA to request a certificate. To do this, you add inbound rules so that your Enterprise CA can accept incoming traffic from your domain controllers. Then you add outbound rules to allow traffic from your domain controllers to the Enterprise CA.

Once both rules have been configured, your domain controllers request a certificate from your Enterprise CA automatically and enable LDAPS for your directory. The LDAP service on your domain controllers is now ready to accept LDAPS connections.

**To configure security group rules**

1. Navigate to your Amazon EC2 console at [https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2](https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2) and sign in with Admin credentials.

2. In the left pane, choose **Security Groups** under **Network & Security**.

3. In the main pane, choose the AWS security group for your CA.

4. Choose the **Inbound** tab, and then choose **Edit**.

5. In the **Edit inbound rules** dialog box, do the following:
   - Choose **Add Rule**.
   - Choose **All traffic** for **Type** and **Custom** for **Source**.
   - Type your CA's AWS security group in the box next to **Source**.
   - Choose **Save**.

6. Now choose the AWS security group of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory. Choose the **Outbound** tab and then choose **Edit**.

7. In the **Edit outbound rules** dialog box, do the following:
   - Choose **Add Rule**.
   - Choose **All traffic** for **Type** and **Custom** for **Destination**.
   - Type your CA's AWS security group in the box next to **Destination**.
   - Choose **Save**.

You can test the LDAPS connection to the AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory using the LDP tool. The LDP tool comes with the Active Directory Administrative Tools. For more information, see [Installing the Active Directory Administration Tools](p. 44).

**Note**

Before you test the LDAPS connection, you must wait up to 180 minutes for the subordinate CA to issue a certificate to your domain controllers.

For additional details about LDAPS and to see an example use case on how to set it up, see [How to Enable LDAPS for Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory](on the AWS Security Blog).
Manage Compliance for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

You can use AWS Managed Microsoft AD to support your Active Directory-aware applications, in the AWS Cloud, that are subject to the following compliance requirements. However, your applications will not adhere to compliance requirements if you use Simple AD or AD Connector.

Supported Compliance Standards

AWS Managed Microsoft AD has undergone auditing for the following standards and is eligible for use as part of solutions for which you need to obtain compliance certification.

AWS Managed Microsoft AD has an Attestation of Compliance for Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS) version 3.2 at Service Provider Level 1. Customers who use AWS products and services to store, process, or transmit cardholder data can use AWS Managed Microsoft AD as they manage their own PCI DSS compliance certification.

For more information about PCI DSS, including how to request a copy of the AWS PCI Compliance Package, see PCI DSS Level 1. Importantly, you must configure fine-grained password policies in AWS Managed Microsoft AD to be consistent with PCI DSS version 3.2 standards. For details on which policies must be enforced, see Enable PCI Compliance for Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory (p. 26).

AWS has expanded its Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance program to include AWS Managed Microsoft AD as a HIPAA Eligible Service. If you have an executed Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with AWS, you can use AWS Managed Microsoft AD to help build your HIPAA-compliant applications.

AWS offers a HIPAA-focused Whitepaper for customers who are interested in learning more about how they can leverage AWS for the processing and storage of health information. For more information, see HIPAA Compliance.

Shared Responsibility

Security, including HIPAA and PCI compliance, is a shared responsibility. It is important to understand that AWS Managed Microsoft AD compliance status does not automatically apply to applications that you run in the AWS Cloud. You need to ensure that your use of AWS services complies with the standards.

Enable PCI Compliance for Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory

To enable PCI compliance for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, you must configure fine-grained password policies as specified in the PCI DSS Attestation of Compliance (AOC) and Responsibility Summary document provided by AWS Artifact.

For more information about using fine-grained password policies, see Manage Password Policies for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 18).
Monitor Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD

You can monitor your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory with the following methods:

**Topics**
- Understanding Your Directory Status (p. 27)
- Configure Directory Status Notifications (p. 28)
- Review Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory Logs (p. 29)

**Understanding Your Directory Status**

The following are the various statuses for a directory.

**Active**

The directory is operating normally. No issues have been detected by the AWS Directory Service for your directory.

**Creating**

The directory is currently being created. Directory creation typically takes between 5 to 30 minutes but may vary depending on the system load.

**Deleted**

The directory has been deleted. All resources for the directory have been released. Once a directory enters this state, it cannot be recovered.

**Deleting**

The directory is currently being deleted. The directory will remain in this state until it has been completely deleted. Once a directory enters this state, the delete operation cannot be cancelled, and the directory cannot be recovered.

**Failed**

The directory could not be created. Please delete this directory. If this problem persists, please contact the AWS Support Center.

**Impaired**

The directory is running in a degraded state. One or more issues have been detected, and not all directory operations may be working at full operational capacity. Typically AWS resolves these issues within 40 minutes. If your directory is in an Impaired state longer than 40 minutes, we recommend that you contact the AWS Support Center.

**Important**

Do not restore a snapshot while a directory is in an Impaired state. It is rare that snapshot restore is necessary to resolve impairments. For more information, see Snapshot or Restore Your Directory (p. 70).

**Inoperable**

The directory is not functional. All directory endpoints have reported issues.

**Requested**

A request to create your directory is currently pending.

**RestoreFailed**

Restoring the directory from a snapshot failed. Please retry the restore operation. If this continues, try a different snapshot, or contact the AWS Support Center.
Restoring

The directory is currently being restored from an automatic or manual snapshot. Restoring from a snapshot typically takes several minutes, depending on the size of the directory data in the snapshot.

For more information, see Simple AD Directory Status Reasons (p. 173).

Configure Directory Status Notifications

Using Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS), you can receive email or text (SMS) messages when the status of your directory changes. You get notified if your directory goes from an Active status to an Impaired or Inoperable status. You also receive a notification when the directory returns to an Active status.

How It Works

Amazon SNS uses "topics" to collect and distribute messages. Each topic has one or more subscribers who receive the messages that have been published to that topic. Using the steps below you can add AWS Directory Service as publisher to an Amazon SNS topic. When AWS Directory Service detects a change in your directory’s status, it publishes a message to that topic, which is then sent to the topic's subscribers.

You can associate multiple directories as publishers to a single topic. You can also add directory status messages to topics that you’ve previously created in Amazon SNS. You have detailed control over who can publish to and subscribe to a topic. For complete information about Amazon SNS, see What is Amazon SNS?

To enable SNS messaging for your directory

2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
3. Select the Maintenance tab.
4. In the Directory monitoring section, choose Actions, and then select Create notification.
5. On the Create notification page, select Choose a notification type, and then choose Create a new notification. Alternatively, if you already have an existing SNS topic, you can choose Associate existing SNS topic to send status messages from this directory to that topic.

   Note
   If you choose Create a new notification but then use the same topic name for an SNS topic that already exists, Amazon SNS does not create a new topic, but just adds the new subscription information to the existing topic.
   If you choose Associate existing SNS topic, you will only be able to choose an SNS topic that is in the same region as the directory.

6. Choose the Recipient type and enter the Recipient contact information. If you enter a phone number for SMS, use numbers only. Do not include dashes, spaces, or parentheses.
7. (Optional) Provide a name for your topic and an SNS display name. The display name is a short name up to 10 characters that is included in all SMS messages from this topic. When using the SMS option, the display name is required.

   Note
   If you are logged in using an IAM user or role that has only the DirectoryServiceFullAccess managed policy, your topic name must start with “DirectoryMonitoring”. If you’d like to further customize your topic name you’ll need additional privileges for SNS.
8. Choose Create.

If you want to designate additional SNS subscribers, such as an additional email address, Amazon SQS queues or AWS Lambda, you can do this from the Amazon SNS console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/sns/v2/home.

**To remove directory status messages from a topic**

2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
3. Select the Maintenance tab.
4. In the Directory monitoring section, select an SNS topic name in the list, choose Actions, and then select Remove.
5. Choose Remove.

This removes your directory as a publisher to the selected SNS topic. If you want to delete the entire topic, you can do this from the Amazon SNS console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/sns/v2/home.

**Note**
Before deleting an Amazon SNS topic using the SNS console, you should ensure that a directory is not sending status messages to that topic.

If you delete an Amazon SNS topic using the SNS console, this change will not immediately be reflected within the Directory Services console. You would only be notified the next time a directory publishes a notification to the deleted topic, in which case you would see an updated status on the directory's Monitoring tab indicating the topic could not be found.

Therefore, to avoid missing important directory status messages, before deleting any topic that receives messages from AWS Directory Service, associate your directory with a different Amazon SNS topic.

**Review Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory Logs**

Security logs from AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain controller instances are archived for a year. In the event of an audit to investigate a breach or other security event, you can request a copy of your security logs by contacting AWS Support.

AWS logs the following events for compliance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitoring category</th>
<th>Policy setting</th>
<th>Audit state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Account Logon</td>
<td>Audit Credential Validation</td>
<td>Success, Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Management</td>
<td>Audit Computer Account Management</td>
<td>Success, Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audit Other Account Management Events</td>
<td>Success, Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audit Security Group Management</td>
<td>Success, Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audit User Account Management</td>
<td>Success, Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed Tracking</td>
<td>Audit Process Creation</td>
<td>Success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS Access</td>
<td>Audit Directory Service Access</td>
<td>Success, Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Join an EC2 Instance to Your Directory

You can seamlessly join an EC2 instance to your directory domain when the instance is launched using the Amazon EC2 Systems Manager. For more information, see Seamlessly Joining a Windows Instance to an AWS Directory Service Domain in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances.

If you need to manually join an EC2 instance to your domain, you must launch the instance in the proper region and security group or subnet, then join the instance to the domain.

To be able to connect remotely to these instances, you must have IP connectivity to the instances from the network you are connecting from. In most cases, this requires that an Internet gateway be attached to your VPC and that the instance has a public IP address.

Topics
- Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 31)
- Manually Join a Windows Instance (p. 31)
- Manually Join a Linux Instance (p. 33)
- Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40)
- Create a DHCP Options Set (p. 42)
Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance

This procedure will seamlessly join a Windows EC2 instance to your directory.

To seamlessly join a Windows EC2 instance

1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. From the region selector in the navigation bar, select the same region as the existing directory.
3. From the Amazon EC2 console dashboard, choose Launch Instance.
4. On the Step 1 page, select the appropriate AMI.
5. On the Step 2 page, select the appropriate instance type, and then choose Next.
6. On the Step 3 page, do the following, and then choose Next:
   1. For Network, choose the VPC that your directory was created in.
   2. For Subnet, select one of the public subnets in your VPC. The subnet you select must have all external traffic routed to an Internet gateway. If this is not the case, you won’t be able to connect to the instance remotely.
   3. For Auto-assign Public IP, choose Enable (if the subnet setting is not set to enable by default). For more information about public and private IP addressing, see Amazon EC2 Instance IP Addressing in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
   4. For Domain join directory, select your domain from the Domain join directory list. To seamlessly join the instance, you also need an IAM role that has the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM managed policy attached to it. Select the IAM role that has permission from the IAM role list. If you choose this option, you will not have to manually join the instance to the domain as that will be done for you when the instance is launched.
      
      Note
      This option is only available for Windows instances. Linux instances must be manually joined to the directory as explained in Manually Join a Linux Instance (p. 33).
   5. For IAM role, optionally choose the Create new IAM role link to create a new IAM role and attach the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM policy, and then on the Roles page, do the following:
      a. Select the Create role button.
      b. Under AWS service, select the EC2 link, and then click Next.
      c. Under Select your use case, select EC2, and then select Next.
      d. In the list of polices, select the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM policy, and then select Next.
      e. In Role name, type a name for your new role (For example, EC2DomainJoin), in Role description type a description (optional), and then select the Create role button.
   7. Go back to the Step 3 page, for IAM role, choose the refresh icon next to the IAM role field. Your new role should be visible in the drop down menu. Select it, and leave the rest of the settings on this page with their default values, and then select Next.
   8. Continue through the remaining pages in the wizard using your preferred settings.
      
      Note
      The security group you select for the instance (on the Step 6 page) must allow remote access to the instance from your network.

Manually Join a Windows Instance

To manually join an existing Amazon EC2 Windows instance to a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory, the instance must be launched as specified in Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 31).
To join a Windows instance to a Simple AD or AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory

2. Open the TCP/IPv4 properties dialog box on the instance.
   a. Open **Network Connections**.
      
      **Tip**
      You can open **Network Connections** directly by running the following from a command prompt on the instance.
      
      ```
      %SystemRoot%\system32\control.exe ncpa.cpl
      ```
   b. Open the context menu (right-click) for any enabled network connection and then choose **Properties**.
   c. In the connection properties dialog box, open (double-click) **Internet Protocol Version 4**.
   
   3. (Optional) Select **Use the following DNS server addresses**, change the **Preferred DNS server** and **Alternate DNS server** addresses to the IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers, and choose **OK**.

4. Open the **System Properties** dialog box for the instance, select the **Computer Name** tab, and choose **Change**.
   
   **Tip**
   You can open the **System Properties** dialog box directly by running the following from a command prompt on the instance.
   
   ```
   %SystemRoot%\system32\control.exe sysdm.cpl
   ```

5. In the **Member of** field, select **Domain**, enter the fully-qualified name of your AWS Directory Service directory, and choose **OK**.
6. When prompted for the name and password for the domain administrator, enter the username and password of an account that has domain join privileges. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

   Note
   You can enter either the fully-qualified name of your domain or the NetBios name, followed by a backslash (\), and then the user name, in this case, Admin. For example, corp.example.com\Admin or corp\Admin.

7. After you receive the message welcoming you to the domain, restart the instance to have the changes take effect.

Now that your instance has been joined to the domain, you can log into that instance remotely and install utilities to manage the directory, such as adding users and groups.

Manually Join a Linux Instance

In addition to Amazon EC2 Windows instances, you can also join certain Amazon EC2 Linux instances to your AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory. The following Linux instance distributions and versions are supported:

- Amazon Linux AMI 2015.03
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.2
- Ubuntu Server 14.04 LTS
- CentOS 7

   Note
   Other Linux distributions and versions may work but have not been tested.

Join an Instance to Your Directory

Before you can join either an Amazon Linux, CentOS, Red Hat, or Ubuntu instance to your directory, the instance must first be launched as specified in Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 31).

   Important
   Some of the following procedures, if not performed correctly, can render your instance unreachable or unusable. Therefore, we strongly suggest you make a backup or take a snapshot of your instance before performing these procedures.

To join a linux instance to your directory

Follow the steps for your specific Linux instance using one of the following tabs:

Amazon Linux

1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.
2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see How do I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.
3. Make sure your Amazon Linux - 64bit instance is up to date.

   # sudo yum -y update
4. Install the required Amazon Linux packages on your Linux instance.

   **Note**
   Some of these packages may already be installed.
   As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

   **Amazon Linux 1**
   
   ```bash
   $ sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation
   ```

   **Amazon Linux 2**
   
   ```bash
   $ sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation samba-common-tools
   ```

5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.

   ```bash
   $ sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose
   ```

   *join_account@example.com*
   An account in the *example.com* domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

   *example.com*
   The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

   ```
   ... *
   Successfully enrolled machine in realm
   ```

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.
   a. Open the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file in a text editor.

   ```bash
   sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
   ```

   b. Set the `PasswordAuthentication` setting to `yes`.

   ```bash
   PasswordAuthentication yes
   ```

7. Start the SSSD service.

   ```bash
   $ sudo systemctl start sssd.service
   Alternatively:
   $ sudo service sssd start
   ```

8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the AWS Delegated Administrators group to the `sudoers` list by performing the following steps:
   a. Open the `sudoers` file with the following command:

   ```bash
   # sudo visudo
   ```

   b. Add the following to the bottom of the `sudoers` file and save it.
Join an EC2 Instance to Your Directory

# Add the "AWS Delegated Administrators" group from the example.com domain.
%AWS\ Delegated\ Administrators@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL

(The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)

CentOS

1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.
2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see How do I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.
3. Make sure your CentOS 7 instance is up to date.

   ```
   $ sudo yum -y update
   ```

4. Install the required CentOS 7 packages on your Linux instance.

   **Note**
   Some of these packages may already be installed.
   As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

   ```
   $ sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation samba-common-tools
   ```

5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.

   ```
   $ sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose
   ```

   `join_account@example.com`
   An account in the example.com domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

   `example.com`
   The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

   ```
   ... * Successfully enrolled machine in realm
   ```

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.
   a. Open the /etc/ssh/sshd_config file in a text editor.

      ```
      sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
      ```

   b. Set the `PasswordAuthentication` setting to yes.

      ```
      PasswordAuthentication yes
      ```

7. Start the SSSD service.
# sudo systemctl start sssd.service

Alternatively:

# sudo service sssd start

8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the AWS Delegated Administrators group to the sudoers list by performing the following steps:

a. Open the sudoers file with the following command:

   $ sudo visudo

b. Add the following to the bottom of the sudoers file and save it.

   ```
   ## Add the "AWS Delegated Administrators" group from the example.com domain.
   %AWS\ Delegated\ Administrators@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
   ```

   (The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)

   Red Hat

   1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.

   2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see How do I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.

   3. Make sure the Red Hat - 64bit instance is up to date.

      $ sudo yum -y update

   4. Install the required Red Hat packages on your Linux instance.

      **Note**
      Some of these packages may already be installed.
      As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

      $ sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation samba-common-tools

   5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.

      $ sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose

      `join_account@example.com`

      An account in the example.com domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).
**example.com**

The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

```
...*
Successfully enrolled machine in realm
```

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.
   a. Open the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file in a text editor.

   ```
sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

   b. Set the `PasswordAuthentication` setting to `yes`.

   ```
PasswordAuthentication yes
```

7. Start the SSSD service.

   ```
# sudo systemctl start sssd.service
```

   Alternatively:

   ```
# sudo service sssd start
```

8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the AWS Delegated Administrators group to the `sudoers` list by performing the following steps:
   a. Open the `sudoers` file with the following command:

   ```
# sudo visudo
```
   b. Add the following to the bottom of the `sudoers` file and save it.

   ```
## Add the "AWS Delegated Administrators" group from the example.com domain.
%AWS\ Delegated\ Administrators@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
```

   (The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)

Ubuntu

1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.

2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see [How do I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance](https://aws.amazon.com/documentation/audit/) in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.

3. Make sure your Ubuntu - 64bit instance is up to date.

   ```
# sudo apt-get update
# sudo apt-get -y upgrade
```
4. Install the required Ubuntu packages on your Linux instance.

    Note
    Some of these packages may already be installed. As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

    $ sudo apt-get -y install sssd realmd krb5-user samba-common packagekit adcli

5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.

    $ sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose

    Note
    If you are using Ubuntu 16.04, you must enter the domain name portion of the username with all capital letters. For example, join_account@EXAMPLE.COM example.com --verbose.

    join_account@example.com

    An account in the example.com domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

    example.com

    The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

    ...

    * Successfully enrolled machine in realm

    Note
    If you are using Ubuntu 14.04, and encounter the following error:
    realm: Couldn't join realm: Failed to enroll machine in realm. See diagnostics.
    Complete the following additional steps, and then attempt a domain join to resolve the issue:

    $ killall aptd
    $ apt-get install packagekit adcli

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.

    a. Open the /etc/ssh/sshd_config file in a text editor.

       sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config

    b. Set the PasswordAuthentication setting to yes.

       PasswordAuthentication yes

7. Start the SSSD service.

    $ sudo systemctl start sssd.service

    Alternatively:

    $ sudo service sssd start
8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the AWS Delegated Administrators group to the sudoers list by performing the following steps:
   a. Open the sudoers file with the following command:

```
# sudo visudo
```

   b. Add the following to the bottom of the sudoers file and save it.

```
## Add the "AWS Delegated Administrators" group from the example.com domain.
%AWS\ Delegated\ Administrators@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL

(The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)
```

### Restricting Account Login Access

Since all accounts are defined in Active Directory, by default, all the users in the directory can log in to the instance. You can allow only specific users to log in to the instance with `ad_access_filter` in `sssd.conf`. For example:

```
ad_access_filter = (memberOf=cn=admins,ou=Testou,dc=example,dc=com)
```

- `memberOf` indicates that users should only be allowed access to the instance if they are a member of a specific group.
- `cn` is the canonical name of the group that should have access. In this example, the group name is `admins`.
- `ou` is the organizational unit in which the above group is located. In this example, the OU is `Testou`.
- `dc` is the domain component of your domain. In this example, `example`.
- `dc` is an additional domain component. In this example, `com`.

You must manually add `ad_access_filter` to your `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`. After you do this, your `sssd.conf` might look like this:

```
domains = example.com
config_file_version = 2
services = nss, pam

[domain/example.com]
ad_domain = example.com
krb5_realm = EXAMPLE.COM
realmd_tags = manages-system joined-with-samba
cache_credentials = True
```

Version 1.0
39
id_provider = ad
krb5_store_password_if_offline = True
default_shell = /bin/bash
ldap_id_mapping = True
use_fullyQualified_names = True
fallback_homedir = /home/%u@%d
access_provider = ad
ad_access_filter = (memberOf=cn=admins,ou=Testou,dc=example,dc=com)

In order for the configuration to take affect you need to restart the sssd service:

```bash
$ sudo systemctl restart sssd.service
```

Alternatively, you could use:

```bash
$ sudo service sssd start
```

### Connect to the Instance

When a user connects to the instance using an SSH client, they are prompted for their username. The user can enter the username in either the `username@example.com` or `EXAMPLE\username` format. The response will appear similar to the following:

```
login as: johndoe@example.com
johndoe@example.com's password:
Last login: Thu Jun 25 16:26:28 2015 from XX.XX.XX.XX
```

### Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

To join a computer to your directory, you need an account that has privileges to join computers to the directory.

With AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory, members of the `Admins` and `AWS Delegated Server Administrators` groups have these privileges.

However, as a best practice, you should use an account that has only the minimum privileges necessary. The following procedure demonstrates how to create a new group called `Joiners` and delegate the privileges to this group that are needed to join computers to the directory.

You must perform this procedure on a machine that is joined to your directory and has the `Active Directory User and Computers` MMC snap-in installed. You must also be logged in as a domain administrator.

**To delegate join privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD**

1. Open `Active Directory User and Computers` and select the organizational unit (OU) that has your NetBIOS name in the navigation tree, then select the `Users` OU.

   **Important**

   When you launch a AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory, AWS creates an organizational unit (OU) that contains all your directory’s objects. This OU, which has the NetBIOS name that you typed when you created your directory, is located in the domain root. The domain root is owned and managed by AWS. You cannot make changes to the domain root itself, therefore, you must create the `Joiners` group within the OU that has your NetBIOS name.
2. Open the context menu (right-click) for Users, choose New, and then choose Group.
3. In the New Object - Group box, type the following and choose OK.
   - For Group name, type Joiners.
   - For Group scope, choose Global.
   - For Group type, choose Security.
4. In the navigation tree, select the Computers container under your NetBIOS name. From the Action menu, choose Delegate Control.
5. On the Delegation of Control Wizard page, choose Next, and then choose Add.
6. In the Select Users, Computers, or Groups box, type Joiners and choose OK. If more than one object is found, select the Joiners group created above. Choose Next.
7. On the Tasks to Delegate page, select Create a custom task to delegate, and then choose Next.
8. Select Only the following objects in the folder, and then select Computer objects.
9. Select Create selected objects in this folder and Delete selected objects in this folder. Then choose Next.
10. Select Read and Write, and then choose Next.
11. Verify the information on the Completing the Delegation of Control Wizard page and choose Finish.
12. Create a user with a strong password and add that user to the Joiners group. This user must be in the Users container that is under your NetBIOS name. The user will then have sufficient privileges to connect instances to the directory.
Create a DHCP Options Set

AWS recommends that you create a DHCP options set for your AWS Directory Service directory and assign the DHCP options set to the VPC that your directory is in. This allows any instances in that VPC to point to the specified domain and DNS servers to resolve their domain names.

For more information about DHCP options sets, see DHCP Options Sets in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

To create a DHCP options set for your directory

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
2. Choose DHCP Options Sets in the navigation pane, and choose Create DHCP options set.
3. In the Create DHCP options set dialog box, enter the following values for your directory:
   - Name tag
     - An optional tag for the options set.
   - Domain name
     - The fully-qualified name of your directory, such as corp.example.com.
   - Domain name servers
     - The IP addresses of your directory’s DNS servers. These are the IP addresses of your AWS-provided directory. You can find these addresses by going to the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, selecting Directories and then choosing the correct directory ID.
   - NTP servers
     - Leave this field blank.
   - NetBIOS name servers
     - Leave this field blank.
   - NetBIOS node type
     - Leave this field blank.
4. Choose Yes, Create. The new set of DHCP options appears in your list of DHCP options.
5. Make a note of the ID of the new set of DHCP options (dopt-xxxxxxxxx). You need it to associate the new options set with your VPC.

To change the DHCP options set associated with a VPC

After you create a set of DHCP options, you can't modify them. If you want your VPC to use a different set of DHCP options, you must create a new set and associate them with your VPC. You can also set up your VPC to use no DHCP options at all.

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
2. Choose Your VPCs in the navigation pane.
3. Select the VPC, and choose Edit DHCP Options Set from the Actions list.
4. In the DHCP Options Set list, select the desired options set from the list, and choose Save.

Add Users and Groups to AWS Managed Microsoft AD

Users represent individual people or entities that have access to your directory. Groups are very useful for giving or denying privileges to groups of users, rather than having to apply those privileges to each
individual user. If a user moves to a different organization, you move that user to a different group and they automatically receive the privileges needed for the new organization.

To create users and groups in an AWS Directory Service directory, you must be connected to an EC2 instance that has been joined to your AWS Directory Service directory, and be logged in as a user that has privileges to create users and groups. You will also need to install the Active Directory Tools on your EC2 instance so you can add your users and groups with the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in. For more information about how to set up an EC2 instance and install the necessary tools, see Step 3: Deploy an EC2 Instance to Manage AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 97).

Note
Your user accounts must have Kerberos preauthentication enabled. This is the default setting for new user accounts, but it should not be modified. For more information about this setting, go to Preauthentication on Microsoft TechNet.

The following examples demonstrate how to create a user, create a group, and add the user to the group.

Note
When using Simple AD, if you create a user account on a Linux instance with the option "Force user to change password at first login," that user will not be able to initially change their password using kpasswd. In order to change the password the first time, a domain administrator must update the user password using the Active Directory Management Tools.

To create a user

1. Open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool. There is a shortcut to this tool in the Administrative Tools folder.

   Tip
   You can run the following from a command prompt on the instance to open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool box directly.

   %SystemRoot%\system32\dsa.msc

2. In the directory tree, select an OU under your directory's NetBIOS name OU where you want to store your user (for example, Corp\Users). For more information about the OU structure used by directories in AWS, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

3. On the Action menu, click New, and then click User to open the new user wizard.

4. In the first page of the new user wizard, enter the following values and click Next.

   First name
   Mary
   Last name
   Major
   User logon name
   marym

5. In the second page of the new user wizard, enter a temporary password for Password and Confirm Password. Make sure the User must change password at next logon option is selected. None of the other options should be selected. Click Next.

6. In the third page of the new user wizard, verify that the new user information is correct and click Finish. The new user will appear in the Users folder.
To create a group

1. Open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool. There is a shortcut to this tool in the Administrative Tools folder.
   
   **Tip**
   You can run the following from a command prompt on the instance to open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool box directly.
   
   %SystemRoot%\system32\dsa.msc

2. In the directory tree, select an OU under your directory's NetBIOS name OU where you want to store your group (for example, Corp\Users). For more information about the OU structure used by directories in AWS, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

3. On the Action menu, click New, and then click Group to open the new group wizard.

4. Enter Division Managers for the Group name, select Global for the Group scope, and select Security for the Group type. Click OK. The new group, Division Managers, appears in the Users folder.

To add a user to a group

1. Open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool. There is a shortcut to this tool in the Administrative Tools folder.
   
   **Tip**
   You can run the following from a command prompt on the instance to open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool box directly.
   
   %SystemRoot%\system32\dsa.msc

2. In the directory tree, select the OU under your directory's NetBIOS name OU where you stored your group, and select the Division Managers group.

3. On the Action menu, click Properties to open the properties dialog box for the Division Managers group.

4. Select the Members tab and click Add....

5. For Enter the object names to select, enter marym and click OK. Mary Major is displayed in the Members list. Click OK again to update the group membership.

6. Verify that Mary Major is now a member of the Division Managers group by selecting Mary Major in the Users folder, click Properties in the Action menu to open the properties dialog box for Mary Major. Select the Member Of tab. Division Managers is in the list of groups that Mary Major belongs to.

Installing the Active Directory Administration Tools

To manage your directory from an EC2 Windows instance, you need to install the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools on the instance.

**Topics**

- Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2008 (p. 45)
- Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2012 (p. 45)
- Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2016 (p. 45)
Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2008

To install the Active Directory administration tools on Windows Server 2008

1. Open Server Manager by choosing Start, Administrative Tools, Server Manager.
2. In the Server Manager tree pane, select Features, and choose Add Features,
3. In the Add Features Wizard, open Remote Server Administration Tools, Role Administration Tools, select AD DS and AD LDS Tools, scroll down and select DNS, then choose Next.
4. Review the information and choose Install. The feature installation requires that the instance be restarted. When the instance has restarted, the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools are available on the Start menu, under All Programs > Administrative Tools.

Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2012

To install the Active Directory administration tools on Windows Server 2012

1. Open Server Manager from the Start screen by choosing Server Manager.
2. In the Server Manager Dashboard, choose Add roles and features,
3. In the Add Roles and Features Wizard choose Installation Type, select Role-based or feature-based installation, and choose Next.
4. Under Server Selection, make sure the local server is selected, and choose Features in the left navigation pane.
5. In the Features tree, open Remote Server Administration Tools, Role Administration Tools, select AD DS and AD LDS Tools, scroll down and select DNS, then choose Next.
6. Review the information and choose Install. When the feature installation is finished, the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools are available on the Start screen in the Administrative Tools folder.

Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2016

To install the Active Directory administration tools on Windows Server 2016

1. Open Server Manager from the Start screen by choosing Server Manager.
2. In the Server Manager Dashboard, choose Add roles and features,
3. In the Add Roles and Features Wizard choose Installation Type, select Role-based or feature-based installation, and choose Next.
4. Under Server Selection, make sure the local server is selected, and choose Features in the left navigation pane.
5. In the Features tree, open Remote Server Administration Tools, Role Administration Tools, select AD DS and AD LDS Tools, scroll down and select DNS, then choose Next.
6. Review the information and choose Install. When the feature installation is finished, the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools are available on the Start screen in the Administrative Tools folder.

Connect to Your Existing AD Infrastructure

This section describes how to configure trust relationships between AWS Managed Microsoft AD and your existing AD infrastructure.
When to Create a Trust Relationship

You can configure one and two-way forest trust relationships between your AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory and on-premises directories, as well as between multiple AWS Managed Microsoft AD directories in the AWS cloud. AWS Managed Microsoft AD supports all three trust relationship directions: Incoming, Outgoing and Two-way (Bi-directional).

Note
When setting up trust relationships, you must ensure that your on-premises directory is and remains compatible with AWS Directory Services. For more information on your responsibilities, please see our shared responsibility model.

AWS Managed Microsoft AD supports forest trusts only. External domain trusts and name suffix routing are not supported. To walk through an example scenario showing how to create a trust, see Tutorial: Create a Trust Relationship Between Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD and Your On-Premises Domain (p. 53).

Prerequisites

Creating the trust requires only a few steps, but you must first complete several prerequisite steps prior to setting up the trust.

Connect to VPC

If you are creating a trust relationship with your on-premises directory, you must first connect your on-premises network to the VPC containing your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. The firewall for your on-premises network must have the following ports open to the CIDRs for both subnets in the VPC.

- TCP/UDP 53 - DNS
- TCP/UDP 88 - Kerberos authentication
- TCP/UDP 389 - LDAP
- TCP 445 - SMB

These are the minimum ports that are needed to be able to connect to your directory. Your specific configuration may require additional ports be open.

Configure your VPC

The VPC that contains your AWS Managed Microsoft AD must have the appropriate outbound and inbound rules.

To configure your VPC outbound rules

1. In the AWS Directory Service console, on the Directory Details page, note your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory ID.
2. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
4. Search for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory ID. In the search results, select the item with the description "AWS created security group for directory ID directory controllers".

Note
The selected security group is a security group that is automatically created when you initially create your directory.
5. Go to the Outbound Rules tab of that security group. Select Edit, then Add another rule. For the new rule, enter the following values:

- **Type**: All Traffic
- **Protocol**: All
- **Destination** determines the traffic that can leave your domain controllers and where it can go in your on-premises network. Specify a single IP address or an IP address range in CIDR notation (for example, 203.0.113.5/32). You can also specify the name or ID of another security group in the same region. For more information, see Understand Your Directory’s AWS Security Group Configuration and Use (p. 87).

6. Select Save.

### To configure your VPC inbound rules

1. In the AWS Directory Service console, on the Directory Details page, note your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory ID.
2. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
4. Search for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory ID. In the search results, select the item with the description “AWS created security group for directory ID directory controllers”.

   **Note**
   The selected security group is a security group that is automatically created when you initially create your directory.

5. Go to the Inbound Rules tab of that security group. Select Edit, then Add another rule. For the new rule, enter the following values:

- **Type**: Custom UDP Rule
- **Protocol**: UDP
- **Port Range**: 445
- For **Source**, specify a single IP address, or an IP address range in CIDR notation (for example, 203.0.113.5/32). You can also specify the name or ID of another security group in the same region. This setting determines the traffic that can reach your domain controllers from your on-premises network. For more information, see Understand Your Directory’s AWS Security Group Configuration and Use (p. 87).

6. Select Save.
7. Repeat these steps, adding each of the following rules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>Port Range</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>Port Range</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>1024 - 65535</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>3268 - 3269</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS (UDP)</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS (TCP)</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDAP</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All ICMP</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All traffic</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>The current security group (The security group for your directory).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These security rules impact an internal network interface that is not exposed publicly.
Enable Kerberos Pre-authentication

Your user accounts must have Kerberos pre-authentication enabled. For more information about this setting, review Preauthentication on Microsoft TechNet.

Configure DNS Conditional Forwarders On Your On-premises domain

You must set up DNS conditional forwarders on your on-premises domain. Refer to Assign a Conditional Forwarder for a Domain Name on Microsoft TechNet for details on conditional forwarders.

To perform the following steps, you must have access to following Windows Server tools for your on-premises domain:

- AD DS and AD LDS Tools
- DNS

To configure conditional forwarders on your on-premises domain

1. First you must get some information about your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. Sign into the AWS Management Console and open the AWS Directory Service console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/directoryservicev2/.
2. In the navigation pane, select Directories.
3. Choose the directory ID of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.
4. Take note of the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) and the DNS addresses of your directory.
5. Now, return to your on-premises domain controller. Open Server Manager.
6. On the Tools menu, choose DNS.
7. In the console tree, expand the DNS server of the domain for which you are setting up the trust.
8. In the console tree, choose Conditional Forwarders.
10. In DNS domain, type the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD, which you noted earlier.
11. Choose IP addresses of the master servers and type the DNS addresses of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, which you noted earlier.

After entering the DNS addresses, you might get a "timeout" or "unable to resolve" error. You can generally ignore these errors.
12. Select Store this conditional forwarder in Active Directory and replicate as follows: All DNS servers in this domain. Choose OK.

Trust Relationship Password

If you are creating a trust relationship with an existing domain, set up the trust relationship on that domain using Windows Server Administration tools. As you do so, note the trust password that you use. You will need to use this same password when setting up the trust relationship on the AWS Managed Microsoft AD. For more information, see Managing Trusts on Microsoft TechNet.

You are now ready to create the trust relationship on your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

Create, Verify, or Delete a Trust Relationship

To create a trust relationship with your AWS Managed Microsoft AD
1. Open the AWS Directory Service console.
2. On the Directories page, choose your AWS Managed Microsoft AD ID.
4. In the Trust relationships section, choose Actions, and then select Add trust relationship.
5. On the Add a trust relationship page, provide the required information, including the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of your trusted domain, the trust password and the trust direction.
6. For Conditional forwarder, type the IP address of your on-premises DNS server. If you have previously created conditional forwarders, you can type the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of your on-premises domain instead of a DNS IP address.
7. (Optional) Choose Add another IP address and type the IP address of an additional on-premises DNS server. You can repeat this step for each applicable DNS server address for a total of four addresses.
8. Choose Add.
9. If the DNS server or the network for your on-premises domain uses a public (non-RFC 1918) IP address space, go to the IP routing section, choose Actions, and then choose Add route. Type the IP address block of your DNS server or on-premises network using CIDR format, for example 203.0.113.0/24. This step is not necessary if both your DNS server and your on-premises network are using RFC 1918 IP address spaces.
   
   **Note**
   When using a public IP address space, make sure that you do not use any of the AWS IP address ranges as these cannot be used.
10. (Optional) We recommend that while you are on the Add routes to the security group for this directory's VPC. This will configure the security groups as detailed above in the "Configure your VPC." These security rules impact an internal network interface that is not exposed publicly. If this option is not available, you will instead see a message indicating that you have already customized your security groups.

You must set up the trust relationship on both domains. The relationships must be complementary. For example, if you create an outgoing trust on one domain, you must create an incoming trust on the other.

If you are creating a trust relationship with an existing domain, set up the trust relationship on that domain using Windows Server Administration tools.

You can create multiple trusts between your AWS Managed Microsoft AD and various Active Directory domains. However, only one trust relationship per pair can exist at a time. For example, if you have an existing, one-way trust in the "Incoming direction" and you then want to set up another trust relationship in the "Outgoing direction," you will need to delete the existing trust relationship, and create a new "Two-way" trust.

**To verify an outgoing trust relationship**

1. Open the AWS Directory Service console.
2. On the Directories page, choose your AWS Managed Microsoft AD ID.
4. In the Trust relationships section, select the trust you want to verify, choose Actions, and then select Verify trust relationship.

This process verifies only the outgoing direction of a two-way trust. AWS does not support verification of an incoming trusts. For more information on how to verify a trust to or from your on-premises Active Directory, refer to Verify a Trust on Microsoft Technet.

**To delete an existing trust relationship**

1. Open the AWS Directory Service console.
2. On the Directories page, choose your AWS Managed Microsoft AD ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Networking & security** tab.

4. In the **Trust relationships** section, select the trust you want to delete, choose **Actions**, and then select **Delete trust relationship**.

5. Choose **Delete**.

### Adding IP Routes When Using Public IP Addresses

You can use AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory to take advantage of many powerful Active Directory features, including establishing trusts with other directories. However, if the DNS servers for the networks of the other directories use public (non-RFC 1918) IP addresses, you must specify those IP addresses as part of configuring the trust. Instructions for doing this can be found in *When to Create a Trust Relationship (p. 46)*.

Similarly, you must also enter the IP address information when routing traffic from your AWS Managed Microsoft AD on AWS to a peer AWS VPC, if the VPC uses public IP ranges.

When you add the IP addresses as described in *When to Create a Trust Relationship (p. 46)*, you have the option of selecting **Add routes to the security group for this directory's VPC**. This option should be selected unless you have previously customized your security group to allow the necessary traffic as shown below. For more information, see *Understand Your Directory's AWS Security Group Configuration and Use (p. 87)*.

This option configures the security groups for your directory’s VPC as follows:

**Inbound rules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>1024 - 65535</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>3268 - 3269</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS (UDP)</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS (TCP)</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDAP</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outbound rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All traffic</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>0.0.0.0/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These security rules affect an internal network interface that is not exposed publicly.

**Tutorial: Create a Trust Relationship Between Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD and Your On-Premises Domain**

This tutorial walks you through all the steps necessary to set up a trust relationship between AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory and your on-premises Microsoft Active Directory. Although creating the trust requires only a few steps, you must first complete the following prerequisite steps.

**Topics**
- Prerequisites (p. 53)
- Step 1: Prepare Your On-Premises Domain (p. 54)
- Step 2: Prepare Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 56)
- Step 3: Create the Trust Relationship (p. 62)

**See Also**
- When to Create a Trust Relationship (p. 46)

**Prerequisites**

This tutorial assumes you already have the following:

- A AWS Managed Microsoft AD created on AWS. If you need help doing this, see Getting Started with AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 8).
- An EC2 instance running Windows added to that AWS Managed Microsoft AD. If you need help doing this, see Manually Join a Windows Instance (p. 31).
  
  **Important**
  The admin account for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD must have administrative access to this instance.

- The following Windows Server tools installed on that instance:
  - AD DS and AD LDS Tools
  - DNS

  If you need help doing this, see Installing the Active Directory Administration Tools (p. 44).
- An on-premises Microsoft Active Directory

  You must have administrative access to this directory. The same Windows Server tools as listed above must also be available for this directory.
- An active connection between your on-premises network and the VPC containing your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. If you need help doing this, see Amazon Virtual Private Cloud Connectivity Options.
Tutorial Configuration

For this tutorial, we've already created a AWS Managed Microsoft AD and an on-premises domain. The on-premises network is connected to the AWS Managed Microsoft AD's VPC. Following are the properties of the two directories:

AWS Managed Microsoft AD running on AWS

- Domain name (FQDN): MyManagedAD.example.com
- NetBIOS name: MyManagedAD
- DNS Addresses: 10.0.10.246, 10.0.20.121
- VPC CIDR: 10.0.0.0/16

The AWS Managed Microsoft AD resides in VPC ID: vpc-12345678.

On-premises domain

- Domain name (FQDN): corp.example.com
- NetBIOS name: CORP
- DNS Addresses: 172.16.10.153
- On-premises CIDR: 172.16.0.0/16

Next Step

Step 1: Prepare Your On-Premises Domain (p. 54)

Step 1: Prepare Your On-Premises Domain

First you need to complete several prerequisite steps on your on-premises domain.

Configure Your On-Premises Firewall

You must configure your on-premises firewall so that the following ports are open to the CIDRs for all subnets used by the VPC that contains your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. In this tutorial, we allow both incoming and outgoing traffic from 10.0.0.0/16 (the CIDR block of our AWS Managed Microsoft AD's VPC) on the following ports:

- TCP/UDP 53 - DNS
- TCP/UDP 88 - Kerberos authentication
- TCP/UDP 389 - LDAP
- TCP 445 - SMB

Note

These are the minimum ports that are needed to connect the VPC to the on-premises directory. Your specific configuration may require additional ports be open.

Ensure That Kerberos Pre-authentication Is Enabled

User accounts in both directories must have Kerberos preauthentication enabled. This is the default, but let's check to make sure nothing has changed.

To view user Kerberos settings

1. On your on-premises domain controller, open Server Manager.
3. Choose the **Users** folder and open the context (right-click) menu for a user account listed in the right pane. Choose **Properties**.

4. Choose the **Account** tab. In the **Account options** list, scroll down and ensure that **Do not require Kerberos preauthentication** is *not* checked.

![User Properties](image)

**Configure DNS Conditional Forwarders for Your On-premises Domain**

You must set up DNS conditional forwarders on each domain. Before doing this on your on-premises domain, you will first get some information about your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

**To configure conditional forwarders on your on-premises domain**


2. In the navigation pane, select **Directories**.

3. Choose the directory ID of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

4. On the **Details** page, take note of the values in **Directory name** and the **DNS address** of your directory.

5. Now, return to your on-premises domain controller. Open Server Manager.

6. On the **Tools** menu, choose **DNS**.

7. In the console tree, expand the DNS server of the domain for which you are setting up the trust. Our server is WIN-5V70CN7VJ0.corp.example.com.

8. In the console tree, choose **Conditional Forwarders**.

9. On the **Action** menu, choose **New conditional forwarder**.

10. In **DNS domain**, type the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD, which you noted earlier. In this example, the FQDN is MyManagedAD.example.com.
11. Choose IP addresses of the master servers and type the DNS addresses of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, which you noted earlier. In this example those are: 10.0.10.246, 10.0.20.121

After entering the DNS addresses, you might get a "timeout" or "unable to resolve" error. You can generally ignore these errors.

12. Select Store this conditional forwarder in Active Directory, and replicate it as follows.

13. Select All DNS servers in this domain, and then choose OK.

Next Step

Step 2: Prepare Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 56)

Step 2: Prepare Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD

Now let’s get your AWS Managed Microsoft AD ready for the trust relationship. Many of the following steps are almost identical to what you just completed for your on-premises domain. This time, however, you are working with your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

Configure Your VPC Subnets and Security Groups

You must allow traffic from your on-premises network to the VPC containing your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. To do this, configure the VPC access control list (ACL) to allow both incoming and outgoing traffic from your on-premises directory for the following ports:

- TCP/UDP 53 - DNS
- TCP/UDP 88 - Kerberos authentication
• TCP/UDP 389 - LDAP
• TCP 445 - SMB

**Note**
These are the minimum ports that are needed to be able to connect the VPC and on-premises directory. Your specific configuration may require additional ports be open. For this tutorial, we have opened up all ports to our on-premises domain:

**Inbound Rules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule #</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Allow / Deny</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>DNS (UDP) (53)</td>
<td>UDP (17)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>DNS (TCP) (53)</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP (17)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>LDAP (389)</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outbound Rules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule #</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Allow / Deny</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>DNS (UDP) (53)</td>
<td>UDP (17)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>DNS (TCP) (53)</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP (17)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>LDAP (389)</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP (6)</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>172.31.0.0/16</td>
<td>ALLOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Similarly, your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain controller must have the appropriate outbound and inbound rules.

**To configure your AWS Managed Microsoft AD domain controller outbound and inbound rules**

1. Return to the AWS Directory Service console. In the list of directories, take note the directory ID for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.
2. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
3. In the navigation pane, choose *Security Groups*.
4. Use the search box to search for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory ID. In the search results, select the item with the description *AWS created security group for <yourdirectoryID> directory controllers*.
5. Go to the *Outbound Rules* tab for that security group. Choose *Edit*, and then *Add another rule*. For the new rule, enter the following values:
   - **Type**: ALL Traffic
   - **Protocol**: ALL
   - **Destination** determines the traffic that can leave your domain controllers and where it can go. Specify a single IP address or an IP address range in CIDR notation (for example, 203.0.113.5/32). You can also specify the name or ID of another security group in the same region. For more information, see Understand Your Directory’s AWS Security Group Configuration and Use (p. 87).
6. Select *Save*.
7. Go to the *Inbound Rules* tab for that same security group. Choose *Edit*, and then *Add another rule*. For the new rule, enter the following values:
• **Type**: Custom UDP Rule
• **Protocol**: UDP
• **Port Range**: 445

  • For **Source**, specify a single IP address, or an IP address range in CIDR notation (for example, 203.0.113.5/32). You can also specify the name or ID of another security group in the same region. This setting determines the traffic that can reach your domain controllers. For more information, see Understand Your Directory’s AWS Security Group Configuration and Use (p. 87).

8. Select **Save**.

9. Repeat these steps, adding each of the following rules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom UDP Rule</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Specify the <strong>Source</strong> traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>Port Range</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>1024 - 65535</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom TCP Rule</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>3268 - 3269</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS (UDP)</td>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS (TCP)</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Connect Your Existing AD Infrastructure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LDAP</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All ICMP</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Specify the Source traffic used in the previous step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All traffic</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>The current security group (The security group for your directory).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ensure That Kerberos Pre-authentication Is Enabled**

Now you want to confirm that users in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD also have Kerberos pre-authentication enabled. This is the same process you completed for your on-premises directory. This is the default, but let’s check to make sure nothing has changed.

**To view user Kerberos settings**

1. Log in to an instance that is a member of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD using either the Admin Account (p. 12) or an account that has been delegated Admin permissions.
2. If they are not already installed, install the Active Directory Users and Computers tool and the DNS tool. Learn how to install these tools in Installing the Active Directory Administration Tools (p. 44).
3. Open Server Manager. On the Tools menu, choose **Active Directory Users and Computers**.
4. Choose the Users folder in your domain. Note that this is the Users folder under your NetBIOS name, not the Users folder under the fully qualified domain name (FQDN).
5. In the list of users, right-click on a user, and then choose **Properties**.
6. Choose the **Account** tab. In the **Account options** list, ensure that **Do not require Kerberos preauthentication** is *not* checked.

**Next Step**

**Step 3: Create the Trust Relationship (p. 62)**

**Step 3: Create the Trust Relationship**

Now that the preparation work is complete, the final steps are to create the trusts. First you create the trust on your on-premises domain, and then finally on your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. If you have any issues during the trust creation process, see **Trust Creation Status Reasons (p. 108)** for assistance.

**Configure Your On-Premises Trust**

In this tutorial, you configure a two-way trust. However, if you create a one-way trust, be aware that the trust directions on each of your domains must be complementary. For example, if you create a one-way, outgoing trust on your on-premises domain, you need to create a one-way, incoming trust on your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

**To configure your on-premises trust relationship**

1. Open Server Manager and on the **Tools** menu, choose **Active Directory Domains and Trusts**.
2. Open the context (right-click) menu of your domain and choose **Properties**.
3. Choose the **Trusts** tab and choose **New trust**. Type the name of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD and choose **Next**.
4. Choose **Forest trust**. Choose **Next**.
5. Choose **Two-way**. Choose **Next**.
6. Choose **This domain only**. Choose **Next**.
7. Choose **Forest-wide authentication**. Choose **Next**.
8. Type a **Trust password**. Make sure to remember this password as you will need it when setting up the trust for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

9. In the next dialog box, confirm your settings and choose **Next**. Confirm that the trust was created successfully and again choose **Next**.

10. Choose **No, do not confirm the outgoing trust**. Choose **Next**.

11. Choose **No, do not confirm the incoming trust**. Choose **Next**.

---

**Configure Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Trust**

Finally, you configure the trust relationship for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. Because you created a two-way trust on the on-premises domain, you also create a two-way trust on your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

**To configure your AWS Managed Microsoft AD trust relationship**

1. Return to the [AWS Directory Service console](https://aws.amazon.com/directoryservice/).
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your AWS Managed Microsoft AD ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Networking & security** tab.
4. In the **Trust relationships** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Add trust relationship**.
5. On the **Add a trust relationship** page, Type the FQDN of your on-premises domain (in this tutorial `corp.example.com`). Type the same trust password that you used when creating the trust on your on-premises domain. Specify the direction. In this case we choose **Two-way**.
6. In the **Conditional forwarder** field, enter the IP address of your on-premises DNS server. In this example, enter 172.16.10.153.
7. (Optional) Choose **Add another IP address** and enter a second IP address for your on-premises DNS server. You can specify up to a total of four DNS servers.
8. Choose **Add**.

Congratulations. You now have a trust relationship between your on-premises domain (`corp.example.com`) and your AWS Managed Microsoft AD (`MyManagedAD.example.com`). Only one relationship can be set up between these two domains. If for example, you want to change the trust direction to one-way, you would first need to delete this existing trust relationship and create a new one.

For more information, including instructions about verifying or deleting trusts, see [When to Create a Trust Relationship](https://aws.amazon.com/directoryservice/guides/configure-trust-relationships/).

---

**Extend Your Schema**

AWS Managed Microsoft AD uses schemas to organize and enforce how directory data is stored. The process of adding definitions to the schema is referred to as “extending the schema.” Schema extensions make it possible for you to modify the schema of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory using a valid LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF) file. For more information about AD schemas and how to extend your schema, see the topics listed below.

**Topics**

- [When to Extend Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema](https://aws.amazon.com/directoryservice/guides/configure-trust-relationships/)
- [Tutorial: Extending Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema](https://aws.amazon.com/directoryservice/guides/configure-trust-relationships/)
When to Extend Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema

You can extend your AWS Managed Microsoft AD schema by adding new object classes and attributes. For example, you might do this if you have an application that requires changes to your schema in order to support single sign-on capabilities.

You can also use schema extensions to enable support for applications that rely on specific Active Directory object classes and attributes. This can be especially useful in the case where you need to migrate corporate applications that are dependent on AWS Managed Microsoft AD, to the AWS cloud.

Each attribute or class that is added to an existing Active Directory schema must be defined with a unique ID. That way when companies add extensions to the schema, they can be guaranteed to be unique and not to conflict with each other. These IDs are referred to as AD Object Identifiers (OIDs) and are stored in AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

To get started, see Tutorial: Extending Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema (p. 64).

Related Topics

- Extend Your Schema (p. 63)
- Schema Elements (p. 13)

Tutorial: Extending Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema

In this tutorial, you will learn how to extend the schema for your AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory, also known as AWS Managed Microsoft AD, by adding unique attributes and classes that meet your specific requirements. AWS Managed Microsoft AD schema extensions can only be uploaded and applied using a valid LDIF (Lightweight Directory Interchange Format) script file.

Attributes (attributeSchema) define the fields in the database while classes (classSchema) define the tables in the database. For example, all of the user objects in Active Directory are defined by the schema class User while the individual properties of a user, such as email address or phone number, are each defined by an attribute.

If you wanted to add a new property, such as Shoe-Size, you would define a new attribute, which would be of type integer. You could also define lower and upper limits like 1 to 20. Once the Shoe-Size attributeSchema object has been created, you would then alter the User classSchema object to contain that attribute. Attributes can be linked to multiple classes. Shoe-Size could also be added to the Contact class for example. For more information about Active Directory schemas, see When to Extend Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema (p. 64).

This workflow has three basic steps.
Step 1: Create Your LDIF File (p. 65)

First, you create an LDIF file and define the new attributes and any classes that the attributes should be added to. You use this file for the next phase of the workflow.

Step 2: Import Your LDIF File (p. 66)

In this step, you use the AWS Directory Service console to import the LDIF file to your Microsoft AD environment.

Step 3: Verify If The Schema Extension Was Successful (p. 67)

Finally, as an administrator, you use an EC2 instance to verify that the new extensions appear in the Active Directory Schema Snap-in.

Step 1: Create Your LDIF File

An LDIF file is a standard plain text data interchange format for representing LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) directory content and update requests. LDIF conveys directory content as a set of records, one record for each object (or entry). It also represents update requests, such as Add, Modify, Delete, and Rename, as a set of records, one record for each update request.

The AWS Directory Service imports your LDIF file with the schema changes by running the `ldifde.exe` application on your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory. Therefore, you’ll find it helpful to understand the LDIF script syntax. For more information, see LDIF Scripts.

Several third-party LDIF tools can extract, clean-up, and update your schema updates. Regardless of which tool you use, it is important to understand that all identifiers used in your LDIF file must be unique.

We highly recommend that you review the following concepts and tips prior to creating your LDIF file.

- **Schema elements** – Learn about schema elements such as attributes, classes, object IDs, and linked attributes. For more information, see Schema Elements (p. 13).

- **Sequence of items** – Make sure that the order in which the items in your LDIF file are laid out follow the Directory Information Tree (DIT) from the top down. The general rules for sequencing in an LDIF file include the following:
  - Separate items with a blank line.
  - List child items after their parent items.
• Ensure that items such as attributes or object classes exist in the schema. If they are not present, you must add them to the schema before they can be used. For example, before you can assign an attribute to a class, the attribute must be created.

• **Format of the DN** – For each new instruction in the LDIF file, define the distinguished name (DN) as the first line of the instruction. The DN identifies an Active Directory object within the Active Directory object's tree and must contain the domain components for your directory. For example, the domain components for the directory in this tutorial are DC=example,DC=com.

The DN also must contain the common name (CN) of the Active Directory object. The first CN entry is the attribute or class name. Next, you must use CN=Schema,CN=Configuration. This CN ensures that you are able to extend the Active Directory schema. As mentioned before, you cannot add or modify Active Directory objects' content. The general format for a DN follows.

```
    dn: CN=[attribute or class name],CN=Schema,CN=Configuration,DC=[domain_name]
```

For this tutorial, the DN for the new Shoe-Size attribute would look like:

```
    dn: CN=Shoe-Size,CN=Schema,CN=Configuration,DC=example,DC=com
```

• **Warnings** – Review the warnings below before you extend your schema.

  • Before you extend your Active Directory schema, it is important to review Microsoft's warnings on the impact of this operation. For more information, see What You Must Know Before Extending the Schema.

  • You cannot delete a schema attribute or class. Therefore, if you make a mistake and don't want to restore from backup, you can only disable the object. For more information, see Disabling Existing Classes and Attributes.

To learn more about how LDIF files are constructed and see a sample LDIF file that can be used for testing AWS Managed Microsoft AD schema extensions, see the article How to Extend your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory Schema on the AWS Security Blog.

**Next Step**

**Step 2: Import Your LDIF File (p. 66)**

**Step 2: Import Your LDIF File**

You can extend your schema by importing an LDIF file from either the AWS Directory Service console or by using the API. For more information about how to do this with the schema extension APIs, see the AWS Directory Service API Reference. At this time, AWS does not support external applications, such as Microsoft Exchange, to perform schema updates directly.

**Important**
When you make an update to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory schema, the operation is not reversible. In other words, once you create a new class or attribute, Active Directory doesn't allow you to remove it. However, you can disable it.

If you must delete the schema changes, one option is to restore the directory from a previous snapshot. Restoring a snapshot rolls both the schema and the directory data back to a previous point, not just the schema.

Before the update process begins, AWS Managed Microsoft AD takes a snapshot to preserve the current state of your directory.

**To import your LDIF file**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.

3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.

4. In the **Schema extensions** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Upload and update schema**.

5. In the dialog box, click **Browse**, select a valid LDIF file, type a description, and then choose **Update Schema**.

   **Important**
   Extending the schema is a critical operation. Don’t apply any schema update in production environment without first testing it with your application in a development or test environment.

---

### How is the LDIF File Applied

After your LDIF file has been uploaded, AWS Managed Microsoft AD takes steps to protect your directory against errors as it applies the changes in the following order.

1. **Validates the LDIF file.** Since LDIF scripts can manipulate any object in the domain, AWS Managed Microsoft AD runs checks right after you upload to help ensure that the import operation will not fail. These include checks to ensure the following:
   - The objects to be updated are only held in the schema container
   - The DC (domain controllers) part matches the name of the domain where the LDIF script is running
2. **Takes a snapshot of your directory.** You can use the snapshot to restore your directory in case you encounter any problems with your application after updating the schema.
3. **Applies the changes to a single DC.** AWS Managed Microsoft AD isolates one of your DCs and applies the updates in the LDIF file to the isolated DC. It then selects one of your DCs to be the schema master, removes that DC from directory replication, and applies your LDIF file using `Ldifde.exe`.
4. **Replication occurs to all DCs.** AWS Managed Microsoft AD adds the isolated DC back in to replication to complete the update. While this is all happening, your directory continues to provide the Active Directory service to your applications without disruption.

---

### Next Step

**Step 3: Verify If The Schema Extension Was Successful** (p. 67)

**Step 3: Verify If The Schema Extension Was Successful**

After you have finished the import process, it is important to verify that schema updates were applied to your directory. This is especially critical before you migrate or update any application that relies on the schema update. You can do this using a variety of different LDAP tools or by writing a test tool that issues the appropriate LDAP commands.

This procedure uses the Active Directory Schema Snap-in and/or PowerShell to verify that the schema updates were applied. You must run these tools from a computer that is domain joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD. This can be a Windows server running in your on-premises network with access to your virtual private cloud (VPC) or through a virtual private network (VPN) connection. You can also run these tools on an Amazon EC2 Windows instance (see How to launch a new EC2 instance with Seamless Domain Join).

**To verify using the Active Directory Schema Snap-in**

1. Install the Active Directory Schema Snap-In using the instructions on the TechNet website.
2. Open the Microsoft Management Console (MMC) and expand the **AD Schema** tree for your directory.
3. Navigate through the **Classes** and **Attributes** folders until you find the schema changes that you made earlier.
To verify using PowerShell

1. Open a PowerShell window.
2. Use the `Get-ADObject` cmdlet as shown below to verify the schema change. For example:

   ```powershell
   get-adobject -Identity 'CN=Shoe-Size,CN=Schema,CN=Configuration,DC=example,DC=com' -Properties *
   ```

Optional Step

(Optional) Add a value to the new attribute (p. 68)

(Optional) Add a value to the new attribute

Use this optional step when you have created a new attribute and want to add a new value to the attribute in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.

To add a value to an attribute

1. Open the Windows PowerShell command line utility and set the new attribute with the following command. In this example, we will add a new EC2InstanceID value to the attribute for a specific computer.

   ```powershell
   PS C:\> set-adcomputer -Identity computer name -add @{example-EC2InstanceID = 'EC2 instance ID'}
   ```

2. You can validate if the EC2InstanceId value was added to the computer object by running the following command:

   ```powershell
   PS C:\> get-adcomputer -Identity computer name -Property example-EC2InstanceId
   ```

Related Resources

The following resource links are located on the Microsoft website and provide related information.

- Extending the Schema (Windows)
- Active Directory Schema (Windows)
- Active Directory Schema
- Windows Administration: Extending the Active Directory Schema
- Restrictions on Schema Extension (Windows)
- Ldifde

Maintain Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory

This section describes how to maintain common administrative tasks for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD environment.

Topics

- Add Alternate UPN Suffixes (p. 69)
- Delete Your Directory (p. 69)
- Rename Your Directory's Site Name (p. 70)
- Snapshot or Restore Your Directory (p. 70)
- View Directory Information (p. 72)
Add Alternate UPN Suffixes

You can simplify the management of Active Directory (AD) login names and improve the user login experience by adding alternate user principal name (UPN) suffixes to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory. To do that, you must be logged on with the Admin account or with an account that is a member of the AWS Delegated User Principal Name Suffix Administrators group. For more information about this group, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

To add alternate UPN suffixes
1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. Locate an Amazon EC2 instance that is joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory. Select the instance and then choose Connect.
3. In the Server Manager window, choose Tools. Then choose Active Directory Domains and Trusts.
4. In the left pane, right-click Active Directory Domains and Trusts and then choose Properties.
5. In the UPN Suffixes tab, type an alternative UPN suffix (such as sales.example.com). Choose Add and then choose Apply.
6. If you need to add additional alternative UPN suffixes, repeat step 5 until you have the UPN suffixes you require.

Delete Your Directory

When a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory is deleted, all of the directory data and snapshots are deleted and cannot be recovered. After the directory is deleted, all instances that are joined to the directory remain intact. You cannot, however, use your directory credentials to log in to these instances. You need to log in to these instances with a user account that is local to the instance.

When an AD Connector directory is deleted, your on-premises directory remains intact. All instances that are joined to the directory also remain intact and remain joined to your on-premises directory. You can still use your directory credentials to log in to these instances.

To delete a directory
1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select Directories.
2. Ensure that no AWS applications are enabled for the directory.
   a. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
   b. On the Directory details page, select the Application management tab. In the AWS apps & services section, you see which AWS applications are enabled for your directory.
      • To disable Amazon WorkSpaces, you must deregister the service from the directory in the Amazon WorkSpaces console. For more information, see Deregistering From a Directory in the Amazon WorkSpaces Administration Guide.
      • To disable Amazon WorkSpaces Application Manager, you must remove all application assignments in the Amazon WAM console. For more information, see Removing All Application Assignments in the Amazon WAM Administration Guide.
      • To disable Amazon WorkDocs, you must delete the Amazon WorkDocs site in the Amazon WorkDocs console. For more information, see Delete a Site in the Amazon WorkDocs Administration Guide.
      • To disable Amazon WorkMail, you must remove the Amazon WorkMail organization in the Amazon WorkMail console. For more information, see Remove an Organization in the Amazon WorkMail Administrator Guide.
      • Disable AWS Management Console access.
• To disable Amazon Relational Database Service, you must remove the Amazon RDS instance from the domain. For more information, see Managing a DB Instance in a Domain in the Amazon RDS User Guide.
• To disable Amazon QuickSight, you must unsubscribe from Amazon QuickSight. For more information, see Closing Your Amazon QuickSight Account in the Amazon QuickSight User Guide.
• To disable Amazon Connect, you must delete the Amazon Connect Instance. For more information, see Deleting an Amazon Connect Instance in the Amazon Connect Administration Guide.

Note
If you are using AWS Single Sign-On and have previously connected it to the AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory you plan to delete, you must first disconnect the directory from AWS SSO before you can delete it. For more information, see Disconnect a Directory in the AWS SSO User Guide.

3. In the navigation pane, choose Directories.
4. Select only the directory to be deleted and click Delete. It takes several minutes for the directory to be deleted. When the directory has been deleted, it is removed from your directory list.

Rename Your Directory's Site Name

You can rename your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory’s default site name so that it matches with your existing Microsoft Active Directory (AD) site names. This makes it faster for AWS Managed Microsoft AD to find and authenticate your existing AD users in your on-premises directory. The result is a better experience when users login to AWS resources such as Amazon EC2 and Amazon RDS for SQL Server instances that you have joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.

To do that, you must be logged in with the Admin account or with an account that is a member of the AWS Delegated Sites and Services Administrators group. For more information about this group, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

To rename the AWS Managed Microsoft AD site name

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. Locate an Amazon EC2 instance that is joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory. Select the instance and then choose Connect.
3. In the Server Manager window, choose Tools. Then choose Active Directory Sites and Services.
4. In the left pane, expand the Sites folder, right-click the site name (default is Default-Site-Name), and then choose Rename.
5. Type the new site name, and then choose Enter.

Snapshot or Restore Your Directory

AWS Directory Service provides the ability to take manual snapshots of data for a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory. These snapshots can be used to perform a point-in-time restore for your directory.

Note
You cannot take snapshots of AD Connector directories.

Topics
• Creating a Snapshot of Your Directory (p. 71)
• Restoring Your Directory from a Snapshot (p. 71)
Creating a Snapshot of Your Directory

A snapshot can be used to restore your directory to what it was at the point in time that the snapshot was taken. To create a manual snapshot of your directory, perform the following steps.

**Note**
You are limited to 5 manual snapshots for each directory. If you have already reached this limit, you must delete one of your existing manual snapshots before you can create another.

**To create a manual snapshot**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Snapshots** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Create snapshot**.
5. In the **Create directory snapshot** dialog box, provide a name for the snapshot, if desired. When ready, choose **Create**.

Depending on the size of your directory, it may take several minutes to create the snapshot. When the snapshot is ready, the **Status** value changes to **Completed**.

**Restoring Your Directory from a Snapshot**

Restoring a directory from a snapshot is equivalent to moving the directory back in time.

**Warning**
We recommend that you contact the AWS Support Center before any snapshot restore; we may be able to help you avoid the need to do a snapshot restore. Any restore from snapshot can result in data loss as they are a point in time. It is important you understand that all of the DCs and DNS servers associated with the directory will be offline until the restore operation has been completed.

To restore your directory from a snapshot, perform the following steps.

**To restore a directory from a snapshot**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Snapshots** section, select a snapshot in the list, choose **Actions**, and then select **Restore snapshot**.
5. Review the information in the **Restore directory snapshot** dialog box, and choose **Restore**.

For a Simple AD directory, it may take several minutes for the directory to be restored. For an AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, it can take from two to three hours. When it has been successfully restored, the **Status** value of the directory changes to **Active**. Any changes made to the directory after the snapshot date are overwritten.

**Deleting a Snapshot**

**To delete a snapshot**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Snapshots** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Delete snapshot**.
5. Verify that you want to delete the snapshot, and then choose **Delete**.

**View Directory Information**

You can view detailed information about a directory.

**To view detailed directory information**

1. In the **AWS Directory Service console** navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. Click the directory ID link for your directory. Information about the directory is displayed in the **Directory details** page.

For more information about the **Status** field, see **Understanding Your Directory Status** (p. 27).

**Grant Users and Groups Access to AWS Resources**

AWS Directory Service provides the ability to give your directory users and groups access to AWS services and resources, such as access to the Amazon EC2 console. Similar to granting IAM users access to manage directories as described in **Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies)** (p. 179), in order for users in your directory to have access to other AWS resources, such as Amazon EC2 you must assign IAM roles and policies to those users and groups. For more information, see **IAM Roles** in the **IAM User Guide**.

For information about how to grant users access to the AWS Management Console, see **Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials** (p. 83).

**Topics**

- **Editing the Trust Relationship for an Existing Role** (p. 72)
- **Creating a New Role** (p. 73)
- **Assigning Users or Groups to an Existing Role** (p. 73)
- **Viewing Users and Groups Assigned to a Role** (p. 74)
- **Removing a User or Group from a Role** (p. 74)
- **Using AWS Managed Policies with AWS Directory Service** (p. 74)

**Editing the Trust Relationship for an Existing Role**

You can assign your existing IAM roles to your AWS Directory Service users and groups. To do this, however, the role must have a trust relationship with AWS Directory Service. When you use AWS Directory Service to create a role using the procedure in **Creating a New Role** (p. 73), this trust relationship is automatically set. You only need to establish this trust relationship for IAM roles that are not created by AWS Directory Service.

**To establish a trust relationship for an existing role to AWS Directory Service**

1. In the navigation pane of the IAM console, choose **Roles**.
   
   The console displays the roles for your account.
2. Choose the name of the role that you want to modify, and select the **Trust relationships** tab on the details page.
3. Choose **Edit trust relationship**.
4. Under **Policy Document**, paste the following, and then choose **Update Trust Policy**.

```json
{
   "Version": "2012-10-17",
   "Statement": [ 
      { 
         "Sid": "",
         "Effect": "Allow",
         "Principal": { 
            "Service": "ds.amazonaws.com"
         },
         "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
      }
   ]
}
```

**Creating a New Role**

If you need to create a new IAM role for use with AWS Directory Service, you must create it using the IAM console. For more information, see Creating a Role (AWS Management Console) in the **IAM User Guide**. Once the role has been created, you must then set up a trust relationship with that role before you can see that role in the AWS Directory Service console. For more information, see Editing the Trust Relationship for an Existing Role (p. 72).

**Note**
The user performing this task must have permission to perform the following IAM actions. For more information, see Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) (p. 179).

- `iam:PassRole`
- `iam:GetRole`
- `iam:CreateRole`
- `iam:PutRolePolicy`

**Assigning Users or Groups to an Existing Role**

You can assign an existing IAM role to an AWS Directory Service user or group. The role must have a trust relationship with AWS Directory Service. For more information, see Editing the Trust Relationship for an Existing Role (p. 72).

**To assign users or groups to an existing IAM role**

1. In the **AWS Directory Service console** navigation pane, choose **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab.
4. Under the **AWS apps & services** section, choose **AWS Management Console**.
5. In the **Manage access to AWS Resources** dialog box, choose **Continue**.
6. In the **Assign users and groups to IAM roles** page, choose **click here** to create new IAM roles. If you already have an existing IAM role that has a trust relationship defined in the policy document, skip to the next step.
7. Under **Add Users and Groups to Roles**, choose the link for the existing IAM role that you want to assign users to.
8. In the **Role Detail** page, choose **Add**.
9. In the **Add Users and Groups to Role** page, next to **Select Forest**, choose either the AWS Managed Microsoft AD forest (this forest) or the on-premises forest (trusted forest), whichever contains where
the accounts that need access to the AWS Management Console. For more information about how to set up a trusted forest, see Tutorial: Create a Trust Relationship Between Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD and Your On-Premises Domain (p. 53).

10. Next to Search for, choose either User or Group, and then type the name of the user or group. In the list of possible matches, choose the user or group that you want to add.

11. Choose Add to finish assigning the users and groups to the role.

Viewing Users and Groups Assigned to a Role

To view the users and groups assigned to a role, perform the following steps.

To view users and group assigned to a role

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. Under the AWS apps & services section, choose AWS Management Console.
5. In the Manage access to AWS Resources dialog box, choose Continue.
6. Under Add Users and Groups to Roles, choose the role. On the Role Detail page, you can view the users and groups assigned to the role.

Removing a User or Group from a Role

To remove a user or group from a role, perform the following steps.

To remove a user or group from a role

1. View the details for the role to remove as explained in Viewing Users and Groups Assigned to a Role (p. 74).
2. In the Role Detail page, under Assigned Users and Groups, choose the users or groups to remove the role from and choose Remove.
3. In the Remove Role Access dialog box, confirm that you want to remove the role from the selected users and/or groups, and choose Remove. The role is removed from the specified users and groups, but the role is not removed from your account.

Using AWS Managed Policies with AWS Directory Service

AWS Directory Service provides the following AWS managed policies to give your users and groups access to AWS services and resources, such as access to the Amazon EC2 console. You must log in to the AWS Management Console before you can view these policies.

- Read Only Access
- Power User Access
- AWS Directory Service Full Access
- AWS Directory Service Read Only Access
- Amazon Cloud Directory Full Access
- Amazon Cloud Directory Read Only Access
- Amazon EC2 Full Access
- Amazon EC2 Read Only Access
- Amazon VPC Full Access
Enable Access to AWS Applications and Services

AWS Directory Service can give other AWS applications and services, such as Amazon WorkSpaces, access to your directory users. The following AWS applications and services can be enabled or disabled to work with AWS Directory Service:

Amazon WorkSpaces

You can create a Simple AD, AWS Managed Microsoft AD, or AD Connector directly from Amazon WorkSpaces. Simply launch Advanced Setup when creating your Workspace.

For more information, see the Amazon WorkSpaces Administration Guide.

Amazon WorkSpaces Application Manager

For more information, see the Amazon WAM Administration Guide.

Amazon WorkDocs

For more information, see the Amazon WorkDocs Administration Guide.

Amazon WorkMail

For more information, see the Amazon WorkMail Administrator Guide.

Amazon Relational Database Service

For more information, see the Amazon RDS User Guide.

AWS Management Console

For more information, see Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials (p. 83).

Once enabled, you manage access to your directories in the console of the application or service that you want to give access to your directory. To find the AWS applications and services links described above in the AWS Directory Service console, perform the following steps.

To display the applications and services for a directory

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab.
4. Review the list under the **AWS apps & services** section.

**Topics**
- Creating an Access URL (p. 76)
- Single Sign-On (p. 76)

**Creating an Access URL**

An Access URL is used with AWS applications and services, such as Amazon WorkSpaces, to reach a login page that is associated with your directory. The URL must be unique globally. You can create an access URL for your directory by performing the following steps.

**Warning**
After an access URL is created, it cannot be used by others. If you delete your directory, the access URL is also deleted and can then be used by any other account.

**To create an access URL**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab.
4. In the **Application access URL** section, if an access URL has not been assigned to the directory, the **Create** button is displayed. Enter a directory alias and choose **Create**. If an **Entity Already Exists** error is returned, the specified directory alias has already been allocated. Choose another alias and repeat this procedure.

Your directory URL is changed to `<alias>.awsapps.com`.

**Single Sign-On**

AWS Directory Service provides the ability to allow your users to access Amazon WorkDocs from a computer joined to the directory without having to enter their credentials separately.

Before you enable single sign-on, you need to take additional steps to enable your users web browsers to support single sign-on. Users may need to modify their web browser settings to enable single sign-on.

**Note**
Single sign-on only works when used on a computer that is joined to the AWS Directory Service directory. It cannot be used on computers that are not joined to the directory.

**To enable or disable single sign-on with Amazon WorkDocs**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab.
4. In the **Application access URL** section, choose **Enable** to enable single sign-on for Amazon WorkDocs.

If you do not see the **Enable** button, you may need to first create an Access URL before this option will be displayed. For more information about how to create an access URL, see **Creating an Access URL (p. 76)**.
5. In the Enable Single Sign-On for this directory dialog box, choose Enable. Single sign-on is enabled for the directory.

If the directory is an AD Connector directory and the AD Connector service account does not have permission to add a service principal name, you are prompted for the username and password for a directory user that has this permission. These credentials are only used to enable single sign-on and are not stored by the service. The AD Connector service account is not changed.

6. If you later want to disable single sign-on with Amazon WorkDocs, choose Disable, and then in the Disable Single Sign-On for this directory dialog box, choose Disable again.

If the directory is an AD Connector directory and the AD Connector service account does not have permission to remove a service principal name, you are prompted for the username and password for a directory user that has this permission. These credentials are only used to disable single sign-on and are not stored by the service. The AD Connector service account is not changed.

Topics
- Single Sign-On for IE and Chrome (p. 77)
- Single Sign-On for Firefox (p. 82)

Single Sign-On for IE and Chrome

To allow Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) and Google Chrome browsers to support single sign-on, the following tasks must be performed on the client computer:

- Add your access URL (e.g., https://<alias>.awsapps.com) to the list of approved sites for single sign-on.
- Enable active scripting (JavaScript).
- Allow automatic logon.
- Enable integrated authentication.

You or your users can perform these tasks manually, or you can change these settings using Group Policy settings.

Topics
- Manual Update for Single Sign-On on Windows (p. 77)
- Manual Update for Single Sign-On on OS X (p. 79)
- Group Policy Settings for Single Sign-On (p. 79)

Manual Update for Single Sign-On on Windows

To manually enable single sign-on on a Windows computer, perform the following steps on the client computer. Some of these settings may already be set correctly.

To manually enable single sign-on for Internet Explorer and Chrome on Windows

1. To open the Internet Properties dialog box, choose the Start menu, type Internet Options in the search box, and choose Internet Options.
2. Add your access URL to the list of approved sites for single sign-on by performing the following steps:
   a. In the Internet Properties dialog box, select the Security tab.
   b. Select Local intranet and choose Sites.
Enable Access to AWS Applications and Services

3. To enable active scripting, perform the following steps:
   
a. In the Security tab of the Internet Properties dialog box, choose Custom level.
b. In the Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone dialog box, scroll down to Scripting and select Enable under Active scripting.
c. In the Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone dialog box, choose OK.

4. To enable automatic logon, perform the following steps:
   
a. In the Security tab of the Internet Properties dialog box, choose Custom level.
b. In the Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone dialog box, scroll down to User Authentication and select Automatic logon only in Intranet zone under Logon.
c. In the Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone dialog box, choose OK.
d. In the Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone dialog box, choose OK.

5. To enable integrated authentication, perform the following steps:
   a. In the Internet Properties dialog box, select the Advanced tab.
   c. In the Internet Properties dialog box, choose OK.

6. Close and re-open your browser to have these changes take effect.

**Manual Update for Single Sign-On on OS X**

To manually enable single sign-on for Chrome on OS X, perform the following steps on the client computer. You will need administrator rights on your computer to complete these steps.

**To manually enable single sign-on for Chrome on OS X**

1. Add your access URL to the AuthServerWhitelist policy by running the following command:

   ```bash
   defaults write com.google.Chrome AuthServerWhitelist "https://<alias>.awsapps.com"
   ```

2. Open System Preferences, go to the Profiles panel, and delete the Chrome Kerberos Configuration profile.
3. Restart Chrome and open chrome://policy in Chrome to confirm that the new settings are in place.

**Group Policy Settings for Single Sign-On**

The domain administrator can implement Group Policy settings to make the single sign-on changes on client computers that are joined to the domain.

**Note**

If you manage the Chrome web browsers on the computers in your domain with Chrome policies, you must add your access URL to the AuthServerWhitelist policy. For more information about setting Chrome policies, go to Policy Settings in Chrome.
To enable single sign-on for Internet Explorer and Chrome using Group Policy settings

1. Create a new Group Policy object by performing the following steps:
   a. Open the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain and select Group Policy Objects.
   b. From the main menu, choose Action and select New.
   c. In the New GPO dialog box, enter a descriptive name for the Group Policy object, such as SSO Policy, and leave Source Starter GPO set to (none). Click OK.

2. Add the access URL to the list of approved sites for single sign-on by performing the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select Group Policy Objects, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose Edit.
   b. In the policy tree, navigate to User Configuration > Preferences > Windows Settings.
   c. In the Windows Settings list, open the context (right-click) menu for Registry and choose New registry item.
   d. In the New Registry Properties dialog box, enter the following settings and choose OK:

   Action
   Update
   Hive
   HKEY_CURRENT_USER
   Path
   Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\Domains\awsapps.com\<alias>

   The value for <alias> is derived from your access URL. If your access URL is https://examplecorp.awsapps.com, the alias is examplecorp, and the registry key will be Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\Domains\awsapps.com\examplecorp.

   Value name
   https
   Value type
   REG_DWORD
   Value data
   1

3. To enable active scripting, perform the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select Group Policy Objects, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose Edit.
   c. In the Intranet Zone list, open the context (right-click) menu for Allow active scripting and choose Edit.
   d. In the Allow active scripting dialog box, enter the following settings and choose OK:

   • Select the Enabled radio button
   • Under Options set Allow active scripting to Enable.
4. To enable automatic logon, perform the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select Group Policy Objects, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose Edit.
   c. In the Intranet Zone list, open the context (right-click) menu for Logon options and choose Edit.
   d. In the Logon options dialog box, enter the following settings and choose OK:
      - Select the Enabled radio button.
      - Under Options set Logon options to Automatic logon only in Intranet zone.

5. To enable integrated authentication, perform the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select Group Policy Objects, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose Edit.
   b. In the policy tree, navigate to User Configuration > Preferences > Windows Settings.
   c. In the Windows Settings list, open the context (right-click) menu for Registry and choose New registry item.
   d. In the New Registry Properties dialog box, enter the following settings and choose OK:
      Action
         Update
      Hive
         HKEY_CURRENT_USER
      Path
         Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings
      Value name
         EnableNegotiate
      Value type
         REG_DWORD
      Value data
         1

6. Close the Group Policy Management Editor window if it is still open.

7. Assign the new policy to your domain by following these steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tree, open the context (right-click) menu for your domain and choose Link an Existing GPO.
   b. In the Group Policy Objects list, select your SSO policy and choose OK.

These changes will take effect after the next Group Policy update on the client, or the next time the user logs in.
Single Sign-On for Firefox

To allow Mozilla Firefox browser to support single sign-on, add your access URL (e.g., https://<alias>.awsapps.com) to the list of approved sites for single sign-on. This can be done manually, or automated with a script.

Topics

• Manual Update for Single Sign-On (p. 82)
• Automatic Update for Single Sign-On (p. 82)

Manual Update for Single Sign-On

To manually add your access URL to the list of approved sites in Firefox, perform the following steps on the client computer.

To manually add your access URL to the list of approved sites in Firefox

1. Open Firefox and open the about:config page.
2. Open the network.negotiate-auth.trusted-uris preference and add your access URL to the list of sites. Use a comma (,) to separate multiple entries.

Automatic Update for Single Sign-On

As a domain administrator, you can use a script to add your access URL to the Firefox network.negotiate-auth.trusted-uris user preference on all computers on your network. For more information, go to https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/questions/939037.
Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials

AWS Directory Service allows you to grant members of your directory access to the AWS Management Console. By default, your directory members do not have access to any AWS resources. You assign IAM roles to your directory members to give them access to the various AWS services and resources. The IAM role defines the services, resources, and level of access that your directory members have.

Before you can grant console access to your directory members, your directory must have an access URL. For more information about how to view directory details and get your access URL, see View Directory Information (p. 72). For more information about how to create an access URL, see Creating an Access URL (p. 76).

For more information about how to create and assign IAM roles to your directory members, see Grant Users and Groups Access to AWS Resources (p. 72).

Topics

- Enable AWS Management Console Access (p. 83)
- Disable AWS Management Console Access (p. 84)
- Set Login Session Length (p. 84)

Related AWS Security Blog Article

- How to Access the AWS Management Console Using AWS Managed Microsoft AD and Your On-Premises Credentials

Enable AWS Management Console Access

By default, console access is not enabled for any directory. To enable console access for your directory users and groups, perform the following steps:

To enable console access

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. In the AWS apps & services section, choose AWS Management Console.
5. In the Enable AWS Management Console dialog box, choose Enable Access. Console access is now enabled for your directory.
6. Before users can sign-in to the console with your access URL, you must add a New Role and add only those users who you want to have access. For more information about assigning users to IAM roles, see Creating a New Role (p. 73) or Assigning Users or Groups to an Existing Role (p. 73).

After the IAM roles have been assigned, users can then access the console using your access URL. For example, if your directory access URL is example-corp.awsapps.com, the URL to access the console is https://example-corp.awsapps.com/console/.

Note

Access for users in nested groups within your directory are not supported. Members of the parent group have console access, but members of child groups do not.
Disable AWS Management Console Access

To disable console access for your directory users and groups, perform the following steps:

To disable console access

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. Under the AWS apps & services section, choose AWS Management Console.
5. If any IAM roles have been assigned to users or groups in the directory, the Disable Access button in the Manage access to AWS Resources dialog box is unavailable. In this case, you must choose Continue and remove all IAM role assignments for the directory before proceeding, including assignments for users or groups in your directory that have been deleted, which will show as Deleted User or Deleted Group.

After all IAM role assignments have been removed, repeat the steps above. When the Manage access to AWS Resources dialog box is displayed, choose Disable Access.

Set Login Session Length

By default, users have 1 hour to use their session after successfully signing in to the console before they are logged out. After that, users must sign in again to start the next 1 hour session before being logged off again. You can use the following procedure to change the length of time to up to 12 hours per session.

To set login session length

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. Under the AWS apps & services section, choose AWS Management Console.
5. In the Manage Access to AWS Resource dialog box, choose Continue.
6. In the Assign users and groups to IAM roles page, under Set login session length, edit the numbered value, and then choose Save.

Deploy Additional Domain Controllers

Deploying additional domain controllers increases the redundancy, which results in even greater resilience and higher availability. This also improves the performance of your directory by supporting a greater number of Active Directory requests. For example, you can now use AWS Managed Microsoft AD to support multiple .NET applications that are deployed on large fleets of Amazon EC2 and Amazon RDS for SQL Server instances.

When you first create your directory, AWS Managed Microsoft AD deploys two domain controllers across multiple Availability Zones, which is required for highly availability purposes. Later, you can easily deploy additional domain controllers via the AWS Directory Service console by just specifying the total number of domain controllers that you want. AWS Managed Microsoft AD distributes the additional domain controllers to the Availability Zones and VPC subnets on which your directory is running.

For example, in the below illustration, DC-1 and DC-2 represent the two domain controllers that were originally created with your directory. The AWS Directory Service console refers to these default domain controllers as Required. AWS Managed Microsoft AD intentionally locates each of these domain controllers in separate Availability Zones during the directory creation process. Later, you
might decide to add two more domain controllers to help distribute the authentication load over peak login times. Both DC-3 and DC-4 represent the new domain controllers, which the console now refers to as Additional. As before, AWS Managed Microsoft AD again automatically places the new domain controllers in different Availability Zones to ensure your domain's high availability.

This process eliminates the need for you to manually configure directory data replication, automated daily snapshots, or monitoring for the additional domain controllers. It's also easier for you to migrate and run mission critical Active Directory–integrated workloads in the AWS Cloud without having to deploy and maintain your own Active Directory infrastructure. You can also deploy or remove additional domain controllers for AWS Managed Microsoft AD using the UpdateNumberOfDomainControllers API.

**Add or Remove Additional Domain Controllers**

Use the following procedure to deploy or remove additional domain controllers in your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.

**Note**

If you have configured your AWS Managed Microsoft AD to enable LDAPS, any additional domain controllers you add will also have LDAPS enabled automatically. For more information, see Enable Secure LDAP Communications for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 23).

**To add or remove additional domain controllers**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Scale** tab.
4. In the **Domain controllers** section, choose **Edit**.
5. Specify the number of domain controllers to add or remove from your directory, and then choose **Modify**.
6. When AWS Managed Microsoft AD completes the deployment process, all domain controllers show **Active** status, and both the assigned Availability Zone and VPC subnets appear. New domain controllers are equally distributed across the Availability Zones and subnets where your directory is already deployed.

**Note**
After deploying additional domain controllers, you can reduce the number of domain controllers to two, which is the minimum required for fault-tolerance and high availability purposes.

**Related AWS Security Blog Article**
- How to Increase the Redundancy and Performance of Your AWS Directory Service for AWS Managed Microsoft AD by Adding Domain Controllers

## Best Practices for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

Here are some suggestions and guidelines you should consider to avoid problems and get the most out of AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

### Setting Up: Prerequisites

Consider these guidelines before creating your directory.

#### Verify You Have the Right Directory Type

AWS Directory Service provides multiple ways to use Microsoft Active Directory with other AWS services. You can choose the directory service with the features you need at a cost that fits your budget:

- **AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory** is a feature-rich managed Microsoft Active Directory hosted on the AWS cloud. AWS Managed Microsoft AD is your best choice if you have more than 5,000 users and need a trust relationship set up between an AWS hosted directory and your on-premises directories.

- **AD Connector** simply connects your existing on-premises Active Directory to AWS. AD Connector is your best choice when you want to use your existing on-premises directory with AWS services.

- **Simple AD** is an inexpensive Active Directory-compatible service with the common directory features. In most cases, Simple AD is the least expensive option and your best choice if you have 5,000 or fewer users and don’t need the more advanced Microsoft Active Directory features.

For a more detailed comparison of AWS Directory Service options, see **Which to Choose** (p. 1).

#### Ensure Your VPCs and Instances are Configured Correctly

In order to connect to, manage, and use your directories, you must properly configure the VPCs that the directories are associated with. See either **AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites** (p. 8), **AD Connector Prerequisites** (p. 110), or **Simple AD Prerequisites** (p. 134) for information about the VPC security and networking requirements.

If you are adding an instance to your domain, ensure that you have connectivity and remote access to your instance as described in **Join an EC2 Instance to Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory** (p. 30).
Be Aware of Your Limits

Learn about the various limits for your specific directory type. The available storage and the aggregate size of your objects are the only limitations on the number of objects you may store in your directory. See either Limits for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 90), Limits for AD Connector (p. 130), or Limits for Simple AD (p. 170) for details about your chosen directory.

Understand Your Directory's AWS Security Group Configuration and Use

AWS creates a security group and attaches it to your directory's domain controller elastic network interfaces. This security group blocks unnecessary traffic to the domain controller and allows traffic that is necessary for Active Directory communications. AWS configures the security group to open only the ports that are required for Active Directory communications. In the default configuration, the security group accepts traffic to these ports from any IP address. AWS attaches the security group to your domain controllers’ interfaces that are accessible from within your peered or resized VPCs. These interfaces are inaccessible from the internet even if you modify routing tables, change the network connections to your VPC, and configure the NAT Gateway service. As such, only instances and computers that have a network path into the VPC can access the directory. This simplifies setup by eliminating the requirement for you to configure specific address ranges. Instead, you configure routes and security groups into the VPC that permit traffic only from trusted instances and computers.

Modifying the Directory Security Group

If you want to increase the security of your directories’ security groups, you can modify them to accept traffic from a more restrictive list of IP addresses. For example, you could change the accepted addresses from 0.0.0.0/0 to a CIDR range that is specific to a single subnet or computer. Similarly, you might choose to restrict the destination addresses to which your domain controllers can communicate. Make such changes only if you fully understand how security group filtering works. For more information, see Amazon EC2 Security Groups for Linux Instances in the Amazon EC2 User Guide. Improper changes can result in loss of communications to intended computers and instances. AWS recommends that you do not attempt to open additional ports to the domain controller as this decreases the security of your directory. Please carefully review the AWS Shared Responsibility Model.

Warning

It is technically possible for you to associate the security groups, which your directory uses, with other EC2 instances that you create. However, AWS recommends against this practice. AWS may have reasons to modify the security group without notice to address functional or security needs of the managed directory. Such changes affect any instances with which you associate the directory security group. Furthermore, associating the directory security group with your EC2 instances creates a potential security risk for your EC2 instances. The directory security group accepts traffic on required Active Directory ports from any IP address. If you associate this Security Group with an EC2 instance that has a public IP address attached to the internet, then any computer on the internet can communicate with your EC2 instance on the opened ports.

Setting Up: Creating Your Directory

Here are some suggestions to consider as you create your directory.

Remember Your Administrator ID and Password

When you set up your directory, you provide a password for the administrator account. That account ID is Admin for AWS Managed Microsoft AD. Remember the password that you create for this account; otherwise you will not be able to add objects to your directory.
Create a DHCP Options Set

We recommend that you create a DHCP options set for your AWS Directory Service directory and assign the DHCP options set to the VPC that your directory is in. That way any instances in that VPC can point to the specified domain, and DNS servers can resolve their domain names.

For more information about DHCP options sets, see Create a DHCP Options Set (p. 42).

Understand Username Restrictions for AWS Applications

AWS Directory Service provides support for most character formats that can be used in the construction of usernames. However, there are character restrictions that are enforced on usernames that will be used for signing in to AWS applications, such as Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, Amazon WorkMail, or Amazon QuickSight. These restrictions require that the following characters not be used:

- Spaces
- !"#$%&'()*+,/:;<=>?@[\]^`{|}~

**Note**
The @ symbol is allowed as long as it precedes a UPN suffix.

Using Your Directory

Here are some suggestions to keep in mind when using your directory.

Do Not Alter Predefined Users, Groups and Organization Units

When you use AWS Directory Service to launch a directory, AWS creates an organizational unit (OU) that contains all your directory’s objects. This OU, which has the NetBIOS name that you typed when you created your directory, is located in the domain root. The domain root is owned and managed by AWS. Several groups and an administrative user are also created.

Do not move, delete or in any other way alter these predefined objects. Doing so can make your directory inaccessible by both yourself and AWS. For more information, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

Automatically Join Domains

When launching a Windows instance that is to be part of an AWS Directory Service domain, it is often easiest to join the domain as part of the instance creation process rather than manually adding the instance later. To automatically join a domain, simply select the correct directory for **Domain join directory** when launching a new instance. You can find details in Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 31).

Set Up Trusts Correctly

When setting up trust relationship between your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory and another directory, keep in mind these guidelines:

- Both trusts must be forest trusts.
- Both fully qualified domain names (FQDNs) must be unique.
- If adding a NetBIOS name, that should also be unique.

For more details and specific instructions on setting up a trust relationship, see When to Create a Trust Relationship (p. 46).
Managing Your Directory

Consider these suggestions for managing your directory.

Carefully Plan For Schema Extensions

Thoughtfully apply schema extensions to index your directory for important and frequent queries. Use care to not over-index the directory as indexes consume directory space and rapidly changing indexed values can result in performance problems. To add indexes, you must create a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) Directory Interchange Format (LDIF) file and extend your schema change. For more information, see Extend Your Schema (p. 63).

About Load Balancers

Do not use a load balancer in front of the AWS Managed Microsoft AD end-points. Microsoft designed Active Directory (AD) for use with a domain controller (DC) discovery algorithm that finds the most responsive operational DC without external load balancing. External network load balancers inaccurately detect active DCs and can result in your application being sent to a DC that is coming up but not ready for use. For more information, see Load balancers and Active Directory on Microsoft TechNet which recommends fixing applications to use AD correctly rather than implementing external load balancers.

Make a Backup of Your Instance

If you decide to manually add an instance to an existing AWS Directory Service domain, make a backup or take a snapshot of that instance first. This is particularly important when joining a Linux instance. Some of the procedures used to add an instance, if not performed correctly, can render your instance unreachable or unusable. For more information, see Snapshot or Restore Your Directory (p. 70).

Set Up SNS Messaging

With Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS), you can receive email or text (SMS) messages when the status of your directory changes. You will be notified if your directory goes from an Active status to an Impaired or Inoperable status. You also receive a notification when the directory returns to an Active status.

Also remember that if you have an SNS topic that receives messages from AWS Directory Service, before deleting that topic from the Amazon SNS console, you should associate your directory with a different SNS topic. Otherwise you risk missing important directory status messages. For information about how to set up Amazon SNS, see Configure Directory Status Notifications (p. 28).

Remove Amazon Enterprise Applications Before Deleting a Directory

Before deleting a directory that is associated with one or more Amazon Enterprise Applications such as, Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkSpaces Application Manager, Amazon WorkDocs, Amazon WorkMail, AWS Management Console, or Amazon Relational Database Service (Amazon RDS), you must first remove each application. For more information how to remove these applications, see Delete Your Directory (p. 69).

Programming Your Applications

Before you program your applications, consider the following:
Use the Windows DC Locator Service

When developing applications, use the Windows DC locator service or use the Dynamic DNS (DDNS) service of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD to locate domain controllers (DCs). Do not hard code applications with the address of a DC. The DC locator service helps ensure directory load is distributed and enables you to take advantage of horizontal scaling by adding domain controllers to your deployment. If you bind your application to a fixed DC and the DC undergoes patching or recovery, your application will lose access to the DC instead of using one of the remaining DCs. Furthermore, hard coding of the DC can result in hot spotting on a single DC. In severe cases, hot spotting may cause your DC to become unresponsive. Such cases may also cause AWS directory automation to flag the directory as impaired and may trigger recovery processes that replace the unresponsive DC.

Load Test Before Rolling Out to Production

Be sure to do lab testing with objects and requests that are representative of your production workload to confirm that the directory scales to the load of your application. Should you require additional capacity, test with additional DCs while distributing requests between the DCs. For more information, see Deploy Additional Domain Controllers (p. 84).

Use Efficient LDAP Queries

Broad LDAP queries to a domain controller across tens of thousands of objects can consume significant CPU cycles in a single DC, resulting in hot spotting. This may affect applications that share the same DC during the query.

Limits for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

The following are the default limits for AWS Managed Microsoft AD. Each limit is per region unless otherwise noted.

### AWS Managed Microsoft AD Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Default Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWS Managed Microsoft AD directories</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual snapshots *</td>
<td>5 per AWS Managed Microsoft AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum number of domain controllers per directory</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The manual snapshot limit cannot be changed.

For information regarding application design and load distribution, see Programming Your Applications (p. 89).

For storage and object limits, see the Comparison Table on the AWS Directory Service Pricing page.

Increase Your Limit

Perform the following steps to increase your limit for a region.

**To request a limit increase for a region**

1. Go to the AWS Support Center page, sign in, if necessary, and click Open a new case.
2. Under Regarding, select Service Limit Increase.
3. Under **Limit Type**, select **AWS Directory Service**.
4. Fill in all of the necessary fields in the form and click the button at the bottom of the page for your desired method of contact.

## Application Compatibility Policy for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory (AWS Managed Microsoft AD) is compatible with multiple AWS services and third-party applications.

The following is a list of compatible AWS applications and services:

- Amazon Chime - For detailed instructions, see [Connect to Your Active Directory](#).
- Amazon Connect - For more information, see [How Amazon Connect Works](#).
- Amazon EC2 – For more information, see [Join an EC2 Instance to Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory](#).
- AWS Management Console – For more information, see [Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials](#).
- Amazon QuickSight - For more information, see [Managing User Accounts in Amazon QuickSight Enterprise Edition](#).
- Amazon RDS for SQL Server - For more information, see [Using Windows Authentication with a Microsoft SQL Server DB Instance](#).
- AWS Single Sign-On - For detailed instructions, see [Connect AWS SSO to an On-Premises Active Directory](#).
- Amazon WorkDocs - For detailed instructions, see [Connecting to Your On-Premises Directory with AWS Managed Microsoft AD](#).
- Amazon WorkMail - For detailed instructions, see [Integrate Amazon WorkMail with an Existing Directory (Standard Setup)](#).
- Amazon WorkSpaces - For detailed instructions, see [Launch a WorkSpace Using AWS Managed Microsoft AD](#).

Due to the magnitude of custom and commercial off-the-shelf applications that use Active Directory, AWS does not and cannot perform formal or broad verification of third-party application compatibility with AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory (AWS Managed Microsoft AD). Although AWS works with customers in an attempt to overcome any potential application installation challenges they might encounter, we are unable to guarantee that any application is or will continue to be compatible with AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

The following third-party applications are compatible with AWS Managed Microsoft AD:

- Active Directory Federation Services (AD FS)
- Application Server (.NET)
- Azure Active Directory (AD) Connect
- Enterprise Certificate Authority
- Remote Desktop Licensing Manager
- SharePoint Server
- SQL Server (includes Always On Availability Groups)

Note that not all configurations of these applications may be supported.
Compatibility Guidelines

Although applications may have configurations that are incompatible, application deployment configurations can often overcome incompatibility. The following describes the most common reasons for application incompatibility. Customers can use this information to investigate compatibility characteristics of a desired application and identify potential deployment changes.

- **Domain administrator or other privileged permissions** – Some applications state that you must install them as the domain administrator. Because AWS must retain exclusive control of this permission level in order to deliver Active Directory as a managed service, you cannot act as the domain administrator to install such applications. However, you can often install such applications by delegating specific, less privileged, and AWS supported permissions to the person who performs the installation. For more details on the precise permissions that your application requires, ask your application provider. For more information about permissions that AWS allows you to delegate, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

- **Access to privileged Active Directory containers** – Within your directory, AWS Managed Microsoft AD provides an Organizational Unit (OU) over which you have full administrative control. You do not have create or write permissions and may have limited read permissions to containers that are higher in the Active Directory tree than your OU. Applications that create or access containers for which you have no permissions might not work. However, such applications often have an ability to use a container that you create in your OU as an alternative. Check with your application provider to find ways to create and use a container in your OU as an alternative. For more information on managing your OU, see How To Administer AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 18).

- **Schema changes during the install workflow** – Some Active Directory applications require changes to the default Active Directory schema, and they may attempt to install those changes as part of the application installation workflow. Due to the privileged nature of schema extensions, AWS makes this possible by importing Lightweight Directory Interchange Format (LDIF) files through the AWS Directory Service console, CLI, or SDK only. Such applications often come with an LDIF file that you can apply to the directory through the AWS Directory Service schema update process. For more information about how the LDIF import process works, see Tutorial: Extending Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Schema (p. 64). You can install the application in a way to bypass the schema installation during the installation process.

Known Incompatible Applications

The following lists commonly requested commercial off-the-shelf applications for which we have not found a configuration that works with AWS Managed Microsoft AD. AWS updates this list from time to time at its sole discretion as a courtesy to help you avoid unproductive efforts. AWS provide this information without warranty or claims regarding current or future compatibility.

- Microsoft Exchange

AWS Managed Microsoft AD Test Lab Tutorials

This section provides a series of guided tutorials to help you establish a test lab environment in AWS where you can experiment with AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

Topics

- Tutorial: Setting Up Your Base AWS Managed Microsoft AD Test Lab in AWS (p. 93)
- Tutorial: Creating a Trust from AWS Managed Microsoft AD to a Self-Managed Active Directory Installation on Amazon EC2 (p. 101)
Tutorial: Setting Up Your Base AWS Managed Microsoft AD Test Lab in AWS

This tutorial teaches you how to set up your AWS environment to prepare for a new AWS Managed Microsoft AD installation that uses a new EC2 instance running Windows Server 2016. It then teaches you to use typical Active Directory administration tools to manage your AWS Managed Microsoft AD environment from your Windows system. By the time you complete the tutorial, you will have set up the network prerequisites and have configured a new AWS Managed Microsoft AD forest.

As shown in the following illustration, the lab you create from this tutorial is the foundational component for hands-on learning about AWS Managed Microsoft AD. You can later add optional tutorials for more hands-on experience. This tutorial series is ideal for anyone who is new to AWS Managed Microsoft AD and wants a test lab for evaluation purposes. This tutorial takes approximately 1 hour to complete.

Step 1: Set Up Your AWS Environment for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 94)

After you've completed your prerequisite tasks, you create and configure a VPC in your EC2 instance.

Step 2: Create Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory in AWS (p. 96)

In this step, you set up AWS Managed Microsoft AD in AWS for the first time.

Step 3: Deploy an EC2 Instance to Manage AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 97)

Here, you walk through the various post-deployment tasks necessary for client computers to connect to your new domain and set up a new Windows Server system in EC2.
Step 4: Verify That the Base Test Lab Is Operational (p. 100)

Finally, as an administrator, you verify that you can log in and connect to AWS Managed Microsoft AD from your Windows Server system in EC2. Once you've successfully tested that the lab is operational, you can continue to add other test lab guide modules.

Prerequisites

If you plan to use only the UI steps in this tutorial to create your test lab, you can skip this prerequisites section and move on to Step 1. However, if you plan to use either AWS CLI commands or AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell modules to create your test lab environment, you must first configure the following:

- **IAM user with the access and secret access key** – An IAM user with an access key is required if you want to use the AWS CLI or AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell modules. If you do not have an access key, see Creating, Modifying, and Viewing Access Keys (AWS Management Console).

- **AWS Command Line Interface (optional)** – Download and install the latest version of the AWS CLI for Windows in either 32 Bit or 64 bit. Once installed, open the command prompt or Windows PowerShell window, and then type `aws configure`. Note that you need the access key and secret key to complete the setup. See the first prerequisite for steps on how to do this. You will be prompted for the following:
  - AWS access key ID [None]: AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE
  - AWS secret access key [None]: wJalrXUtnFEMI/K7MDENG/bPxRfiCYEXAMPLEKEY
  - Default region name [None]: us-west-2
  - Default output format [None]: json

- **AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell (optional)** – Download and install the latest version of the AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell from https://aws.amazon.com/powershell/, and then run the following command. Note that you need your access key and secret key to complete the setup. See the first prerequisite for the steps on how to do this.

  ```powershell
  Set-AWSCredentials -AccessKey {AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE} -SecretKey {wJalrXUtnFEMI/K7MDENG/bPxRfiCYEXAMPLEKEY} -StoreAs {default}
  ```

Step 1: Set Up Your AWS Environment for AWS Managed Microsoft AD

Before you can create AWS Managed Microsoft AD in your AWS test lab, you first need to set up your Amazon EC2 key pair so that all login data is encrypted.

Create a Key Pair

If you already have a key pair, you can skip this step. For more information about Amazon EC2 key pairs, see http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/ec2-key-pairs.html.

To create a key pair

1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under **Network & Security**, choose **Key Pairs**, and then choose **Create Key Pair**.
3. For **Key pair name**, type `AWS-DS-KP`, and then choose **Create**.
4. The private key file is automatically downloaded by your browser. The file name is the name you specified when you created your key pair with an extension of .pem. Save the private key file in a safe place.

**Important**
This is the only chance for you to save the private key file. You need to provide the name of your key pair when you launch an instance and the corresponding private key each time you decrypt the password for the instance.

### Create a VPC

In this procedure you use a AWS CloudFormation template to create your VPC network. For more information about how this template works, see Amazon VPC QuickStart guide. For this tutorial, we will set up a public VPC. However you can make your VPC a private VPC as long as you create a network path to your VPC with Amazon Direct Connect, or with a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection.

If you would like to use the default VPC (172.31.0.0/16), you can advance to the next section. All of the AWS CLI and PowerShell examples use custom VPC information. For more information, see Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC).

**To create a VPC**

1. Launch the AWS CloudFormation template into your AWS account. Click here while signed on to your account.

   The template is launched in the US West (Oregon) Region by default. To change the region, use the region selector in the navigation bar. This stack takes approximately five minutes to create.

2. On the Select Template page, keep the default setting for the Amazon S3 template URL and then choose Next.

3. On the Specify Details page, set the stack name to **AWS-DS-VPC**. Then do the following:

   • Under Availability Zone Configuration select two zones in your area. Then for Number of Availability Zones select 2.
   • Under Network Configuration, set Create private subnets to false. Then in Create additional private subnets with dedicated network ACLs, select false.
   • Under Amazon EC2 Configuration, set Key pair name to **AWS-DS-KP** or use an existing key pair.

4. Review your information, and then choose Next.

5. On the Options page, choose Next.


### Create a Security Group for EC2 Instances

By default, AWS Managed Microsoft AD creates a security group to manage traffic between its domain controllers. In this procedure, you create a security group that manages traffic within your VPC for your EC2 instances. You also add a rule that allows RDP (3389) inbound from anywhere and for all traffic types inbound from the local VPC. For more information, see Amazon EC2 Security Groups for Windows Instances.

**To create a security group for EC2 instances**

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.

2. Under **Security**, choose **Security Groups**.

3. Choose **Create Security Group**.

4. In the **Create Security Group** dialog box provide the following values:
AWS Directory Service Administration Guide  
Tutorial: Set Up Your Base AWS Managed Microsoft AD Test Lab

• For Name tag, type AWS DS RDP Security Group.
• For Group name, type AWS DS RDP Security Group.
• For Description, type AWS DS RDP Security Group.
• For VPC, select the VPC that ends with AWS-DS-VPC.

5. Choose Yes, Create.
7. Choose Inbound Rules below the list of security groups.
8. Choose Edit, and then choose Add another rule.
9. In the table, add the following values:
   • For Type, choose RDP (3389).
   • For Protocol, verify that TCP (6) is displayed.
   • For Port Range, verify that 3389 is displayed.
   • For Source, specify a single IP address, or an IP address range in CIDR notation (for example, 203.0.113.5/32). You can also specify the name or ID of another security group in the same region. This setting determines the traffic that can reach your EC2 instances. For more information, see Understand Your Directory's AWS Security Group Configuration and Use (p. 87).
10. Choose Add another rule, and then provide the following values:
   • For Type, choose All Traffic.
   • For Protocol, verify that All is displayed.
   • For Port Range, verify that All is displayed.
   • For Source, type 10.0.0.0/16.
11. Choose Save.

Step 2: Create Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory in AWS

You can use three different methods to create your directory. You can use the AWS Management Console procedure (recommended for this tutorial) or you can use either the AWS CLI or AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell procedures to create your directory.

Method 1: To create your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory (AWS Management Console)

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories and then choose Set up directory.
2. On the Select directory type page, choose AWS Managed Microsoft AD, and then choose Next.
3. On the Enter directory information page, provide the following information, and then choose Next.
   • For Directory DNS name, type corp.example.com.
   • For Directory NetBIOS name, type corp.
   • For Directory description, type AWS DS Managed.
   • For Admin password, type the password you want to use for this account and type the password again in Confirm password. This Admin account is automatically created during the directory creation process. The password cannot include the word admin. The directory administrator password is case sensitive and must be between 8 and 64 characters in length, inclusive. It must also contain at least one character from three of the following four categories:
4. On the **Choose VPC and subnets** page, provide the following information, and then choose **Next**.
   - For **VPC**, choose the option that begins with **AWS-DS-VPC** and ends with **(10.0.0.0/16)**.
   - For **Subnets**, choose the **10.0.128.0/20** and **10.0.144.0/20** public subnets.
5. On the **Review & create** page, review the directory information and make any necessary changes. When the information is correct, choose **Create directory**. Creating the directory takes 20 to 40 minutes. Once created, the **Status** value changes to **Active**.

**Method 2: To create your AWS Managed Microsoft AD (Windows PowerShell) (Optional)**

1. Open Windows PowerShell.
2. Type the following command. Make sure to use the values provided in Step 4 of the preceding AWS Management Console procedure.

   ```
   New-DSMicrosoftAD -Name corp.example.com –ShortName corp –Password P@ssw0rd –Description "AWS DS Managed" - VpcSettings_VpcId vpc-xxxxxxxx - VpcSettings_SubnetId subnet-xxxxxxxx, subnet-xxxxxxxx
   ```

**Method 3: To create your AWS Managed Microsoft AD (AWS CLI) (Optional)**

1. Open the AWS CLI.
2. Type the following command. Make sure to use the values provided in Step 4 of the preceding AWS Management Console procedure.

   ```
   aws ds create-microsoft-ad --name corp.example.com --short-name corp --password P@ssw0rd --description "AWS DS Managed" --vpc-settings VpcId= vpc-xxxxxxxx,SubnetIds= subnet-xxxxxxxx, subnet-xxxxxxxx
   ```

**Step 3: Deploy an EC2 Instance to Manage AWS Managed Microsoft AD**

For this lab, we are using EC2 instances that have public IP addresses to make it easy to access the management instance from anywhere. In a production setting, you can use instances that are in a private VPC that are only accessible through a VPN or Amazon Direct Connect link. There is no requirement the instance have a public IP address.

In this section, you walk through the various post-deployment tasks necessary for client computers to connect to your domain using the Windows Server on your new EC2 instance. You use the Windows Server in the next step to verify that the lab is operational.

**Create a DHCP Options Set for Your Directory**

In this procedure, you set up a DHCP option scope so that EC2 instances in your VPC automatically use your AWS Managed Microsoft AD for DNS resolution. For more information, see **DHCP Options Sets**.

**To create a DHCP options set for your directory**

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at [https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/].
2. Choose **DHCP Options Sets** in the navigation pane. Then choose **Create DHCP options set**.
3. In the **Create DHCP options set** dialog box, provide the following values for your directory:

   - For **Name tag**, type **AWS DS DHCP**.
   - For **Domain name**, type **corp.example.com**.
   - For **Domain name servers**, type the IP addresses of your AWS provided directory’s DNS servers. To find these addresses, go to the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose **Directories**, choose the applicable directory ID, and on the **Details** page use the IPs that are displayed in **DNS address**.
   - Leave the settings blank for **NTP servers**, **NetBIOS name servers**, and **NetBIOS node type**.

4. Choose **Yes, Create**. The new set of DHCP options appear in your list of DHCP options.

5. Make a note of the ID of the new set of DHCP options (**dopt-xxxxxxxx**). You need it at the end of this procedure when you associate the new options set with your VPC.

6. Choose **Your VPCs** in the navigation pane.

7. Select **AWS DS VPC**, choose **Actions**, and then choose **Edit DHCP Options Set**.

8. In the **Edit DHCP Options Set** dialog box, select the options set that you recorded in Step 5. Then choose **Save**.

---

**Create a Role to Join Windows Instances to Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Domain**

Use this procedure to configure a role that joins an EC2 Windows instance to a domain. For more information, see [Joining a Windows Instance to an AWS Directory Service Domain](#).

**To configure EC2 to join Windows instances to your domain**

2. In the navigation pane of the IAM console, choose **Roles**, and then choose **Create role**.
3. Under **AWS service**, select the **EC2** link, and then click **Next**.
4. Under **Select your use case**, select **EC2**, and then select **Next**.
5. In the list of polices, select the **AmazonEC2RoleforSSM** policy, and then select **Next**.
6. In **Role name**, type a name for the role that describes that it is used for domain join. In this case use **EC2DomainJoin**, and then select the **Create role** button.

---

**Create an EC2 Instance and Automatically Join the Directory**

In this procedure you set up a Windows Server system in Amazon EC2 that can be used later to administer users, groups, and policies in Active Directory.

**To create an EC2 instance and automatically join the directory**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at [https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/](https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/).
2. Choose **Launch Instance**.
3. On the **Step 1** page, next to **Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base** - ami-xxxxxxx choose **Select**.
4. On the **Step 2** page, select **t2.micro** (note, you can choose a larger instance type), and then choose **Next: Configure Instance Details**.
5. On the **Step 3** page, do the following:
   - For **Network**, choose the VPC that ends with **AWS-DS-VPC** (for example, vpc-xxxxxxxx | AWS-DS-VPC).
   - For **Subnet** choose **Public subnet 1**, which should be preconfigured for your preferred Availability Zone (for example, subnet-xxxxxxx | Public subnet1 | us-west-2a).
   - For **Auto-assign Public IP**, choose **Enable** (if the subnet setting is not set to enable by default).
• For **Domain join directory**, choose *corp.example.com (d-xxxxxxxxxx)*.
• For **IAM role** choose *EC2DomainJoin*.
• Leave the rest of the settings at their defaults.
• Choose **Next: Add Storage**.

6. On the **Step 4** page, leave the default settings, and then choose **Next: Add Tags**.

7. On the **Step 5** page, choose **Add Tag**. Under **Key** type *corp.example.com-mgmt* and then choose **Next: Configure Security Group**.

8. On the **Step 6** page, choose **Select an existing security group**, select *AWS DS RDP Security Group*, and then choose **Review and Launch** to review your instance.

9. On the **Step 7** page, review the page, and then choose **Launch**.

10. On the **Select an existing key pair or create a new key pair** dialog box, do the following:

• Choose **Choose an existing key pair**.

• Under **Select a key pair**, choose *AWS-DS-KP*.
• Select the I acknowledge... check box.
• Choose **Launch Instances**.

11. Choose **View Instances** to return to the Amazon EC2 console and view the status of the deployment.

### Install the Active Directory Tools on Your EC2 Instance

You can choose from two methods to install the Active Directory Domain Management Tools on your EC2 instance. You can use the Server Manager UI (recommended for this tutorial) or Windows PowerShell.

**To install the Active Directory Tools on your EC2 instance (Server Manager)**

1. In the Amazon EC2 Console, choose **Instances**, select the instance you just created, and then choose **Connect**.
2. In the **Connect To Your Instance** dialog box, choose **Download Remote Desktop File**.
3. In the **Windows Security** dialog box, type your local administrator credentials for the Windows Server computer to log in (for example, *administrator*).
4. From the **Start** menu, choose **Server Manager**.
5. In the **Dashboard**, choose **Add Roles and Features**.
6. In the **Add Roles and Features Wizard**, choose **Next**.
7. On the **Select installation type** page, choose **Role-based or feature-based installation**, and then choose **Next**.
8. On the **Select destination server** page, make sure that the local server is selected, and then choose **Next**.
9. On the **Select server roles** page, choose **Next**.
10. On the **Select features** page, do the following:

• Select the **Group Policy Management** check box.
• Expand **Remote Server Administration Tools**, and then expand **Role Administration Tools**.
• Select the **AD DS and AD LDS Tools** check box.
• Select the **DNS Server Tools** check box.
• Choose **Next**.

11. On the **Confirm installation selections** page, review the information, and then choose **Install**. When the feature installation is finished, the following new tools or snap-ins will be available in the Windows Administrative Tools folder in the Start menu.
To install the Active Directory Tools on your EC2 instance (Windows PowerShell) (Optional)

2. Type the following command.

   Install-WindowsFeature -Name GPMC,RSAT-AD-PowerShell,RSAT-AD-AdminCenter,RSAT-ADDS-Tools,RSAT-DNS-Server

Step 4: Verify That the Base Test Lab Is Operational

Use the following procedure to verify that the test lab has been set up successfully before adding on additional test lab guide modules. This procedure verifies that your Windows Server is configured appropriately, can connect to the corp.example.com domain, and be used to administer your AWS Managed Microsoft AD forest.

To verify that the test lab is operational

1. Sign out of the EC2 instance where you were logged in as the local administrator.
2. Back in the Amazon EC2 console, choose Instances in the navigation pane. Then select the instance that you created. Choose Connect.
3. In the Connect To Your Instance dialog box, choose Download Remote Desktop File.
4. In the Windows Security dialog box, type your administrator credentials for the CORP domain to log in (for example, corp\admin).
5. Once you are logged in, in the Start menu, under Windows Administrative Tools, choose Active Directory Users and Computers.
6. You should see corp.example.com displayed with all the default OUs and accounts associated with a new domain. Under Domain Controllers, notice the names of the domain controllers that were automatically created when you created your AWS Managed Microsoft AD back in Step 2 of this tutorial.

Congratulations! Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD base test lab environment has now been configured. You are ready to begin adding the next test lab in the series.

Next tutorial: Tutorial: Creating a Trust from AWS Managed Microsoft AD to a Self-Managed Active Directory Installation on Amazon EC2 (p. 101)
Tutorial: Creating a Trust from AWS Managed Microsoft AD to a Self-Managed Active Directory Installation on Amazon EC2

In this tutorial, you learn how to create a trust between the AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory forest that you created in the Base tutorial (p. 93). You also learn to create a new native Active Directory forest on a Windows Server in Amazon EC2. As shown in the following illustration, the lab that you create from this tutorial is the second building block necessary when setting up a complete AWS Managed Microsoft AD test lab. You can use the test lab to test your pure cloud or hybrid cloud–based AWS solutions.

You should only need to create this tutorial once. After that you can add optional tutorials when necessary for more experience.

**Step 1: Set Up Your Environment for Trusts (p. 102)**

Before you can establish trusts between a new Active Directory forest and the AWS Managed Microsoft AD forest that you created in the Base tutorial (p. 93), you need to prepare your Amazon EC2 environment. To do that, you first create a Windows Server 2016 server, promote that server to a domain controller, and then configure your VPC accordingly.

**Step 2: Create the Trusts (p. 105)**

In this step, you create a two-way forest trust relationship between your newly created Active Directory forest hosted in Amazon EC2 and your AWS Managed Microsoft AD forest in AWS.

**Step 3: Verify the Trust (p. 106)**

Finally, as an administrator, you use the AWS Directory Service console to verify that the new trusts are operational.
Step 1: Set Up Your Environment for Trusts

In this section, you set up your Amazon EC2 environment, deploy your new forest, and prepare your VPC for trusts with AWS.

Create a Windows Server 2016 EC2 Instance

Use the following procedure to create a Windows Server 2016 member server in Amazon EC2.

To create a Windows Server 2016 EC2 instance

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the Amazon EC2 console, choose Launch Instance.
3. On the Step 1 page, locate Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Base - ami-xxxxxxxx in the list. Then choose Select.
4. On the Step 2 page, select t2.large, and then choose Next: Configure Instance Details.
5. On the Step 3 page, do the following:
   - For Network, select vpc-xxxxxxxx AWS-DS-VPC (which you previously set up in the Base tutorial (p. 95)).
   - For Subnet, select subnet-xxxxxxxx | Public subnet2 | (YourAZ).
   - For Auto-assign Public IP list, choose Enable (if the subnet setting is not set to Enable by default).
   - Leave the rest of the settings at their defaults.
   - Choose Next: Add Storage.
6. On the Step 4 page, leave the default settings, and then choose Next: Add Tags.
7. On the Step 5 page, choose Add Tag. Under Key type example.local-DC01, and then choose Next: Configure Security Group.
8. On the Step 6 page, choose Select an existing security group, select AWS DS RDP Security Group (which you previously set up in the Base tutorial (p. 95)), and then choose Review and Launch to review your instance.
9. On the Step 7 page, review the page, and then choose Launch.
10. On the Select an existing key pair or create a new key pair dialog box, do the following:
    - Choose Choose an existing key pair.
    - Under Select a key pair, choose AWS-DS-KP (which you previously set up in the Base tutorial (p. 94)).
    - Select the I acknowledge... check box.
    - Choose Launch Instances.
11. Choose View Instances to return to the Amazon EC2 console and view the status of the deployment.

Promote Your Server to a Domain Controller

Before you can create trusts, you must build and deploy the first domain controller for a new forest. During this process you configure a new Active Directory forest, install DNS, and set this server to use the local DNS server for name resolution. You must reboot the server at the end of this procedure.

Note
If you want to create a domain controller in AWS that replicates with your on-premises network, you would first manually join the EC2 instance to your on-premises domain. After that you can promote the server to a domain controller.
To promote your server to a domain controller

1. In the Amazon EC2 console, choose Instances, select the instance you just created, and then choose Connect.
2. In the Connect To Your Instance dialog box, choose Download Remote Desktop File.
3. In the Windows Security dialog box, type your local administrator credentials for the Windows Server computer to login (for example, administrator). If you do not yet have the local administrator password, go back to the Amazon EC2 console, right-click on the instance, and choose Get Windows Password. Navigate to your AWS DS KI.pem file or your personal .pem key, and then choose Decrypt Password.
4. From the Start menu, choose Server Manager.
5. In the Dashboard, choose Add Roles and Features.
6. In the Add Roles and Features Wizard, choose Next.
7. On the Select installation type page, choose Role-based or feature-based installation, and then choose Next.
8. On the Select destination server page, make sure that the local server is selected, and then choose Next.
9. On the Select server roles page, select Active Directory Domain Services. In the Add Roles and Features Wizard dialog box, verify that the Include management tools (if applicable) check box is selected. Choose Add Features, and then choose Next.
10. On the Select features page, choose Next.
12. On the Confirm installation selections page, choose Install.
13. Once the Active Directory binaries are installed, choose Close.
14. When Server Manager opens, look for a flag at the top next to the word Manage. When this flag turns yellow, the server is ready to be promoted.
15. Choose the yellow flag, and then choose Promote this server to a domain controller.
16. On the Deployment Configuration page, choose Add a new forest. In Root domain name, type example.local, and then choose Next.
17. On the Domain Controller Options page, do the following:
   - In both Forest functional level and Domain functional level, choose Windows Server 2016.
   - Under Specify domain controller capabilities, verify that both Domain Name System (DNS) server and Global Catalog (GC) are selected.
   - Type and then confirm a Directory Services Restore Mode (DSRM) password. Then choose Next.
18. On the DNS Options page, ignore the warning about delegation and choose Next.
19. On the Additional options page, make sure that EXAMPLE1 is listed as the NetBios domain name.
20. On the Paths page, leave the defaults, and then choose Next.
21. On Review Options page, choose Next. The server now checks to make sure all the prerequisites for the domain controller are satisfied. You may see some warnings displayed, but you can safely ignore them.
22. Choose Install. Once the installation is complete, the server reboots and then becomes a functional domain controller.

Configure Your VPC

The following three procedures guide you through the steps to configure your VPC for connectivity with AWS.
To configure your VPC outbound rules
1. In the AWS Directory Service console, make a note of the AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory ID for corp.example.com that you previously created in the Base tutorial (p. 96).
2. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
3. In the navigation pane, choose Security Groups.
4. Search for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory ID. In the search results, select the item with the description AWS created security group for d-xxxxxx directory controllers.
   **Note**
   This security group was automatically created when you initially created your directory.
5. Choose the Outbound Rules tab under that security group. Choose Edit, choose Add another rule, and then add the following values:
   - For **Type**, choose All Traffic.
   - For **Destination**, type 0.0.0.0/0.
   - Leave the rest of the settings at their defaults.
   - Select Save.

To verify Kerberos preauthentication is enabled
1. On the example.local domain controller, open Server Manager.
3. Navigate to the Users directory, right-click on any user account listed in the right pane, and then choose the Account tab. In the Account options list, scroll down and ensure that Do not require Kerberos preauthentication is not selected.
4. Perform the same steps for the corp.example.com domain from the corp.example.com-mgmt instance.

To configure DNS conditional forwarders
1. First you must get some information about your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.
   Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the AWS Directory Service console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/directoryservicev2/.
2. In the navigation pane, choose Directories.
3. Select the directory ID of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.
4. Take note of the fully qualified domain name (FQDN), corp.example.com, and the DNS addresses of your directory.
5. Now, return to your example.local domain controller, and then open Server Manager.
6. On the Tools menu, choose DNS.
7. In the console tree, expand the DNS server of the domain for which you are setting up the trust, and navigate to Conditional Forwarders.
8. Right-click Conditional Forwarders, and then choose New Conditional Forwarder.
10. Under IP addresses of the master servers, choose <Click here to add ...>, type the first DNS address of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory (which you made note of in the previous procedure), and then press Enter. Do the same for the second DNS address. After typing the DNS addresses, you might get a "timeout" or "unable to resolve" error. You can generally ignore these errors.
11. Select the Store this conditional forwarder in Active Directory, and replicate as follows check box. In the drop-down menu, choose All DNS servers in this Forest, and then choose OK.
Step 2: Create the Trusts

In this section, you create two separate forest trusts. One trust is created from the Active Directory domain on your EC2 instance and the other from your AWS Managed Microsoft AD in AWS.

Note
The AWS Directory Service, currently only supports forest trusts.

To create the trust from your EC2 domain to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD in AWS

1. Log into example.local.
2. Open Server Manager and in the console tree choose DNS. Take note of the IPv4 address listed for the server. You will need this in the next procedure when you create a conditional forwarder from corp.example.com to the example.local directory.
3. In the Tools menu, choose Active Directory Domains and Trusts.
4. In the console tree, right-click example.local and then choose Properties.
5. On the Trusts tab, choose New Trust, and then choose Next.
6. On the Trust Name page, type corp.example.com, and then choose Next.
7. On the Trust Type page, choose Forest trust, and then choose Next.
8. On the Direction of Trust page, choose Two-way, and then choose Next.
9. On the Sides of Trust page, choose This domain only, and then choose Next.
10. On the Outgoing Trust Authentication Level page, choose Forest-wide authentication, and then choose Next.
11. On the Trust Password page, type the trust password twice, and then choose Next. You will use this same password in the next procedure.
12. On the Trust Selections Complete page, review the results, and then choose Next.
13. On the Trust Creation Complete page, review the results, and then choose Next.
14. On the Confirm Outgoing Trust page, choose No, do not confirm the outgoing trust. Then choose Next.
15. On the Confirm Incoming Trust page, choose No, do not confirm the incoming trust. Then choose Next.

To create the trust from your AWS Managed Microsoft AD in AWS to your EC2 domain

1. Open the AWS Directory Service console.
2. Choose the corp.example.com directory.
3. On the Details page, choose the Trust relationships tab.
5. In the Add a trust relationship dialog box, do the following:
   - For Remote domain name, type example.local.
   - For Trust password, type the same password that you provided in the previous procedure.
   - In Trust direction, select Two-way.
   - In Conditional forwarder, type the IP address of your DNS server in the example.local forest (which you noted in the previous procedure).
6. Choose Add.
Step 3: Verify the Trust

In this section, you test whether the trusts were set up successfully between AWS and Active Directory on Amazon EC2.

To verify the trust

1. Open the AWS Directory Service console.
2. Choose the corp.example.com directory.
3. On the Details page, choose the Trust relationships tab.
4. Select the trust relationship you just created.
5. Choose Actions, and then choose Verify trust relationship.

Once the verification has completed, you should see Verified displayed under the Status column.

Congratulations on completing this tutorial! You now have a fully functional multiforest Active Directory environment from which you can begin testing various scenarios. Additional test lab tutorials are planned in 2018, so check back on occasion to see what's new.

Troubleshooting AWS Managed Microsoft AD

The following topics help you troubleshoot some common issues you might encounter when creating or using your directory.

Topics

- DNS Troubleshooting (p. 106)
- Schema Extension Errors (p. 107)
- Trust Creation Status Reasons (p. 108)

DNS Troubleshooting

You can audit your AWS Managed Microsoft AD DNS events, making it easier to identify and troubleshoot DNS issues. For example, if a DNS record is missing, you can use the DNS audit event log to help identify the root cause and fix the issue. You can also use DNS audit event logs to improve security by detecting and blocking requests from suspicious IP addresses.

To do that, you must be logged on with the Admin account or with an account that is a member of the AWS Domain Name System Administrators group. For more information about this group, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

To troubleshoot AWS Managed Microsoft AD DNS

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the left navigation pane, choose Instances.
3. Locate an Amazon EC2 instance that is joined to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory. Select the instance and then choose Connect.
4. Open the Event Viewer located in the Administrative Tools folder.
5. In the Event Viewer window, choose Action and then choose Connect to Another Computer.
6. Select Another computer, type one of your AWS Managed Microsoft AD DNS servers name or IP address, and choose OK.
7. In the left pane, navigate to Applications and Services Logs > Microsoft > Windows > DNS-Server, and then select Audit.

**Schema Extension Errors**

The following can help you troubleshoot some error messages you might encounter when extending the schema for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory.

**Referral**

*Error*

Add error on entry starting on line 1: Referral The server side error is: 0x202b A referral was returned from the server. The extended server error is: 0000202B: RefErr: DSID-0310082F, data 0, 1 access points 
ref 1: 'example.com' Number of Objects Modified: 0

*Troubleshooting*

Ensure that all of the distinguished name fields have the correct domain name. In the example above, DC=example,dc=com should be replaced with the DistinguishedName shown by the cmdlet Get-ADDomain.

**Unable to Read Import File**

*Error*

Unable to read the import file. Number of Objects Modified: 0

*Troubleshooting*

The imported LDIF file is empty (0 bytes). Ensure the correct file was uploaded.

**Syntax Error**

*Error*

There is a syntax error in the input file Failed on line 21. The last token starts with 'q'. Number of Objects Modified: 0

*Troubleshooting*

The text on line 21 is not formatted correctly. The first letter of the invalid text is A. Update line 21 with valid LDIF syntax. For more information about how to format the LDIF file, see Step 1: Create Your LDIF File (p. 65).

**Attribute or Value Exists**

*Error*

Add error on entry starting on line 1: Attribute Or Value Exists The server side error is: 0x2083 The specified value already exists. The extended server error is: 00002083: AtrErr: DSID-03151830, #1: \t0: 00002083: DSID-03151830, problem 1006 (ATT_OR_VALUE_EXISTS), data 0, Att 20019 (mayContain):len 4 Number of Objects Modified: 0

*Troubleshooting*

The schema change has already been applied.
No Such Attribute

Error

Add error on entry starting on line 1: No Such Attribute The server side error is: 0x2085 The attribute value cannot be removed because it is not present on the object. The extended server error is: 00002085: AtrErr: DSID-03152367, #1: \t0: 00002085: DSID-03152367, problem 1001 (NO_ATTRIBUTE_OR_VAL), data 0, Att 20019 (mayContain):len 4 Number of Objects Modified: 0

Troubleshooting

The LDIF file is trying to remove an attribute from a class, but that attribute is currently not attached to the class. Schema change was probably already applied.

Error

Add error on entry starting on line 41: No Such Attribute 0x57 The parameter is incorrect. The extended server error is: 0x208d Directory object not found. The extended server error is: "00000057: LdapErr: DSID-0C090D8A, comment: Error in attribute conversion operation, data 0, v2580" Number of Objects Modified: 0

Troubleshooting

The attribute listed on line 41 is incorrect. Double-check the spelling.

No Such Object

Error

Add error on entry starting on line 1: No Such Object The server side error is: 0x208d Directory object not found. The extended server error is: 0000208d: NameErr: DSID-03100238, problem 2001 (NO_OBJECT), data 0, best match of: 'CN=Schema,CN=Configuration,DC=example,DC=com' Number of Objects Modified: 0

Troubleshooting

The object referenced by the distinguished name (DN) does not exist.

Trust Creation Status Reasons

When trust creation fails, the status message contains additional information. Here’s some help understanding what those messages mean.

Access is denied

Access was denied when trying to create the trust. Either the trust password is incorrect or the remote domain’s security settings do not allow a trust to be configured. To resolve this problem, try the following:

• Verify that you are using the same trust password that you used when creating the corresponding trust on the remote domain.
• Verify that your domain security settings allow for trust creation.
• Verify that your local security policy is set correctly. Specifically check Local Security Policy > Local Policies > Security Options > Network access: Named Pipes that can be accessed anonymously and ensure that it contains at least the following three named pipes:
  • netlogon
  • samr
• lsarpc

**Note**
By default, Network access: Named Pipes that can be accessed anonymously is not set and will display Not Defined. This is normal, as the domain controller's effective default settings for Network access: Named Pipes that can be accessed anonymously is netlogon, samr, lsarpc.

**The specified domain name does not exist or could not be contacted**

To solve this problem, ensure the security group settings for your domain and access control list (ACL) for your VPC are correct and you have accurately entered the information for your conditional forwarder. For more information about security requirements, see *When to Create a Trust Relationship* (p. 46).

If this does not solve the issue, it is possible that information for a previously created conditional forwarder has been cached, preventing the creation of a new trust. Please wait several minutes and then try creating the trust and conditional forwarder again.

**General tool for testing trusts**

The DirectoryServicePortTest testing tool can be helpful when troubleshooting trust creation issues between AWS Managed Microsoft AD and on-premises Active Directory. For an example on how the tool can be used, see *Test your AD Connector* (p. 114).
Active Directory Connector

AD Connector is a directory gateway with which you can redirect directory requests to your on-premises Microsoft Active Directory without caching any information in the cloud. AD Connector comes in two sizes, small and large. A small AD Connector is designed for smaller organizations of up to 500 users. A large AD Connector can support larger organizations of up to 5,000 users.

Once set up, AD Connector offers the following benefits:

- Your end users and IT administrators can use their existing corporate credentials to log on to AWS applications such as Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, or Amazon WorkMail.
- You can manage AWS resources like Amazon EC2 instances or Amazon S3 buckets through IAM role-based access to the AWS Management Console.
- You can consistently enforce existing security policies (such as password expiration, password history, and account lockouts) whether users or IT administrators are accessing resources in your on-premises infrastructure or in the AWS Cloud.
- You can use AD Connector to enable multi-factor authentication by integrating with your existing RADIUS-based MFA infrastructure to provide an additional layer of security when users access AWS applications.

Continue reading the topics in this section to learn how to connect to a directory and make the most of AD Connector features.

Topics
- Getting Started with AD Connector (p. 110)
- How To Administer AD Connector (p. 120)
- Best Practices for AD Connector (p. 128)
- Limits for AD Connector (p. 130)
- Application Compatibility Policy for AD Connector (p. 130)
- Troubleshooting AD Connector (p. 131)

Getting Started with AD Connector

With AD Connector you can connect AWS Directory Service to your existing enterprise directory. When connected to your on-premises directory, all of your directory data remains on your domain controllers. AWS Directory Service does not replicate any of your directory data.

Topics
- AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110)
- Create an AD Connector (p. 119)
VPC

Set up a VPC with the following:

- At least two subnets. Each of the subnets must be in a different Availability Zone.
- The VPC must be connected to your on-premises network through a virtual private network (VPN) connection or AWS Direct Connect.
- The VPC must have default hardware tenancy.

For more information, see the following topics in the Amazon VPC User Guide:

- What is Amazon VPC?
- Subnets in your VPC
- Adding a Hardware Virtual Private Gateway to Your VPC

For more information about AWS Direct Connect, see the AWS Direct Connect User Guide.

On-premises network

You'll need an on-premises network with an Active Directory domain. The functional level of this domain must be Windows Server 2003 or higher. AD Connector also supports connecting to a domain hosted on an Amazon EC2 instance.

Note
AD Connector does not support Read-only domain controllers (RODC) when used in combination with the Amazon EC2 domain-join feature.

Service account

You must have credentials for a service account in the on-premises directory which has been delegated the following privileges:

- Read users and groups
- Create computer objects
- Join computers to the domain

For more information, see Delegate privileges to your service account (p. 112).

IP addresses

Get the IP addresses of two DNS servers or domain controllers in your on-premises directory.

AD Connector obtains the _ldap._tcp.<DnsDomainName> and _kerberos._tcp.<DnsDomainName> SRV records from these servers when connecting to your directory, so these servers must contain these SRV records. The AD Connector attempts to find a common domain controller that will provide both LDAP and Kerberos services, so these SRV records must include at least one common domain controller. For more information about SRV records, go to SRV Resource Records on Microsoft TechNet.

Ports for subnets

For AWS Directory Service to communicate with your on-premises directory, the firewall for your on-premises network must have the following ports open to the CIDRs for both subnets in the VPC.

- TCP/UDP 53 - DNS
- TCP/UDP 88 - Kerberos authentication
- TCP/UDP 389 - LDAP

These are the minimum ports that are needed to be able to connect to your directory. Your specific configuration may require additional ports be open.
**Kerberos preauthentication**

Your user accounts must have Kerberos preauthentication enabled. For detailed instructions on how to enable this setting, see Ensure That Kerberos Pre-authentication Is Enabled (p. 54). For general information about this setting, go to Preauthentication on Microsoft TechNet.

**Encryption types**

AD Connector supports the following encryption types when authenticating to your Active Directory domain controllers:

- AES-256-HMAC
- AES-128-HMAC
- RC4-HMAC

**Multi-factor Authentication Prerequisites**

To support multi-factor authentication with your AD Connector directory, you need the following:

- A Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server in your on-premises network that has two client endpoints. The RADIUS client endpoints have the following requirements:
  - To create the endpoints, you need the IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service servers. These IP addresses can be obtained from the Directory IP Address field of your directory details.
  - Both RADIUS endpoints must use the same shared secret code.
  - Your on-premises network must allow inbound traffic over the default RADIUS server port (1812) from the AWS Directory Service servers.
  - The usernames between your RADIUS server and your on-premises directory must be identical.

For more information about using AD Connector with MFA, see Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AD Connector (p. 120).

**Delegate privileges to your service account**

To connect to your on-premises directory, you must have the credentials for your AD Connector service account in the on-premises directory that has been delegated certain privileges. While members of the Domain Admins group have sufficient privileges to connect to the directory, as a best practice, you should use a service account that only has the minimum privileges necessary to connect to the directory. The following procedure demonstrates how to create a new group called Connectors, delegate the necessary privileges that are needed to connect AWS Directory Service to this group, and then add a new service account to this group.

This procedure must be performed on a machine that is joined to your directory and has the Active Directory User and Computers MMC snap-in installed. You must also be logged in as a domain administrator.

**To delegate privileges to your service account**

1. Open Active Directory User and Computers and select your domain root in the navigation tree.
2. In the list in the left-hand pane, right-click Users, select New, and then select Group.
3. In the New Object - Group dialog box, enter the following and click OK.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value/Selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group name</td>
<td>Connectors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. In the **Active Directory User and Computers** navigation tree, select your domain root. In the menu, select **Action**, and then **Delegate Control**.

5. On the **Delegation of Control Wizard** page, click **Next**, then click **Add**.

6. In the **Select Users, Computers, or Groups** dialog box, enter **Connectors** and click **OK**. If more than one object is found, select the **Connectors** group created above. Click **Next**.

7. On the **Tasks to Delegate** page, select **Create a custom task to delegate**, and then choose **Next**.

8. Select **Only the following objects in the folder**, and then select **Computer objects** and **User objects**.

9. Select **Create selected objects in this folder** and **Delete selected objects in this folder**. Then choose **Next**.

10. Select **Read** and **Write**, and then choose **Next**.

11. Verify the information on the **Completing the Delegation of Control Wizard** page, and click **Finish**.

12. Create a user account with a strong password and add that user to the **Connectors** group. This user will be known as your AD Connector service account and since it is now a member of the **Connectors** group it now has sufficient privileges to connect AWS Directory Service to the directory.
Test your AD Connector

For AD Connector to connect to your on-premises directory, the firewall for your on-premises network must have certain ports open to the CIDRs for both subnets in the VPC. To test if these conditions are met, perform the following steps:

To test the connection

1. Launch a Windows instance in the VPC and connect to it over RDP. The instance must be a member of your on-premises domain. The remaining steps are performed on this VPC instance.
2. Download and unzip the DirectoryServicePortTest test application. The source code and Visual Studio project files are included so you can modify the test application if desired.
   
   Note
   
   This script is not supported on Windows Server 2003 or older operating systems.
3. From a Windows command prompt, run the DirectoryServicePortTest test application with the following options:


   <domain_name>
   The fully qualified domain name. This is used to test the forest and domain functional levels. If you exclude the domain name, the functional levels won't be tested.

   <server_IP_address>
   The IP address of a domain controller in your on-premises domain. The ports will be tested against this IP address. If you exclude the IP address, the ports won't be tested.

   This test app determines if the necessary ports are open from the VPC to your domain, and also verifies the minimum forest and domain functional levels.

   The output will be similar to the following:

   Testing forest functional level.
   Forest Functional Level = Windows2008R2Forest : PASSED

   Testing domain functional level.
   Domain Functional Level = Windows2008R2Domain : PASSED

   Testing required TCP ports to <server_IP_address>:
   Checking TCP port 53: PASSED
   Checking TCP port 88: PASSED
   Checking TCP port 389: PASSED

   Testing required UDP ports to <server_IP_address>:
   Checking UDP port 53: PASSED
   Checking UDP port 88: PASSED
   Checking UDP port 389: PASSED

   The following is the source code for the DirectoryServicePortTest application.

   using System;
   using System.Collections.Generic;
   using System.IO;
   using System.Linq;
using System.Net;
using System.Net.Sockets;
using System.Text;
using System.Threading.Tasks;
using System.Threading;
using System.DirectoryServices;
using System.Security.Principal;

namespace DirectoryServicePortTest
{
    class Program
    {
        private static List<int> _tcpPorts;
        private static List<int> _udpPorts;

        private static string _domain = "";
        private static IPAddress _ipAddr = null;

        static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            if (ParseArgs(args))
            {
                try
                {
                    if (_domain.Length > 0)
                    {
                        try
                        {
                            TestForestFunctionalLevel();
                            TestDomainFunctionalLevel();
                        }
                        catch (ActiveDirectoryObjectNotFoundException)
                        {
                            Console.WriteLine("The domain {0} could not be found.
", _domain);
                        }
                    }
                    if (_ipAddr != null)
                    {
                        if (_tcpPorts.Count > 0)
                        {
                            TestTcpPorts(_tcpPorts);
                        }
                        if (_udpPorts.Count > 0)
                        {
                            TestUdpPorts(_udpPorts);
                        }
                    }
                    catch (AuthenticationException ex)
                    {
                        Console.WriteLine(ex.Message);
                    }
                    else
                    {
                        PrintUsage();
                    }
                }
                catch (Exception ex)
                {
                    Console.WriteLine(ex.Message);
                }
            }
            else
            {
                PrintUsage();
            }
        }
    }
}
Console.Write("Press <enter> to continue.");
Console.ReadLine();
}

static void PrintUsage()
{
    string currentApp =
Path.GetFileName(System.Reflection.Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly().Location);
Console.WriteLine("Usage: {0} \n-d <domain> \n-ip "<server IP address>"\n\n[-tcp "<tcp_port1>,<tcp_port2>,etc"] \n[-udp "<udp_port1>,<udp_port2>,etc"]", currentApp);
}

static bool ParseArgs(string[] args)
{
    bool fReturn = false;
    string ipAddress = "";
    try
    {
        _tcpPorts = new List<int>();
        _udpPorts = new List<int>();

        for (int i = 0; i < args.Length; i++)
        {
            string arg = args[i];
            if ("-tcp" == arg | "/tcp" == arg)
            {
                i++;
                string portList = args[i];
                _tcpPorts = ParsePortList(portList);
            }
            if ("-udp" == arg | "/udp" == arg)
            {
                i++;
                string portList = args[i];
                _udpPorts = ParsePortList(portList);
            }
            if ("-d" == arg | "/d" == arg)
            { 
                _domain = args[i];
            }
            if ("-ip" == arg | "/ip" == arg)
            { 
                i++;
                ipAddress = args[i];
            }
        }
    }
    catch (ArgumentOutOfRangeException)
    {
        return false;
    }
    if (_domain.Length > 0 || ipAddress.Length > 0)
    {
        fReturn = true;
    }
    if (ipAddress.Length > 0)
    {
_ipAddr = IPAddress.Parse(ipAddress);

return fReturn;

static List<int> ParsePortList(string portList)
{
    List<int> ports = new List<int>();
    char[] separators = {',', ';', ':'};
    string[] portStrings = portList.Split(separators);
    foreach (string portString in portStrings)
    {
        try
        {
            ports.Add(Convert.ToInt32(portString));
        }
        catch (FormatException)
        {
        }
    }
    return ports;
}

static void TestForestFunctionalLevel()
{
    Console.WriteLine("Testing forest functional level.");
    DirectoryContext dirContext = new DirectoryContext(DirectoryContextType.Forest, _domain, null, null);
    Forest forestContext = Forest.GetForest(dirContext);
    Console.Write("Forest Functional Level = {0} : ", forestContext.ForestMode);
    if (forestContext.ForestMode >= ForestMode.Windows2003Forest)
    {
        Console.WriteLine("PASSED");
    }
    else
    {
        Console.WriteLine("FAILED");
    }
    Console.WriteLine();
}

static void TestDomainFunctionalLevel()
{
    Console.WriteLine("Testing domain functional level.");
    DirectoryContext dirContext = new DirectoryContext(DirectoryContextType.Domain, _domain, null, null);
    Domain domainObject = Domain.GetDomain(dirContext);
    Console.Write("Domain Functional Level = {0} : ", domainObject.DomainMode);
    if (domainObject.DomainMode >= DomainMode.Windows2003Domain)
    {
        Console.WriteLine("PASSED");
    }
    else
    {
        Console.WriteLine("FAILED");
    }
}
static List<int> TestTcpPorts(List<int> portList)
{
    Console.WriteLine("Testing TCP ports to {0}:", _ipAddr.ToString());
    List<int> failedPorts = new List<int>();
    foreach (int port in portList)
    {
        Console.Write("Checking TCP port {0}: ", port);
        TcpClient tcpClient = new TcpClient();
        try
        {
            tcpClient.Connect(_ipAddr, port);
            tcpClient.Close();
            Console.WriteLine("PASSED");
        }
        catch (SocketException)
        {
            failedPorts.Add(port);
            Console.WriteLine("FAILED");
        }
    }
    Console.WriteLine();
    return failedPorts;
}

static List<int> TestUdpPorts(List<int> portList)
{
    Console.WriteLine("Testing UDP ports to {0}:", _ipAddr.ToString());
    List<int> failedPorts = new List<int>();
    foreach (int port in portList)
    {
        Console.Write("Checking UDP port {0}: ", port);
        UdpClient udpClient = new UdpClient();
        try
        {
            udpClient.Connect(_ipAddr, port);
            udpClient.Close();
            Console.WriteLine("PASSED");
        }
        catch (SocketException)
        {
            failedPorts.Add(port);
            Console.WriteLine("FAILED");
        }
    }
    Console.WriteLine();
    return failedPorts;
}
Create an AD Connector

To connect to your on-premises directory with AD Connector, perform the following steps. Before starting this procedure, make sure you have completed the prerequisites identified in AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110).

To connect with AD Connector

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories and then choose Set up directory.
2. On the Select directory type page, choose AD Connector, and then choose Next.
3. On the Enter AD Connector information page, provide the following information:
   - **Directory size**: Choose from either the Small or Large size option. For more information about sizes, see Active Directory Connector (p. 110).
   - **Directory description**: An optional description for the directory.
4. On the Choose VPC and subnets page, provide the following information, and then choose Next.
   - **VPC**: The VPC for the directory.
   - **Subnets**: Choose the subnets for the domain controllers. The two subnets must be in different Availability Zones.
5. On the Connect to AD page, provide the following information:
   - **Directory DNS name**: The fully qualified name of your on-premises directory, such as corp.example.com.
   - **Directory NetBIOS name**: The short name of your on-premises directory, such as CORP.
   - **DNS IP addresses**: The IP address of at least one DNS server in your on-premises directory. These servers must be accessible from each subnet specified in the next section.
   - **Service account username**: The user name of a user in the on-premises directory. For more information about this account, see the AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110).
6. On the Review & create page, review the directory information and make any necessary changes. When the information is correct, choose Create directory. It takes several minutes for the directory to be created. Once created, the Status value changes to Active.
How To Administer AD Connector

This section lists all of the procedures for operating and maintaining an AD Connector environment.

Topics

- Secure Your AD Connector Directory (p. 120)
- Monitor Your AD Connector Directory (p. 121)
- Join an EC2 Instance to Your AD Connector Directory (p. 124)
- Maintain Your AD Connector Directory (p. 125)
- Update the DNS Address for Your AD Connector (p. 128)

Secure Your AD Connector Directory

This section describes considerations for securing your AD Connector environment.

Topics

- Update Directory Credentials for Your AD Connector (p. 120)
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AD Connector (p. 120)

Update Directory Credentials for Your AD Connector

The AD Connector directory credentials represent the account that is used to access your on-premises directory. You can modify these account credentials by performing the following steps.

Note

If single sign-on is enabled for the directory, AWS Directory Service must transfer the service principal name (SPN) from the current service account to the new service account. If the current service account does not have permission to delete the SPN or the new service account does not have permission to add the SPN, you are prompted for the credentials of a directory account that does have permission to perform both actions. These credentials are only used to transfer the SPN and are not stored by the service.

To modify your account credentials for AD Connector

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. Click the directory ID link for your directory.
3. Select the **Connector Account** tab.
4. Enter the new user name and password, and click **Update Directory**.

Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AD Connector

You can enable multi-factor authentication for your AD Connector directory by performing the following procedure. For more information about using multi-factor authentication with AWS Directory Service, see AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110).

Note

Multi-factor authentication is not available for Simple AD. However, MFA can be enabled for your AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory. For more information, see Enable Multi-Factor Authentication for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 21).

To enable multi-factor authentication for AD Connector

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. Choose the directory ID link for your AD Connector directory.
3. Select the Networking & security tab.
4. In the Multi-factor authentication section, choose Actions, and then select Enable.
5. On the Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) page, provide the following values:
   - **Display label**
     - Provide a label name.
   - **RADIUS server DNS name or IP addresses**
     - The IP addresses of your RADIUS server endpoints, or the IP address of your RADIUS server load balancer. You can enter multiple IP addresses by separating them with a comma (e.g., 192.0.0.0, 192.0.0.12).
     - **Note**
       - RADIUS MFA is applicable only to authenticate access to the AWS Management Console, or to Amazon Enterprise applications and services such as Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon QuickSight, or Amazon Chime. AWS Directory Service does not support RADIUS Challenge/Response authentication. Users must have their MFA code at the time they enter their username and password. Alternatively, you must use a solution that performs MFA out-of-band such as SMS text verification for the user.
   - **Port**
     - The port that your RADIUS server is using for communications. Your on-premises network must allow inbound traffic over the default RADIUS server port (UDP:1812) from the AWS Directory Service servers.
   - **Shared secret code**
     - The shared secret code that was specified when your RADIUS endpoints were created.
   - **Confirm shared secret code**
     - Confirm the shared secret code for your RADIUS endpoints.
   - **Protocol**
     - Select the protocol that was specified when your RADIUS endpoints were created.
   - **Server timeout (in seconds)**
     - The amount of time, in seconds, to wait for the RADIUS server to respond. This must be a value between 1 and 50.
   - **Max RADIUS request retries**
     - The number of times that communication with the RADIUS server is attempted. This must be a value between 0 and 10.

   Multi-factor authentication is available when the RADIUS Status changes to Enabled.
6. Choose Enable.

**Monitor Your AD Connector Directory**

You can monitor your AD Connector directory with the following methods:

**Topics**
- Understanding Your Directory Status (p. 122)
- Configure Directory Status Notifications (p. 122)
Understanding Your Directory Status

The following are the various statuses for a directory.

**Active**

The directory is operating normally. No issues have been detected by the AWS Directory Service for your directory.

**Creating**

The directory is currently being created. Directory creation typically takes between 5 to 30 minutes but may vary depending on the system load.

**Deleted**

The directory has been deleted. All resources for the directory have been released. Once a directory enters this state, it cannot be recovered.

**Deleting**

The directory is currently being deleted. The directory will remain in this state until it has been completely deleted. Once a directory enters this state, the delete operation cannot be cancelled, and the directory cannot be recovered.

**Failed**

The directory could not be created. Please delete this directory. If this problem persists, please contact the AWS Support Center.

**Impaired**

The directory is running in a degraded state. One or more issues have been detected, and not all directory operations may be working at full operational capacity. Typically AWS resolves these issues within 40 minutes. If your directory is in an Impaired state longer than 40 minutes, we recommend that you contact the AWS Support Center.

**Important**

Do not restore a snapshot while a directory is in an Impaired state. It is rare that snapshot restore is necessary to resolve impairments. For more information, see Snapshot or Restore Your Directory (p. 70).

**Inoperable**

The directory is not functional. All directory endpoints have reported issues.

**Requested**

A request to create your directory is currently pending.

**RestoreFailed**

Restoring the directory from a snapshot failed. Please retry the restore operation. If this continues, try a different snapshot, or contact the AWS Support Center.

**Restoring**

The directory is currently being restored from an automatic or manual snapshot. Restoring from a snapshot typically takes several minutes, depending on the size of the directory data in the snapshot.

For more information, see Simple AD Directory Status Reasons (p. 173).

**Configure Directory Status Notifications**

Using Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS), you can receive email or text (SMS) messages when the status of your directory changes. You get notified if your directory goes from an Active status...
to an Impaired or Inoperable status. You also receive a notification when the directory returns to an Active status.

**How It Works**

Amazon SNS uses “topics” to collect and distribute messages. Each topic has one or more subscribers who receive the messages that have been published to that topic. Using the steps below you can add AWS Directory Service as publisher to an Amazon SNS topic. When AWS Directory Service detects a change in your directory’s status, it publishes a message to that topic, which is then sent to the topic's subscribers.

You can associate multiple directories as publishers to a single topic. You can also add directory status messages to topics that you've previously created in Amazon SNS. You have detailed control over who can publish to and subscribe to a topic. For complete information about Amazon SNS, see What is Amazon SNS?

**To enable SNS messaging for your directory**

2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. Select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Directory monitoring** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Create notification**.
5. On the **Create notification** page, select **Choose a notification type**, and then choose **Create a new notification**. Alternatively, if you already have an existing SNS topic, you can choose **Associate existing SNS topic** to send status messages from this directory to that topic.

   **Note**
   If you choose **Create a new notification** but then use the same topic name for an SNS topic that already exists, Amazon SNS does not create a new topic, but just adds the new subscription information to the existing topic.
   If you choose **Associate existing SNS topic**, you will only be able to choose an SNS topic that is in the same region as the directory.

6. Choose the **Recipient type** and enter the **Recipient** contact information. If you enter a phone number for SMS, use numbers only. Do not include dashes, spaces, or parentheses.
7. (Optional) Provide a name for your topic and an SNS display name. The display name is a short name up to 10 characters that is included in all SMS messages from this topic. When using the SMS option, the display name is required.

   **Note**
   If you are logged in using an IAM user or role that has only the DirectoryServiceFullAccess managed policy, your topic name must start with “DirectoryMonitoring”. If you'd like to further customize your topic name you'll need additional privileges for SNS.
8. Choose **Create**.

If you want to designate additional SNS subscribers, such as an additional email address, Amazon SQS queues or AWS Lambda, you can do this from the Amazon SNS console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/sns/v2/home.

**To remove directory status messages from a topic**

2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. Select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the Directory monitoring section, select an SNS topic name in the list, choose Actions, and then select Remove.
5. Choose Remove.

This removes your directory as a publisher to the selected SNS topic. If you want to delete the entire topic, you can do this from the Amazon SNS console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/sns/v2/home.

Note
Before deleting an Amazon SNS topic using the SNS console, you should ensure that a directory is not sending status messages to that topic. If you delete an Amazon SNS topic using the SNS console, this change will not immediately be reflected within the Directory Services console. You would only be notified the next time a directory publishes a notification to the deleted topic, in which case you would see an updated status on the directory's Monitoring tab indicating the topic could not be found.

Therefore, to avoid missing important directory status messages, before deleting any topic that receives messages from AWS Directory Service, associate your directory with a different Amazon SNS topic.

Join an EC2 Instance to Your AD Connector Directory

You can seamlessly join an EC2 instance to your directory domain when the instance is launched using the Amazon EC2 Systems Manager. For more information, see Seamlessly Joining a Windows Instance to an AWS Directory Service Domain in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances.

If you need to manually join an EC2 instance to your domain, you must launch the instance in the proper region and security group or subnet, then join the instance to the domain.

To be able to connect remotely to these instances, you must have IP connectivity to the instances from the network you are connecting from. In most cases, this requires that an Internet gateway be attached to your VPC and that the instance has a public IP address.

Topics
• Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 124)

Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance

This procedure will seamlessly join a Windows EC2 instance to your directory.

To seamlessly join a Windows EC2 instance
1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. From the region selector in the navigation bar, select the same region as the existing directory.
3. From the Amazon EC2 console dashboard, choose Launch Instance.
4. On the Step 1 page, select the appropriate AMI.
5. On the Step 2 page, select the appropriate instance type, and then choose Next.
6. On the Step 3 page, do the following, and then choose Next:
   1. For Network, choose the VPC that your directory was created in.
   2. For Subnet, select one of the public subnets in your VPC. The subnet you select must have all external traffic routed to an Internet gateway. If this is not the case, you won't be able to connect to the instance remotely.
   3. For Auto-assign Public IP, choose Enable (if the subnet setting is not set to enable by default).
      For more information about public and private IP addressing, see Amazon EC2 Instance IP Addressing in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.
4. For Domain join directory, select your domain from the Domain join directory list. To seamlessly join the instance, you also need an IAM role that has the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM managed policy attached to it. Select the IAM role that has permission from the IAM role list. If you choose this option, you will not have to manually join the instance to the domain as that will be done for you when the instance is launched.

   **Note**
   This option is only available for Windows instances. Linux instances must be manually joined to the directory as explained in Manually Join a Linux Instance (p. 33).

5. For IAM role, optionally choose the Create new IAM role link to create a new IAM role and attach the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM policy, and then on the Roles page, do the following:
   a. Select the Create role button.
   b. Under AWS service, select the EC2 link, and then click Next.
   c. Under Select your use case, select EC2, and then select Next.
   d. In the list of polices, select the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM policy, and then select Next.
   e. In Role name, type a name for your new role (For example, EC2DomainJoin), in Role description type a description (optional), and then select the Create role button.

7. Go back to the Step 3 page, for IAM role, choose the refresh icon next to the IAM role field. Your new role should be visible in the drop down menu. Select it, and leave the rest of the settings on this page with their default values, and then select Next.

8. Continue through the remaining pages in the wizard using your preferred settings.

   **Note**
   The security group you select for the instance (on the Step 6 page) must allow remote access to the instance from your network.

---

**Maintain Your AD Connector Directory**

This section describes how to maintain common administrative tasks for your AD Connector environment.

**Topics**
- Delete Your Directory (p. 125)
- Snapshot or Restore Your Directory (p. 126)
- View Directory Information (p. 128)

**Delete Your Directory**

When a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory is deleted, all of the directory data and snapshots are deleted and cannot be recovered. After the directory is deleted, all instances that are joined to the directory remain intact. You cannot, however, use your directory credentials to log in to these instances. You need to log in to these instances with a user account that is local to the instance.

When an AD Connector directory is deleted, your on-premises directory remains intact. All instances that are joined to the directory also remain intact and remain joined to your on-premises directory. You can still use your directory credentials to log in to these instances.

**To delete a directory**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select Directories.
2. Ensure that no AWS applications are enabled for the directory.
a. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
b. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab. In the **AWS apps & services** section, you see which AWS applications are enabled for your directory.

- To disable Amazon WorkSpaces, you must deregister the service from the directory in the Amazon WorkSpaces console. For more information, see **Deregistering From a Directory** in the **Amazon WorkSpaces Administration Guide**.
- To disable Amazon WorkSpaces Application Manager, you must remove all application assignments in the Amazon WAM console. For more information, see **Removing All Application Assignments** in the **Amazon WAM Administration Guide**.
- To disable Amazon WorkDocs, you must delete the Amazon WorkDocs site in the Amazon WorkDocs console. For more information, see **Delete a Site** in the **Amazon WorkDocs Administration Guide**.
- To disable Amazon WorkMail, you must remove the Amazon WorkMail organization in the Amazon WorkMail console. For more information, see **Remove an Organization** in the **Amazon WorkMail Administrator Guide**.
- Disable AWS Management Console access.
- To disable Amazon Relational Database Service, you must remove the Amazon RDS instance from the domain. For more information, see **Managing a DB Instance in a Domain** in the **Amazon RDS User Guide**.
- To disable Amazon QuickSight, you must unsubscribe from Amazon QuickSight. For more information, see **Closing Your Amazon QuickSight Account** in the **Amazon QuickSight User Guide**.
- To disable Amazon Connect, you must delete the Amazon Connect Instance. For more information, see **Deleting an Amazon Connect Instance** in the **Amazon Connect Administration Guide**.

**Note**

If you are using AWS Single Sign-On and have previously connected it to the AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory you plan to delete, you must first disconnect the directory from AWS SSO before you can delete it. For more information, see **Disconnect a Directory** in the **AWS SSO User Guide**.

3. In the navigation pane, choose **Directories**.
4. Select only the directory to be deleted and click **Delete**. It takes several minutes for the directory to be deleted. When the directory has been deleted, it is removed from your directory list.

## Snapshot or Restore Your Directory

AWS Directory Service provides the ability to take manual snapshots of data for a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory. These snapshots can be used to perform a point-in-time restore for your directory.

**Note**

You cannot take snapshots of AD Connector directories.

**Topics**

- **Creating a Snapshot of Your Directory** (p. 71)
- **Restoring Your Directory from a Snapshot** (p. 71)
- **Deleting a Snapshot** (p. 71)
Creating a Snapshot of Your Directory

A snapshot can be used to restore your directory to what it was at the point in time that the snapshot was taken. To create a manual snapshot of your directory, perform the following steps.

**Note**

You are limited to 5 manual snapshots for each directory. If you have already reached this limit, you must delete one of your existing manual snapshots before you can create another.

**To create a manual snapshot**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Snapshots** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Create snapshot**.
5. In the **Create directory snapshot** dialog box, provide a name for the snapshot, if desired. When ready, choose **Create**.

Depending on the size of your directory, it may take several minutes to create the snapshot. When the snapshot is ready, the **Status** value changes to **Completed**.

Restoring Your Directory from a Snapshot

Restoring a directory from a snapshot is equivalent to moving the directory back in time.

**Warning**

We recommend that you contact the AWS Support Center before any snapshot restore; we may be able to help you avoid the need to do a snapshot restore. Any restore from snapshot can result in data loss as they are a point in time. It is important you understand that all of the DCs and DNS servers associated with the directory will be offline until the restore operation has been completed.

To restore your directory from a snapshot, perform the following steps.

**To restore a directory from a snapshot**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Snapshots** section, select a snapshot in the list, choose **Actions**, and then select **Restore snapshot**.
5. Review the information in the **Restore directory snapshot** dialog box, and choose **Restore**.

For a Simple AD directory, it may take several minutes for the directory to be restored. For an AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, it can take from two to three hours. When it has been successfully restored, the **Status** value of the directory changes to **Active**. Any changes made to the directory after the snapshot date are overwritten.

Deleting a Snapshot

**To delete a snapshot**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
4. In the Snapshots section, choose Actions, and then select Delete snapshot.
5. Verify that you want to delete the snapshot, and then choose Delete.

View Directory Information

You can view detailed information about a directory.

To view detailed directory information

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select Directories.
2. Click the directory ID link for your directory. Information about the directory is displayed in the Directory details page.

For more information about the Status field, see Understanding Your Directory Status (p. 27).

Update the DNS Address for Your AD Connector

Use the following steps to update the DNS addresses that your AD Connector is pointing to.

Note
If you have an update in progress, you must wait until it is complete before submitting another update.

To update your DNS settings for AD Connector

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. Choose the name of the directory to be updated.
3. Select the DNS settings tab.
4. Type the updated DNS IP addresses and choose Update directory.

Best Practices for AD Connector

Here are some suggestions and guidelines you should consider to avoid problems and get the most out of AD Connector.

Setting Up: Prerequisites

Consider these guidelines before creating your directory.

Verify You Have the Right Directory Type

AWS Directory Service provides multiple ways to use Microsoft Active Directory with other AWS services. You can choose the directory service with the features you need at a cost that fits your budget:

- **AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory** is a feature-rich managed Microsoft Active Directory hosted on the AWS cloud. AWS Managed Microsoft AD is your best choice if you have more than 5,000 users and need a trust relationship set up between an AWS hosted directory and your on-premises directories.
• **AD Connector** simply connects your existing on-premises Active Directory to AWS. AD Connector is your best choice when you want to use your existing on-premises directory with AWS services.

• **Simple AD** is an inexpensive Active Directory–compatible service with the common directory features. In most cases, Simple AD is the least expensive option and your best choice if you have 5,000 or fewer users and don't need the more advanced Microsoft Active Directory features.

For a more detailed comparison of AWS Directory Service options, see Which to Choose (p. 1).

**Ensure Your VPCs and Instances are Configured Correctly**

In order to connect to, manage, and use your directories, you must properly configure the VPCs that the directories are associated with. See either AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites (p. 8), AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110), or Simple AD Prerequisites (p. 134) for information about the VPC security and networking requirements.

If you are adding an instance to your domain, ensure that you have connectivity and remote access to your instance as described in Join an EC2 Instance to Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory (p. 30).

**Be Aware of Your Limits**

Learn about the various limits for your specific directory type. The available storage and the aggregate size of your objects are the only limitations on the number of objects you may store in your directory. See either Limits for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 90), Limits for AD Connector (p. 130), or Limits for Simple AD (p. 170) for details about your chosen directory.

**Configure On-premises Sites and Subnets Correctly When Using AD Connector**

If your on-premises network has Active Directory sites defined, you must make sure the subnets in the VPC where your AD Connector resides are defined in an Active Directory site, and that no conflicts exist between the subnets in your VPC and the subnets in your other sites.

To discover domain controllers, AD Connector uses the Active Directory site whose subnet IP address ranges are close to those in the VPC that contain the AD Connector. If you have a site whose subnets have the same IP address ranges as those in your VPC, AD Connector will discover the domain controllers in that site, which may not be physically close to your region.

**Using Your Directory**

Here are some suggestions to keep in mind when using your directory.

**Use Unique AD Connectors for Each Domain**

AD Connectors and your on-premises domains have a 1-to-1 relationship. That is, for each on-premises domain you want to authenticate against, you must create a unique AD Connector. Each AD Connector that you create must use a different service account, even if they are connected to the same directory.

**Check for compatibility**

When using AD Connector, you must ensure that your on-premises directory is and remains compatible with AWS Directory Services. For more information on your responsibilities, please see our shared responsibility model.
Limits for AD Connector

The following are the default limits for AD Connector. Each limit is per region unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AD Connector Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD Connector directories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Increase Your Limit

Perform the following steps to increase your limit for a region.

To request a limit increase for a region

1. Go to the AWS Support Center page, sign in, if necessary, and click Open a new case.
2. Under Regarding, select Service Limit Increase.
3. Under Limit Type, select AWS Directory Service.
4. Fill in all of the necessary fields in the form and click the button at the bottom of the page for your desired method of contact.

Application Compatibility Policy for AD Connector

As an alternative to AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory (AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 7)), AD Connector is an Active Directory proxy for AWS created applications and services only. You configure the proxy to use a specified Active Directory domain. When the application must look up a user or group in Active Directory, AD Connector proxies the request to the directory. Similarly, when a user logs in to the application, AD Connector proxies the authentication request to the directory. There are no third-party applications that work with AD Connector.

The following is a list of compatible AWS applications and services:

- Amazon Chime - For detailed instructions, see Connect to Your Active Directory.
- Amazon Connect - For more information, see How Amazon Connect Works.
- Amazon EC2 for Windows – You can use the seamless domain join feature of Amazon EC2 Windows to join your instance to your self-managed Active Directory (on-premises). Once joined, the instance communicates directly with your Active Directory and bypasses AD Connector. For more information, see Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 31).
- AWS Management Console – You can use AD Connector to authenticate AWS Management Console users with their Active Directory credentials without setting up SAML infrastructure. For more information, see Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials (p. 83).
- Amazon QuickSight - For more information, see Managing User Accounts in Amazon QuickSight Enterprise Edition.
- AWS Single Sign-On - For detailed instructions, see Connect AWS SSO to an On-Premises Active Directory.
- Amazon WorkDocs - For detailed instructions, see Connecting to Your On-Premises Directory with AD Connector.
- Amazon WorkMail - For detailed instructions, see Integrate Amazon WorkMail with an Existing Directory (Standard Setup).
Troubleshooting AD Connector

The following can help you troubleshoot some common issues you might encounter when creating or using your directory.

Here are some common problems with AD Connector.

I receive a "DNS unavailable" error when I try to connect to my on-premises directory

You receive an error message similar to the following when connecting to your on-premises directory:

```
DNS unavailable (TCP port 53) for IP: <DNS IP address>
```

AD Connector must be able to communicate with your on-premises DNS servers via TCP and UDP over port 53. Verify that your security groups and on-premises firewalls allow TCP and UDP communication over this port. For more information, see AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110).

I receive a "Connectivity issues detected" error when I try to connect to my on-premises directory

You receive an error message similar to the following when connecting to your on-premises directory:

```
Connectivity issues detected: LDAP unavailable (TCP port 389) for IP: <IP address>
Kerberos/authentication unavailable (TCP port 88) for IP: <IP address>
```

Please ensure that the listed ports are available and retry the operation.

AD Connector must be able to communicate with your on-premises domain controllers via TCP and UDP over the following ports. Verify that your security groups and on-premises firewalls allow TCP and UDP communication over these ports. For more information, see AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110).

- 88 (Kerberos)
- 389 (LDAP)

I receive an "SRV record" error when I try to connect to my on-premises directory

You receive an error message similar to one or more of the following when connecting to your on-premises directory:

```
SRV record for LDAP does not exist for IP: <DNS IP address>
```

Note

Amazon RDS for SQL Server is compatible with AWS Managed Microsoft AD only, and is not compatible with AD Connector. For more information, see the AWS Microsoft AD section in the AWS Directory Service FAQs page.
SRV record for Kerberos does not exist for IP: <DNS IP address>

AD Connector needs to obtain the _ldap._tcp.<DnsDomainName> and _kerberos._tcp.<DnsDomainName> SRV records when connecting to your directory. You will get this error if the service cannot obtain these records from the DNS servers that you specified when connecting to your directory. For more information about these SRV records, see SRV record requirements (p. 111).

My directory is stuck in the "Requested" state

If you have a directory that has been in the "Requested" state for more than five minutes, try deleting the directory and recreating it. If this problem persists, contact the AWS Support Center.

I receive an "AZ Constrained" error when I create a directory

Some AWS accounts created before 2012 might have access to Availability Zones in the US East (N. Virginia), US West (N. California), or Asia Pacific (Tokyo) region that do not support AWS Directory Service directories. If you receive an error such as this when creating a directory, choose a subnet in a different Availability Zone and try to create the directory again.

Some of my users cannot authenticate with my directory

Your user accounts must have Kerberos preauthentication enabled. This is the default setting for new user accounts, but it should not be modified. For more information about this setting, go to Preauthentication on Microsoft TechNet.

I receive an "Invalid Credentials" error when the service account used by AD Connector attempts to authenticate

This can occur if the hard drive on your domain controller runs out of space. Ensure that your domain controller's hard drives are not full.
Simple Active Directory

Simple AD is a standalone managed directory that is powered by a Samba 4 Active Directory Compatible Server. It is available in two sizes.

- Small - Supports up to 500 users (approximately 2,000 objects including users, groups, and computers).
- Large - Supports up to 5,000 users (approximately 20,000 objects including users, groups, and computers).

Simple AD provides a subset of the features offered by AWS Managed Microsoft AD, including the ability to manage user accounts and group memberships, create and apply group policies, securely connect to Amazon EC2 instances, and provide Kerberos-based single sign-on (SSO). However, note that Simple AD does not support features such as trust relationships with other domains, Active Directory Administrative Center, PowerShell support, Active Directory recycle bin, group managed service accounts, and schema extensions for POSIX and Microsoft applications.

Simple AD offers many advantages:

- Simple AD makes it easier to manage Amazon EC2 instances running Linux and Windows and deploy Windows applications in the AWS Cloud.
- Many of the applications and tools that you use today that require Microsoft Active Directory support can be used with Simple AD.
- User accounts in Simple AD allow access to AWS applications such as Amazon WorkSpaces, Amazon WorkDocs, or Amazon WorkMail.
- You can manage AWS resources through IAM role–based access to the AWS Management Console.
- Daily automated snapshots enable point-in-time recovery.

Continue reading the topics in this section to learn how to create your own Simple AD.

Topics

- Getting Started with Simple AD (p. 133)
- How To Administer Simple AD (p. 136)
- Tutorial: Create a Simple AD Directory (p. 166)
- Best Practices for Simple AD (p. 169)
- Limits for Simple AD (p. 170)
- Application Compatibility Policy for Simple AD (p. 171)
- Troubleshooting Simple AD (p. 172)

Getting Started with Simple AD

Simple AD creates a fully managed, Samba-based directory in the AWS cloud. When you create a directory with Simple AD, AWS Directory Service creates two domain controllers and DNS servers on your behalf. The domain controllers are created in different subnets in a VPC; this redundancy helps ensure that your directory remains accessible even if a failure occurs.

Topics
Simple AD Prerequisites

To create a Simple AD directory, you need a VPC with the following:

- At least two subnets. For Simple AD to install correctly, you must install your two domain controllers in separate subnets that must be in a different Availability Zone. In addition, the subnets must be in the same Classless Inter-Domain Routing (CIDR) range. If you want to extend or resize the VPC for your directory, then make sure to select both of the domain controller subnets for the extended VPC CIDR range.

- The following ports must be open between the two subnets that you deploy your directory into. This is necessary to allow the domain controllers that AWS Directory Service creates for you to communicate with each other.
  - TCP/UDP 53 - DNS
  - TCP/UDP 88 - Kerberos authentication
  - UDP 123 - NTP
  - TCP 135 - RPC
  - UDP 137-138 - Netlogon
  - TCP 139 - Netlogon
  - TCP/UDP 389 - LDAP
  - TCP/UDP 445 - SMB
  - TCP 636 - LDAPS (LDAP over TLS/SSL)
  - TCP 873 - Rsync
  - TCP 3268 - Global Catalog
  - TCP/UDP 1024-65535 - Ephemeral ports for RPC

- The VPC must have default hardware tenancy.

- If you require LDAPS support with Simple AD, we recommend that you configure it using an Elastic Load Balancer and HA Proxy running on EC2 instances. This model enables you to use a strong certificate for the LDAPS connection, simplify access to LDAPS through a single ELB IP address, and have automatic fail-over through the HA Proxy. For more information about how to configure LDAPS with Simple AD, see How to Configure an LDAPS Endpoint for Simple AD in the AWS Security Blog.

- The following encryption types must be enabled in the directory:
  - RC4_HMAC_MD5
  - AES128_HMAC_SHA1
  - AES256_HMAC_SHA1
  - Future encryption types

  Note
  Disabling these encryption types can cause communication issues with RSAT (Remote Server Administration Tools) and impact the availability or your directory.

Create a Simple AD Directory

To create a new directory, perform the following steps. Before starting this procedure, make sure you have completed the prerequisites identified in Simple AD Prerequisites (p. 134).
To create a Simple AD directory

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories and then choose Set up directory.
2. On the Select directory type page, choose Simple AD, and then choose Next.
3. On the Enter directory information page, provide the following information:
   - **Directory size**
     - Choose from either the Small or Large size option. For more information about sizes, see Simple Active Directory (p. 133).
   - **Organization name**
     - A unique organization name for your directory that will be used to register client devices.
     - This field is only available if you are creating your directory as part of launching Amazon WorkSpaces.
   - **Directory DNS name**
     - The fully qualified name for the directory, such as corp.example.com.
   - **Directory NetBIOS name**
     - The short name for the directory, such as CORP.
   - **Administrator password**
     - The password for the directory administrator. The directory creation process creates an administrator account with the user name Administrator and this password.
     - The directory administrator password is case-sensitive and must be between 8 and 64 characters in length, inclusive. It must also contain at least one character from three of the following four categories:
       - Lowercase letters (a-z)
       - Uppercase letters (A-Z)
       - Numbers (0-9)
       - Non-alphanumeric characters (~!#$%^&*_-+=`|(){}[]:;"'<>,.?/)  
   - **Confirm password**
     - Retype the administrator password.
   - **Directory description**
     - An optional description for the directory.
4. On the Choose VPC and subnets page, provide the following information, and then choose Next.
   - **VPC**
     - The VPC for the directory.
   - **Subnets**
     - Choose the subnets for the domain controllers. The two subnets must be in different Availability Zones.
5. On the Review & create page, review the directory information and make any necessary changes. When the information is correct, choose Create directory. It takes several minutes for the directory to be created. Once created, the Status value changes to Active.
What Gets Created

When you create a directory with Simple AD, AWS Directory Service performs the following tasks on your behalf:

- Sets up a Samba-based directory within the VPC.
- Creates a directory administrator account with the user name Administrator and the specified password. You use this account to manage your directory.
  
  **Important**
  Be sure to save this password. AWS Directory Service does not store this password and it cannot be retrieved or reset.

- Creates a security group for the directory controllers.
- Creates an account with the name AWSAdminD-xxxxxxxx that has domain admin privileges. This account is used by AWS Directory Service to perform automated operations for directory maintenance operations, such as taking directory snapshots and FSMO role transfers. The credentials for this account are securely stored by AWS Directory Service.

Configure DNS

Simple AD forwards DNS requests to the IP address of the Amazon-provided DNS servers for your VPC. These DNS servers will resolve names configured in your Route 53 private hosted zones. By pointing your on-premises computers to your Simple AD, you can now resolve DNS requests to the private hosted zone.

Note that to enable your Simple AD to respond to external DNS queries, the network access control list (ACL) for the VPC containing your Simple AD must be configured to allow traffic from outside the VPC.

If you are not using Route 53 private hosted zones, your DNS requests will be forwarded to public DNS servers.

If you're using custom DNS servers that are outside of your VPC and you want to use private DNS, you must reconfigure to use custom DNS servers on EC2 instances within your VPC. For more information, see Working with Private Hosted Zones.

If you want your Simple AD to resolve names using both DNS servers within your VPC and private DNS servers outside of your VPC, you can do this using a DHCP options set. For a detailed example, see this article.

  **Note**
  DNS dynamic updates are not supported in Simple AD domains. You can instead make the changes directly by connecting to your directory using DNS Manager on an instance that is joined to your domain.

For more information on Route 53, see What is Route 53.

How To Administer Simple AD

This section lists all of the procedures for operating and maintaining an Simple AD environment.

**Topics**

- Add Users and Groups to Simple AD (p. 137)
- Monitor Your Simple AD Directory (p. 139)
- Join an EC2 Instance to Your Simple AD Directory (p. 142)
- Maintain Your Simple AD Directory (p. 154)
- Enable Access to AWS Applications and Services (p. 157)
Add Users and Groups to Simple AD

Users represent individual people or entities that have access to your directory. Groups are very useful for giving or denying privileges to groups of users, rather than having to apply those privileges to each individual user. If a user moves to a different organization, you move that user to a different group and they automatically receive the privileges needed for the new organization.

To create users and groups in an AWS Directory Service directory, you must be connected to a EC2 instance that has been joined to your AWS Directory Service directory, and be logged in as a user that has privileges to create users and groups. You will also need to install the Active Directory Tools on your EC2 instance so you can add your users and groups with the Active Directory Users and Computers snap-in. For more information about how to set up an EC2 instance and install the necessary tools, see Step 3: Deploy an EC2 Instance to Manage AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 97).

Note
Your user accounts must have Kerberos preauthentication enabled. This is the default setting for new user accounts, but it should not be modified. For more information about this setting, go to Preauthentication on Microsoft TechNet.

The following examples demonstrate how to create a user, create a group, and add the user to the group.

Note
When using Simple AD, if you create a user account on a Linux instance with the option "Force user to change password at first login," that user will not be able to initially change their password using kpasswd. In order to change the password the first time, a domain administrator must update the user password using the Active Directory Management Tools.

To create a user

1. Open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool. There is a shortcut to this tool in the Administrative Tools folder.
   Tip
   You can run the following from a command prompt on the instance to open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool box directly.

   %SystemRoot%\system32\dsa.msc

2. In the directory tree, select an OU under your directory's NetBIOS name OU where you want to store your user (for example, Corp\Users). For more information about the OU structure used by directories in AWS, see What Gets Created (p. 10).
3. On the Action menu, click New, and then click User to open the new user wizard.
4. In the first page of the new user wizard, enter the following values and click Next.

   First name
   Mary

   Last name
   Major

   User logon name
   marym

5. In the second page of the new user wizard, enter a temporary password for Password and Confirm Password. Make sure the User must change password at next logon option is selected. None of the other options should be selected. Click Next.
6. In the third page of the new user wizard, verify that the new user information is correct and click **Finish**. The new user will appear in the **Users** folder.

**To create a group**

1. Open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool. There is a shortcut to this tool in the **Administrative Tools** folder.

   **Tip**
   
   You can run the following from a command prompt on the instance to open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool box directly.

   ```shell
   %SystemRoot%\system32\dsa.msc
   ```

2. In the directory tree, select an OU under your directory's NetBIOS name OU where you want to store your group (for example, Corp\Users). For more information about the OU structure used by directories in AWS, see What Gets Created (p. 10).

3. On the **Action** menu, click **New**, and then click **Group** to open the new group wizard.

4. Enter **Division Managers** for the **Group name**, select **Global** for the **Group scope**, and select **Security** for the **Group type**. Click **OK**. The new group, **Division Managers**, appears in the **Users** folder.

**To add a user to a group**

1. Open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool. There is a shortcut to this tool in the **Administrative Tools** folder.

   **Tip**
   
   You can run the following from a command prompt on the instance to open the Active Directory Users and Computers tool box directly.

   ```shell
   %SystemRoot%\system32\dsa.msc
   ```

2. In the directory tree, select the OU under your directory's NetBIOS name OU where you stored your group, and select the **Division Managers** group.

3. On the **Action** menu, click **Properties** to open the properties dialog box for the **Division Managers** group.

4. Select the **Members** tab and click **Add**....

5. For **Enter the object names to select**, enter **marym** and click **OK**. **Mary Major** is displayed in the **Members** list. Click **OK** again to update the group membership.

6. Verify that Mary Major is now a member of the **Division Managers** group by selecting **Mary Major** in the **Users** folder, click **Properties** in the **Action** menu to open the properties dialog box for Mary Major. Select the **Member Of** tab. **Division Managers** is in the list of groups that Mary Major belongs to.

**Installing the Active Directory Administration Tools**

To manage your directory from an EC2 Windows instance, you need to install the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools on the instance.

**Topics**

- Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2008 (p. 45)
- Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2012 (p. 45)
- Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2016 (p. 45)
Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2008

To install the Active Directory administration tools on Windows Server 2008

1. Open Server Manager by choosing Start, Administrative Tools, Server Manager.
2. In the Server Manager tree pane, select Features, and choose Add Features,
3. In the Add Features Wizard, open Remote Server Administration Tools, Role Administration Tools, select AD DS and AD LDS Tools, scroll down and select DNS, then choose Next.
4. Review the information and choose Install. The feature installation requires that the instance be restarted. When the instance has restarted, the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools are available on the Start menu, under All Programs > Administrative Tools.

Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2012

To install the Active Directory administration tools on Windows Server 2012

1. Open Server Manager from the Start screen by choosing Server Manager.
2. In the Server Manager Dashboard, choose Add roles and features,
3. In the Add Roles and Features Wizard choose Installation Type, select Role-based or feature-based installation, and choose Next.
4. Under Server Selection, make sure the local server is selected, and choose Features in the left navigation pane.
5. In the Features tree, open Remote Server Administration Tools, Role Administration Tools, select AD DS and AD LDS Tools, scroll down and select DNS, then choose Next.
6. Review the information and choose Install. When the feature installation is finished, the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools are available on the Start screen in the Administrative Tools folder.

Install the Active Directory Administration Tools on Windows Server 2016

To install the Active Directory administration tools on Windows Server 2016

1. Open Server Manager from the Start screen by choosing Server Manager.
2. In the Server Manager Dashboard, choose Add roles and features,
3. In the Add Roles and Features Wizard choose Installation Type, select Role-based or feature-based installation, and choose Next.
4. Under Server Selection, make sure the local server is selected, and choose Features in the left navigation pane.
5. In the Features tree, open Remote Server Administration Tools, Role Administration Tools, select AD DS and AD LDS Tools, scroll down and select DNS, then choose Next.
6. Review the information and choose Install. When the feature installation is finished, the Active Directory Domain Services and Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services Tools are available on the Start screen in the Administrative Tools folder.

Monitor Your Simple AD Directory

You can monitor your Simple AD directory with the following methods:

Topics
• Understanding Your Directory Status (p. 140)
• Configure Directory Status Notifications (p. 141)

Understanding Your Directory Status

The following are the various statuses for a directory.

**Active**

The directory is operating normally. No issues have been detected by the AWS Directory Service for your directory.

**Creating**

The directory is currently being created. Directory creation typically takes between 5 to 30 minutes but may vary depending on the system load.

**Deleted**

The directory has been deleted. All resources for the directory have been released. Once a directory enters this state, it cannot be recovered.

**Deleting**

The directory is currently being deleted. The directory will remain in this state until it has been completely deleted. Once a directory enters this state, the delete operation cannot be cancelled, and the directory cannot be recovered.

**Failed**

The directory could not be created. Please delete this directory. If this problem persists, please contact the AWS Support Center.

**Impaired**

The directory is running in a degraded state. One or more issues have been detected, and not all directory operations may be working at full operational capacity. Typically AWS resolves these issues within 40 minutes. If your directory is in an Impaired state longer than 40 minutes, we recommend that you contact the AWS Support Center.

*Important*

Do not restore a snapshot while a directory is in an Impaired state. It is rare that snapshot restore is necessary to resolve impairments. For more information, see Snapshot or Restore Your Directory (p. 70).

**Inoperable**

The directory is not functional. All directory endpoints have reported issues.

**Requested**

A request to create your directory is currently pending.

**RestoreFailed**

Restoring the directory from a snapshot failed. Please retry the restore operation. If this continues, try a different snapshot, or contact the AWS Support Center.

**Restoring**

The directory is currently being restored from an automatic or manual snapshot. Restoring from a snapshot typically takes several minutes, depending on the size of the directory data in the snapshot.

For more information, see Simple AD Directory Status Reasons (p. 173).
Configure Directory Status Notifications

Using Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS), you can receive email or text (SMS) messages when the status of your directory changes. You get notified if your directory goes from an Active status to an Impaired or Inoperable status. You also receive a notification when the directory returns to an Active status.

How It Works

Amazon SNS uses “topics” to collect and distribute messages. Each topic has one or more subscribers who receive the messages that have been published to that topic. Using the steps below you can add AWS Directory Service as publisher to an Amazon SNS topic. When AWS Directory Service detects a change in your directory’s status, it publishes a message to that topic, which is then sent to the topic’s subscribers.

You can associate multiple directories as publishers to a single topic. You can also add directory status messages to topics that you’ve previously created in Amazon SNS. You have detailed control over who can publish to and subscribe to a topic. For complete information about Amazon SNS, see What is Amazon SNS?

To enable SNS messaging for your directory

2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
3. Select the Maintenance tab.
4. In the Directory monitoring section, choose Actions, and then select Create notification.
5. On the Create notification page, select Choose a notification type, and then choose Create a new notification. Alternatively, if you already have an existing SNS topic, you can choose Associate existing SNS topic to send status messages from this directory to that topic.
   
   **Note**
   
   If you choose Create a new notification but then use the same topic name for an SNS topic that already exists, Amazon SNS does not create a new topic, but just adds the new subscription information to the existing topic.
   
   If you choose Associate existing SNS topic, you will only be able to choose an SNS topic that is in the same region as the directory.

6. Choose the Recipient type and enter the Recipient contact information. If you enter a phone number for SMS, use numbers only. Do not include dashes, spaces, or parentheses.
7. (Optional) Provide a name for your topic and an SNS display name. The display name is a short name up to 10 characters that is included in all SMS messages from this topic. When using the SMS option, the display name is required.
   
   **Note**
   
   If you are logged in using an IAM user or role that has only the DirectoryServiceFullAccess managed policy, your topic name must start with “DirectoryMonitoring”. If you’d like to further customize your topic name you’ll need additional privileges for SNS.

8. Choose Create.

If you want to designate additional SNS subscribers, such as an additional email address, Amazon SQS queues or AWS Lambda, you can do this from the Amazon SNS console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/sns/v2/home.

To remove directory status messages from a topic

2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. Select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Directory monitoring** section, select an SNS topic name in the list, choose **Actions**, and then select **Remove**.
5. Choose **Remove**.

This removes your directory as a publisher to the selected SNS topic. If you want to delete the entire topic, you can do this from the Amazon SNS console at [https://console.aws.amazon.com/sns/v2/home](https://console.aws.amazon.com/sns/v2/home).

**Note**
Before deleting an Amazon SNS topic using the SNS console, you should ensure that a directory is not sending status messages to that topic. If you delete an Amazon SNS topic using the SNS console, this change will not immediately be reflected within the Directory Services console. You would only be notified the next time a directory publishes a notification to the deleted topic, in which case you would see an updated status on the directory's **Monitoring** tab indicating the topic could not be found. Therefore, to avoid missing important directory status messages, before deleting any topic that receives messages from AWS Directory Service, associate your directory with a different Amazon SNS topic.

### Join an EC2 Instance to Your Simple AD Directory

You can seamlessly join an EC2 instance to your directory domain when the instance is launched using the Amazon EC2 Systems Manager. For more information, see [Seamlessly Joining a Windows Instance to an AWS Directory Service Domain](#) in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Windows Instances.

If you need to manually join an EC2 instance to your domain, you must launch the instance in the proper region and security group or subnet, then join the instance to the domain.

To be able to connect remotely to these instances, you must have IP connectivity to the instances from the network you are connecting from. In most cases, this requires that an Internet gateway be attached to your VPC and that the instance has a public IP address.

**Topics**
- Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 142)
- Manually Join a Windows Instance (p. 143)
- Manually Join a Linux Instance (p. 145)
- Delegate Directory Join Privileges for Simple AD (p. 152)
- Create a DHCP Options Set (p. 153)

### Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance

This procedure will seamlessly join a Windows EC2 instance to your directory.

**To seamlessly join a Windows EC2 instance**

1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console and open the Amazon EC2 console at [https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/](https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/).
2. From the region selector in the navigation bar, select the same region as the existing directory.
3. From the Amazon EC2 console dashboard, choose **Launch Instance**.
4. On the **Step 1** page, select the appropriate AMI.
5. On the **Step 2** page, select the appropriate instance type, and then choose **Next**.
6. On the **Step 3** page, do the following, and then choose **Next**:
1. For **Network**, choose the VPC that your directory was created in.

2. For **Subnet**, select one of the public subnets in your VPC. The subnet you select must have all external traffic routed to an Internet gateway. If this is not the case, you won’t be able to connect to the instance remotely.

3. For **Auto-assign Public IP**, choose Enable (if the subnet setting is not set to enable by default). For more information about public and private IP addressing, see Amazon EC2 Instance IP Addressing in the Amazon EC2 User Guide for Linux Instances.

4. For **Domain join directory**, select your domain from the Domain join directory list. To seamlessly join the instance, you also need an IAM role that has the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM managed policy attached to it. Select the IAM role that has permission from the IAM role list. If you choose this option, you will not have to manually join the instance to the domain as that will be done for you when the instance is launched.

   **Note**
   This option is only available for Windows instances. Linux instances must be manually joined to the directory as explained in Manually Join a Linux Instance (p. 33).

5. For **IAM role**, optionally choose the Create new IAM role link to create a new IAM role and attach the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM policy, and then on the Roles page, do the following:
   a. Select the Create role button.
   b. Under **AWS service**, select the EC2 link, and then click Next.
   c. Under **Select your use case**, select EC2, and then select Next.
   d. In the list of polices, select the AmazonEC2RoleforSSM policy, and then select Next.
   e. In **Role name**, type a name for your new role (For example, EC2DomainJoin), in **Role description** type a description (optional), and then select the Create role button.

7. Go back to the **Step 3** page, for **IAM role**, choose the refresh icon next to the IAM role field. Your new role should be visible in the drop down menu. Select it, and leave the rest of the settings on this page with their default values, and then select Next.

8. Continue through the remaining pages in the wizard using your preferred settings.

   **Note**
   The security group you select for the instance (on the Step 6 page) must allow remote access to the instance from your network.

### Manually Join a Windows Instance

To manually join an existing Amazon EC2 Windows instance to a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory, the instance must be launched as specified in Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance (p. 31).

**To join a Windows instance to a Simple AD or AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory**

2. Open the TCP/IPv4 properties dialog box on the instance.
   a. Open **Network Connections**.
      **Tip**
      You can open Network Connections directly by running the following from a command prompt on the instance.

```
%SystemRoot%\system32\control.exe ncpa.cpl
```

   b. Open the context menu (right-click) for any enabled network connection and then choose **Properties**.
c. In the connection properties dialog box, open (double-click) **Internet Protocol Version 4**.

3. (Optional) Select **Use the following DNS server addresses**, change the **Preferred DNS server** and **Alternate DNS server** addresses to the IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers, and choose **OK**.

![Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4) Properties](image)

4. Open the **System Properties** dialog box for the instance, select the **Computer Name** tab, and choose **Change**.

   **Tip**
   You can open the **System Properties** dialog box directly by running the following from a command prompt on the instance.

   ```
   %SystemRoot%\system32\control.exe sysdm.cpl
   ```

5. In the **Member of** field, select **Domain**, enter the fully-qualified name of your AWS Directory Service directory, and choose **OK**.

6. When prompted for the name and password for the domain administrator, enter the username and password of an account that has domain join privileges. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

   **Note**
   You can enter either the fully-qualified name of your domain or the NetBios name, followed by a backslash (\), and then the user name, in this case, **Admin**. For example, **corp.example.com\Admin** or **corp\Admin**.

7. After you receive the message welcoming you to the domain, restart the instance to have the changes take effect.

Now that your instance has been joined to the domain, you can log into that instance remotely and install utilities to manage the directory, such as adding users and groups.
Manually Join a Linux Instance

In addition to Amazon EC2 Windows instances, you can also join certain Amazon EC2 Linux instances to your Simple AD directory. The following Linux instance distributions and versions are supported:

- Amazon Linux AMI 2015.03
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.2
- Ubuntu Server 14.04 LTS
- CentOS 7

**Note**
Other Linux distributions and versions may work but have not been tested.

Join an Instance to Your Directory

Before you can join either an Amazon Linux, CentOS, Red Hat, or Ubuntu instance to your directory, the instance must first be launched as specified in *Seamlessly Join a Windows EC2 Instance* (p. 31).

**Important**
Some of the following procedures, if not performed correctly, can render your instance unreachable or unusable. Therefore, we strongly suggest you make a backup or take a snapshot of your instance before performing these procedures.

**To join a linux instance to your directory**

Follow the steps for your specific Linux instance using one of the following tabs:

Amazon Linux

1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.
2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see *How do I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance* in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.
3. Make sure your Amazon Linux - 64bit instance is up to date.

```
# sudo yum -y update
```
4. Install the required Amazon Linux packages on your Linux instance.

**Note**
Some of these packages may already be installed.
As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

Amazon Linux 1

```
# sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation
```

Amazon Linux 2

```
# sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation samba-common-tools
```
5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.
Join an EC2 Instance to Your Directory

```bash
# sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose
```

**join_account@example.com**

An account in the `example.com` domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

**example.com**

The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

```text
... * Successfully enrolled machine in realm
```

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.
   a. Open the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file in a text editor.

   ```bash
   sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
   ```

   b. Set the `PasswordAuthentication` setting to `yes`.

   ```text
   PasswordAuthentication yes
   ```

7. Start the SSSD service.

   ```bash
   # sudo systemctl start sssd.service
   ```

   Alternatively:

   ```bash
   # sudo service sssd start
   ```

8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the domain admins group to the sudoers list by performing the following steps:
   a. Open the `sudoers` file with the following command:

   ```bash
   # sudo visudo
   ```

   b. Add the following to the bottom of the `sudoers` file and save it.

   ```text
   ## Add the "Domain Admins" group from the example.com domain.
   %Domain\ Admins@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
   ```

   (The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)

CentOS

1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.

2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see How do...
I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.

3. Make sure your CentOS 7 instance is up to date.

```bash
$ sudo yum -y update
```

4. Install the required CentOS 7 packages on your Linux instance.

   **Note**
   Some of these packages may already be installed.
   As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

```bash
$ sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation samba-common-tools
```

5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.

```bash
$ sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose
```

   `join_account@example.com`
   An account in the `example.com` domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

   `example.com`
   The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

```
... * Successfully enrolled machine in realm
```

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.

   a. Open the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file in a text editor.

   ```bash
   sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
   ```

   b. Set the `PasswordAuthentication` setting to `yes`.

   ```bash
   PasswordAuthentication yes
   ```

7. Start the SSSD service.

   ```bash
   $ sudo systemctl start sssd.service
   ```

   Alternatively:

   ```bash
   $ sudo service sssd start
   ```

8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the domain admins group to the sudoers list by performing the following steps:

   a. Open the `sudoers` file with the following command:

   ```bash
   $ sudo visudo
   ```
b. Add the following to the bottom of the `sudoers` file and save it.

```plaintext
## Add the "Domain Admins" group from the example.com domain.
%Domain\ Admins@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL

(The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)
```

Red Hat

1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.
2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see How do I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.
3. Make sure the Red Hat - 64bit instance is up to date.

```
$ sudo yum -y update
```

4. Install the required Red Hat packages on your Linux instance.

**Note**
Some of these packages may already be installed.
As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

```
$ sudo yum -y install sssd realmd krb5-workstation samba-common-tools
```

5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.

```
$ sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose
```

**join_account@example.com**
An account in the example.com domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

**example.com**
The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

```
... * Successfully enrolled machine in realm
```

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.
   a. Open the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file in a text editor.

```
sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

   b. Set the `PasswordAuthentication` setting to yes.

```
PasswordAuthentication yes
```
7. Start the SSSD service.

```shell
# sudo systemctl start sssd.service
```

Alternatively:

```shell
# sudo service sssd start
```

8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the domain admins group to the sudoers list by performing the following steps:

a. Open the `sudoers` file with the following command:

```shell
# sudo visudo
```

b. Add the following to the bottom of the `sudoers` file and save it.

```ini
## Add the "Domain Admins" group from the example.com domain.
%Domain\ Admins@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL

(The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)
```

Ubuntu

1. Connect to the instance using any SSH client.

2. Configure the Linux instance to use the DNS server IP addresses of the AWS Directory Service-provided DNS servers. You can do this either by setting it up in the DHCP Options set attached to the VPC or by setting it manually on the instance. If you want to set it manually, see How do I assign a static DNS server to a private Amazon EC2 instance in the AWS Knowledge Center for guidance on setting the persistent DNS server for your particular Linux distribution and version.

3. Make sure your Ubuntu - 64bit instance is up to date.

```shell
# sudo apt-get update
# sudo apt-get -y upgrade
```

4. Install the required Ubuntu packages on your Linux instance.

   **Note**
   Some of these packages may already be installed.
   As you install the packages, you might be presented with several pop-up configuration screens. You can generally leave the fields in these screens blank.

```shell
# sudo apt-get -y install sssd realmd krb5-user samba-common packagekit adcli
```

5. Join the instance to the directory with the following command.

```shell
# sudo realm join -U join_account@example.com example.com --verbose
```

   **Note**
   If you are using Ubuntu 16.04, you must enter the domain name portion of the username with all capital letters. For example, `join_account@EXAMPLE.COM example.com --verbose.`
**Join an EC2 Instance to Your Directory**

**join_account@example.com**

An account in the `example.com` domain that has domain join privileges. Enter the password for the account when prompted. For more information about delegating these privileges, see Delegate Directory Join Privileges for AWS Managed Microsoft AD (p. 40).

**example.com**

The fully-qualified DNS name of your directory.

```plaintext
... * Successfully enrolled machine in realm
```

**Note**

If you are using Ubuntu 14.04, and encounter the following error:

```
realm: Couldn't join realm: Failed to enroll machine in realm. See diagnostics.
```

Complete the following additional steps, and then attempt a domain join to resolve the issue:

```bash
# killall aptd
# apt-get install packagekit adcli
```

6. Set the SSH service to allow password authentication.

   a. Open the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file in a text editor.

   ```bash
   sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
   ```

   b. Set the `PasswordAuthentication` setting to `yes`.

   ```plaintext
   PasswordAuthentication yes
   ```

7. Start the SSSD service.

   ```bash
   # sudo systemctl start sssd.service
   ```
   Alternatively:

   ```bash
   # sudo service sssd start
   ```

8. Restart the instance.

9. After the instance has restarted, connect to it with any SSH client and add the domain admins group to the sudoers list by performing the following steps:

   a. Open the `sudoers` file with the following command:

   ```bash
   # sudo visudo
   ```

   b. Add the following to the bottom of the `sudoers` file and save it.

   ```plaintext
   ## Add the "Domain Admins" group from the example.com domain.
   %Domain\ Admins@example.com ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL
   (The above example uses "\<space>" to create the Linux space character.)
   ```
Note
When using Simple AD, if you create a user account on a Linux instance with the option "Force user to change password at first login," that user will not be able to initially change their password using `kpasswd`. In order to change the password the first time, a domain administrator must update the user password using the Active Directory Management Tools.

Restricting Account Login Access

Since all accounts are defined in Active Directory, by default, all the users in the directory can log in to the instance. You can allow only specific users to log in to the instance with `ad_access_filter` in `sssd.conf`. For example:

```
ad_access_filter = (memberOf=cn=admins,ou=Testou,dc=example,dc=com)
```

- `memberOf` indicates that users should only be allowed access to the instance if they are a member of a specific group.
- `cn` is the canonical name of the group that should have access. In this example, the group name is `admins`.
- `ou` is the organizational unit in which the above group is located. In this example, the OU is `Testou`.
- `dc` is the domain component of your domain. In this example, `example`.
- `dc` is an additional domain component. In this example, `com`.

You must manually add `ad_access_filter` to your `/etc/sssd/sssd.conf`. After you do this, your `sssd.conf` might look like this:

```
domains = example.com
config_file_version = 2
services = nss, pam

[domain/example.com]
ad_domain = example.com
krb5_realm = EXAMPLE.COM
realm_tags = manages-system joined-with-samba
cache_credentials = True
id_provider = ad
krb5_store_password_if_offline = True
default_shell = /bin/bash
ldap_id_mapping = True
use_fully_qualified_names = True
fallback_homedir = /home/%u@%d
access_provider = ad
ad_access_filter = (memberOf=cn=admins,ou=Testou,dc=example,dc=com)
```

In order for the configuration to take affect you need to restart the sssd service:

```
# sudo systemctl restart sssd.service
```
Alternatively, you could use:

```
$ sudo service sssd start
```

**Connect to the Instance**

When a user connects to the instance using an SSH client, they are prompted for their username. The user can enter the username in either the `username@example.com` or `EXAMPLE\username` format. The response will appear similar to the following:

```
login as: johndoe@example.com
johndoe@example.com's password:
Last login: Thu Jun 25 16:26:28 2015 from XX.XX.XX.XX
```

**Delegate Directory Join Privileges for Simple AD**

To join a computer to your directory, you need an account that has privileges to join computers to the directory.

With Simple AD, members of the **Domain Admins** group have sufficient privileges to join computers to the directory.

However, as a best practice, you should use an account that has only the minimum privileges necessary. The following procedure demonstrates how to create a new group called `Joiners` and delegate the privileges to this group that are needed to join computers to the directory.

You must perform this procedure on a machine that is joined to your directory and has the **Active Directory User and Computers** MMC snap-in installed. You must also be logged in as a domain administrator.

**To delegate join privileges for Simple AD**

1. Open **Active Directory User and Computers** and select your domain root in the navigation tree.
2. In the navigation tree on the left, open the context menu (right-click) for **Users**, choose **New**, and then choose **Group**.
3. In the **New Object - Group** box, type the following and choose **OK**.
   - For **Group name**, type **Joiners**.
   - For **Group scope**, choose **Global**.
   - For **Group type**, choose **Security**.
4. In the navigation tree, select your domain root. From the **Action** menu, choose **Delegate Control**.
5. On the **Delegation of Control Wizard** page, choose **Next**, and then choose **Add**.
6. In the **Select Users, Computers, or Groups** box, type **Joiners** and choose **OK**. If more than one object is found, select the **Joiners** group created above. Choose **Next**.
7. On the **Tasks to Delegate** page, select **Create a custom task to delegate**, and then choose **Next**.
8. Select **Only the following objects in the folder**, and then select **Computer objects**.
9. Select **Create selected objects in this folder** and **Delete selected objects in this folder**. Then choose **Next**.
10. Select Read and Write, and then choose Next.

11. Verify the information on the Completing the Delegation of Control Wizard page and choose Finish.

12. Create a user with a strong password and add that user to the Joiners group. The user will then have sufficient privileges to connect AWS Directory Service to the directory.

Create a DHCP Options Set

AWS recommends that you create a DHCP options set for your AWS Directory Service directory and assign the DHCP options set to the VPC that your directory is in. This allows any instances in that VPC to point to the specified domain and DNS servers to resolve their domain names.

For more information about DHCP options sets, see DHCP Options Sets in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

To create a DHCP options set for your directory

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
2. Choose DHCP Options Sets in the navigation pane, and choose Create DHCP options set.
3. In the Create DHCP options set dialog box, enter the following values for your directory:

   Name tag

   An optional tag for the options set.
Domain name

The fully-qualified name of your directory, such as corp.example.com.

Domain name servers

The IP addresses of your directory's DNS servers. These are the IP addresses of your AWS-provided directory. You can find these addresses by going to the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, selecting Directories and then choosing the correct directory ID.

NTP servers

Leave this field blank.

NetBIOS name servers

Leave this field blank.

NetBIOS node type

Leave this field blank.

4. Choose Yes, Create. The new set of DHCP options appears in your list of DHCP options.

5. Make a note of the ID of the new set of DHCP options (dopt-xxxxxxx). You need it to associate the new options set with your VPC.

To change the DHCP options set associated with a VPC

After you create a set of DHCP options, you can't modify them. If you want your VPC to use a different set of DHCP options, you must create a new set and associate them with your VPC. You can also set up your VPC to use no DHCP options at all.

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
2. Choose Your VPCs in the navigation pane.
3. Select the VPC, and choose Edit DHCP Options Set from the Actions list.
4. In the DHCP Options Set list, select the desired options set from the list, and choose Save.

Maintain Your Simple AD Directory

This section describes how to maintain common administrative tasks for your Simple AD environment.

Topics

- Delete Your Directory (p. 154)
- Snapshot or Restore Your Directory (p. 155)
- View Directory Information (p. 157)

Delete Your Directory

When a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory is deleted, all of the directory data and snapshots are deleted and cannot be recovered. After the directory is deleted, all instances that are joined to the directory remain intact. You cannot, however, use your directory credentials to log in to these instances. You need to log in to these instances with a user account that is local to the instance.

When an AD Connector directory is deleted, your on-premises directory remains intact. All instances that are joined to the directory also remain intact and remain joined to your on-premises directory. You can still use your directory credentials to log in to these instances.
To delete a directory

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select Directories.
2. Ensure that no AWS applications are enabled for the directory.
   a. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
   b. On the Directory details page, select the Application management tab. In the AWS apps & services section, you see which AWS applications are enabled for your directory.
      • To disable Amazon WorkSpaces, you must deregister the service from the directory in the Amazon WorkSpaces console. For more information, see Deregistering From a Directory in the Amazon WorkSpaces Administration Guide.
      • To disable Amazon WorkSpaces Application Manager, you must remove all application assignments in the Amazon WAM console. For more information, see Removing All Application Assignments in the Amazon WAM Administration Guide.
      • To disable Amazon WorkDocs, you must delete the Amazon WorkDocs site in the Amazon WorkDocs console. For more information, see Delete a Site in the Amazon WorkDocs Administration Guide.
      • To disable Amazon WorkMail, you must remove the Amazon WorkMail organization in the Amazon WorkMail console. For more information, see Remove an Organization in the Amazon WorkMail Administrator Guide.
      • Disable AWS Management Console access.
      • To disable Amazon Relational Database Service, you must remove the Amazon RDS instance from the domain. For more information, see Managing a DB Instance in a Domain in the Amazon RDS User Guide.
      • To disable Amazon QuickSight, you must unsubscribe from Amazon QuickSight. For more information, see Closing Your Amazon QuickSight Account in the Amazon QuickSight User Guide.
      • To disable Amazon Connect, you must delete the Amazon Connect Instance. For more information, see Deleting an Amazon Connect Instance in the Amazon Connect Administration Guide.

   Note
   If you are using AWS Single Sign-On and have previously connected it to the AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory you plan to delete, you must first disconnect the directory from AWS SSO before you can delete it. For more information, see Disconnect a Directory in the AWS SSO User Guide.
3. In the navigation pane, choose Directories.
4. Select only the directory to be deleted and click Delete. It takes several minutes for the directory to be deleted. When the directory has been deleted, it is removed from your directory list.

Snapshot or Restore Your Directory

AWS Directory Service provides the ability to take manual snapshots of data for a Simple AD or AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory directory. These snapshots can be used to perform a point-in-time restore for your directory.

Note
You cannot take snapshots of AD Connector directories.

Topics
• Creating a Snapshot of Your Directory (p. 71)
• Restoring Your Directory from a Snapshot (p. 71)
Creating a Snapshot of Your Directory

A snapshot can be used to restore your directory to what it was at the point in time that the snapshot was taken. To create a manual snapshot of your directory, perform the following steps.

**Note**
You are limited to 5 manual snapshots for each directory. If you have already reached this limit, you must delete one of your existing manual snapshots before you can create another.

**To create a manual snapshot**

1. In the **AWS Directory Service console** navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Snapshots** section, choose **Actions**, and then select **Create snapshot**.
5. In the **Create directory snapshot** dialog box, provide a name for the snapshot, if desired. When ready, choose **Create**.

Depending on the size of your directory, it may take several minutes to create the snapshot. When the snapshot is ready, the **Status** value changes to **Completed**.

Restoring Your Directory from a Snapshot

Restoring a directory from a snapshot is equivalent to moving the directory back in time.

**Warning**
We recommend that you contact the **AWS Support Center** before any snapshot restore; we may be able to help you avoid the need to do a snapshot restore. Any restore from snapshot can result in data loss as they are a point in time. It is important you understand that all of the DCs and DNS servers associated with the directory will be offline until the restore operation has been completed.

To restore your directory from a snapshot, perform the following steps.

**To restore a directory from a snapshot**

1. In the **AWS Directory Service console** navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Maintenance** tab.
4. In the **Snapshots** section, select a snapshot in the list, choose **Actions**, and then select **Restore snapshot**.
5. Review the information in the **Restore directory snapshot** dialog box, and choose **Restore**.

For a Simple AD directory, it may take several minutes for the directory to be restored. For a AWS Managed Microsoft AD directory, it can take from two to three hours. When it has been successfully restored, the **Status** value of the directory changes to **Active**. Any changes made to the directory after the snapshot date are overwritten.

Deleting a Snapshot

**To delete a snapshot**

1. In the **AWS Directory Service console** navigation pane, select **Directories**.

---

**Deleting a Snapshot (p. 71)**
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. In the Snapshots section, choose Actions, and then select Delete snapshot.
5. Verify that you want to delete the snapshot, and then choose Delete.

View Directory Information

You can view detailed information about a directory.

To view detailed directory information

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select Directories.
2. Click the directory ID link for your directory. Information about the directory is displayed in the Directory details page.

For more information about the Status field, see Understanding Your Directory Status (p. 27).

Enable Access to AWS Applications and Services

AWS Directory Service can give other AWS applications and services, such as Amazon WorkSpaces, access to your directory users. The following AWS applications and services can be enabled or disabled to work with AWS Directory Service:

Amazon WorkSpaces

You can create a Simple AD, AWS Managed Microsoft AD, or AD Connector directly from Amazon WorkSpaces. Simply launch Advanced Setup when creating your Workspace.

For more information, see the Amazon WorkSpaces Administration Guide.

Amazon WorkSpaces Application Manager

For more information, see the Amazon WAM Administration Guide.

Amazon WorkDocs

For more information, see the Amazon WorkDocs Administration Guide.

Amazon WorkMail

For more information, see the Amazon WorkMail Administrator Guide.

Amazon Relational Database Service

For more information, see the Amazon RDS User Guide.

AWS Management Console

For more information, see Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials (p. 83).

Once enabled, you manage access to your directories in the console of the application or service that you want to give access to your directory. To find the AWS applications and services links described above in the AWS Directory Service console, perform the following steps.

To display the applications and services for a directory

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab.
4. Review the list under the **AWS apps & services** section.

**Topics**
- Creating an Access URL (p. 158)
- Single Sign-On (p. 158)

**Creating an Access URL**

An Access URL is used with AWS applications and services, such as Amazon WorkSpaces, to reach a login page that is associated with your directory. The URL must be unique globally. You can create an access URL for your directory by performing the following steps.

**Warning**
After an access URL is created, it cannot be used by others. If you delete your directory, the access URL is also deleted and can then be used by any other account.

**To create an access URL**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab.
4. In the **Application access URL** section, if an access URL has not been assigned to the directory, the **Create** button is displayed. Enter a directory alias and choose **Create**. If an **Entity Already Exists** error is returned, the specified directory alias has already been allocated. Choose another alias and repeat this procedure.

   Your directory URL is changed to `<alias>.awsapps.com`.

**Single Sign-On**

AWS Directory Service provides the ability to allow your users to access Amazon WorkDocs from a computer joined to the directory without having to enter their credentials separately.

Before you enable single sign-on, you need to take additional steps to enable your users web browsers to support single sign-on. Users may need to modify their web browser settings to enable single sign-on.

**Note**
Single sign-on only works when used on a computer that is joined to the AWS Directory Service directory. It cannot be used on computers that are not joined to the directory.

**To enable or disable single sign-on with Amazon WorkDocs**

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, select **Directories**.
2. On the **Directories** page, choose your directory ID.
3. On the **Directory details** page, select the **Application management** tab.
4. In the **Application access URL** section, choose **Enable** to enable single sign-on for Amazon WorkDocs.

   If you do not see the **Enable** button, you may need to first create an Access URL before this option will be displayed. For more information about how to create an access URL, see **Creating an Access URL** (p. 76).
5. **In the Enable Single Sign-On for this directory** dialog box, choose **Enable**. Single sign-on is enabled for the directory.

   If the directory is an AD Connector directory and the AD Connector service account does not have permission to add a service principal name, you are prompted for the username and password for a directory user that has this permission. These credentials are only used to enable single sign-on and are not stored by the service. The AD Connector service account is not changed.

6. If you later want to disable single sign-on with Amazon WorkDocs, choose **Disable**, and then in the **Disable Single Sign-On for this directory** dialog box, choose **Disable** again.

   If the directory is an AD Connector directory and the AD Connector service account does not have permission to remove a service principal name, you are prompted for the username and password for a directory user that has this permission. These credentials are only used to disable single sign-on and are not stored by the service. The AD Connector service account is not changed.

**Topics**
- Single Sign-On for IE and Chrome (p. 77)
- Single Sign-On for Firefox (p. 82)

**Single Sign-On for IE and Chrome**

To allow Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) and Google Chrome browsers to support single sign-on, the following tasks must be performed on the client computer:

- Add your access URL (e.g., https://<alias>.awsapps.com) to the list of approved sites for single sign-on.
- Enable active scripting (JavaScript).
- Allow automatic logon.
- Enable integrated authentication.

You or your users can perform these tasks manually, or you can change these settings using Group Policy settings.

**Topics**
- Manual Update for Single Sign-On on Windows (p. 77)
- Manual Update for Single Sign-On on OS X (p. 79)
- Group Policy Settings for Single Sign-On (p. 79)

**Manual Update for Single Sign-On on Windows**

To manually enable single sign-on on a Windows computer, perform the following steps on the client computer. Some of these settings may already be set correctly.

**To manually enable single sign-on for Internet Explorer and Chrome on Windows**

1. To open the **Internet Properties** dialog box, choose the **Start** menu, type **Internet Options** in the search box, and choose **Internet Options**.
2. Add your access URL to the list of approved sites for single sign-on by performing the following steps:
   a. In the **Internet Properties** dialog box, select the **Security** tab.
   b. Select **Local intranet** and choose **Sites**.
c. In the **Local intranet** dialog box, choose **Advanced**.
d. Add your access URL to the list of websites and choose **Close**.
e. In the **Local intranet** dialog box, choose **OK**.

3. To enable active scripting, perform the following steps:
   a. In the **Security** tab of the **Internet Properties** dialog box, choose **Custom level**.
   b. In the **Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone** dialog box, scroll down to **Scripting** and select **Enable** under **Active scripting**.

![Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone dialog box]

   c. In the **Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone** dialog box, choose **OK**.

4. To enable automatic logon, perform the following steps:
   a. In the **Security** tab of the **Internet Properties** dialog box, choose **Custom level**.
   b. In the **Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone** dialog box, scroll down to **User Authentication** and select **Automatic logon only in Intranet zone** under **Logon**.

   ![Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone dialog box]

   c. In the **Security Settings - Local Intranet Zone** dialog box, choose **OK**.
5. To enable integrated authentication, perform the following steps:
   a. In the **Internet Properties** dialog box, select the **Advanced** tab.
   b. Scroll down to **Security** and select **Enable Integrated Windows Authentication**.
   c. In the **Internet Properties** dialog box, choose **OK**.

6. Close and re-open your browser to have these changes take effect.

### Manual Update for Single Sign-On on OS X

To manually enable single sign-on for Chrome on OS X, perform the following steps on the client computer. You will need administrator rights on your computer to complete these steps.

**To manually enable single sign-on for Chrome on OS X**

1. Add your access URL to the **AuthServerWhitelist** policy by running the following command:

   ```bash
   defaults write com.google.Chrome AuthServerWhitelist "https://<alias>.awsapps.com"
   ```

2. Open **System Preferences**, go to the **Profiles** panel, and delete the **Chrome Kerberos Configuration** profile.

3. Restart Chrome and open chrome://policy in Chrome to confirm that the new settings are in place.

### Group Policy Settings for Single Sign-On

The domain administrator can implement Group Policy settings to make the single sign-on changes on client computers that are joined to the domain.

**Note**

If you manage the Chrome web browsers on the computers in your domain with Chrome policies, you must add your access URL to the **AuthServerWhitelist** policy. For more information about setting Chrome policies, go to **Policy Settings in Chrome**.
To enable single sign-on for Internet Explorer and Chrome using Group Policy settings

1. Create a new Group Policy object by performing the following steps:
   a. Open the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain and select **Group Policy Objects**.
   b. From the main menu, choose **Action** and select **New**.
   c. In the **New GPO** dialog box, enter a descriptive name for the Group Policy object, such as **SSO Policy**, and leave **Source Starter GPO** set to **(none)**. Click **OK**.

2. Add the access URL to the list of approved sites for single sign-on by performing the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select **Group Policy Objects**, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose **Edit**.
   b. In the policy tree, navigate to **User Configuration > Preferences > Windows Settings**.
   c. In the **Windows Settings** list, open the context (right-click) menu for **Registry** and choose **New registry item**.
   d. In the **New Registry Properties** dialog box, enter the following settings and choose **OK**:
      
      **Action**
      Update
      Hive
      
      **HKEY_CURRENT_USER**
      **Path**
      Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\Domains\awsapps.com\<alias>
      
      The value for `<alias>` is derived from your access URL. If your access URL is `https://examplecorp.awsapps.com`, the alias is `examplecorp`, and the registry key will be `Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\Domains\awsapps.com\examplecorp`.

      **Value name**
      https
      **Value type**
      REG_DWORD
      **Value data**
      1

3. To enable active scripting, perform the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select **Group Policy Objects**, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose **Edit**.
   b. In the policy tree, navigate to **Computer Configuration > Policies > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Internet Explorer > Internet Control Panel > Security Page > Intranet Zone**.
   c. In the **Intranet Zone** list, open the context (right-click) menu for **Allow active scripting** and choose **Edit**.
   d. In the **Allow active scripting** dialog box, enter the following settings and choose **OK**:
      - Select the **Enabled** radio button.
      - Under **Options** set **Allow active scripting** to **Enable**.
4. To enable automatic logon, perform the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select Group Policy Objects, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose Edit.
   c. In the Intranet Zone list, open the context (right-click) menu for Logon options and choose Edit.
   d. In the Logon options dialog box, enter the following settings and choose OK:
      - Select the Enabled radio button.
      - Under Options set Logon options to Automatic logon only in Intranet zone.

5. To enable integrated authentication, perform the following steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tool, navigate to your domain, select Group Policy Objects, open the context (right-click) menu for your SSO policy, and choose Edit.
   b. In the policy tree, navigate to User Configuration > Preferences > Windows Settings.
   c. In the Windows Settings list, open the context (right-click) menu for Registry and choose New registry item.
   d. In the New Registry Properties dialog box, enter the following settings and choose OK:
      
      Action
      Update
      Hive
      HKEY_CURRENT_USER
      Path
      Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings
      Value name
      EnableNegotiate
      Value type
      REG_DWORD
      Value data
      1

6. Close the Group Policy Management Editor window if it is still open.

7. Assign the new policy to your domain by following these steps:
   a. In the Group Policy Management tree, open the context (right-click) menu for your domain and choose Link an Existing GPO.
   b. In the Group Policy Objects list, select your SSO policy and choose OK.

These changes will take effect after the next Group Policy update on the client, or the next time the user logs in.
Single Sign-On for Firefox

To allow Mozilla Firefox browser to support single sign-on, add your access URL (e.g., https://<alias>.awsapps.com) to the list of approved sites for single sign-on. This can be done manually, or automated with a script.

Topics

- Manual Update for Single Sign-On (p. 82)
- Automatic Update for Single Sign-On (p. 82)

Manual Update for Single Sign-On

To manually add your access URL to the list of approved sites in Firefox, perform the following steps on the client computer.

To manually add your access URL to the list of approved sites in Firefox

1. Open Firefox and open the about:config page.
2. Open the network.negotiate-auth.trusted-uris preference and add your access URL to the list of sites. Use a comma (,) to separate multiple entries.

Automatic Update for Single Sign-On

As a domain administrator, you can use a script to add your access URL to the Firefox network.negotiate-auth.trusted-uris user preference on all computers on your network. For more information, go to https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/questions/939037.
Enable Access to the AWS Management Console with AD Credentials

AWS Directory Service allows you to grant members of your directory access to the AWS Management Console. By default, your directory members do not have access to any AWS resources. You assign IAM roles to your directory members to give them access to the various AWS services and resources. The IAM role defines the services, resources, and level of access that your directory members have.

Before you can grant console access to your directory members, your directory must have an access URL. For more information about how to view directory details and get your access URL, see View Directory Information (p. 72). For more information about how to create an access URL, see Creating an Access URL (p. 76).

For more information about how to create and assign IAM roles to your directory members, see Grant Users and Groups Access to AWS Resources (p. 72).

Topics
- Enable AWS Management Console Access (p. 83)
- Disable AWS Management Console Access (p. 84)
- Set Login Session Length (p. 84)

Related AWS Security Blog Article
- How to Access the AWS Management Console Using AWS Managed Microsoft AD and Your On-Premises Credentials

Enable AWS Management Console Access

By default, console access is not enabled for any directory. To enable console access for your directory users and groups, perform the following steps:

To enable console access

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. In the AWS apps & services section, choose AWS Management Console.
5. In the Enable AWS Management Console dialog box, choose Enable Access. Console access is now enabled for your directory.
6. Before users can sign-in to the console with your access URL, you must add a New Role and add only those users who you want to have access. For more information about assigning users to IAM roles, see Creating a New Role (p. 73) or Assigning Users or Groups to an Existing Role (p. 73).

After the IAM roles have been assigned, users can then access the console using your access URL. For example, if your directory access URL is example-corp.awsapps.com, the URL to access the console is https://example-corp.awsapps.com/console/.

Note
Access for users in nested groups within your directory are not supported. Members of the parent group have console access, but members of child groups do not.
Disable AWS Management Console Access

To disable console access for your directory users and groups, perform the following steps:

To disable console access

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. Under the AWS apps & services section, choose AWS Management Console.
5. If any IAM roles have been assigned to users or groups in the directory, the Disable Access button in the Manage access to AWS Resources dialog box is unavailable. In this case, you must choose Continue and remove all IAM role assignments for the directory before proceeding, including assignments for users or groups in your directory that have been deleted, which will show as Deleted User or Deleted Group.

After all IAM role assignments have been removed, repeat the steps above. When the Manage access to AWS Resources dialog box is displayed, choose Disable Access.

Set Login Session Length

By default, users have 1 hour to use their session after successfully signing in to the console before they are logged out. After that, users must sign in again to start the next 1 hour session before being logged off again. You can use the following procedure to change the length of time to up to 12 hours per session.

To set login session length

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories.
2. On the Directories page, choose your directory ID.
4. Under the AWS apps & services section, choose AWS Management Console.
5. In the Manage Access to AWS Resource dialog box, choose Continue.
6. In the Assign users and groups to IAM roles page, under Set login session length, edit the numbered value, and then choose Save.

Tutorial: Create a Simple AD Directory

The following tutorial walks you through all of the steps necessary to set up an AWS Directory Service Simple AD directory. It is intended to get you started with AWS Directory Service quickly and easily, but is not intended to be used in a large-scale production environment.

Topics

- Prerequisites (p. 166)
- Step 1: Create and Configure Your VPC (p. 167)
- Step 2: Create Your Simple AD Directory (p. 168)

Prerequisites

This tutorial assumes the following:
• You have an active AWS account.
• Your account has not reached its limit of VPCs for the region in which you want to use AWS Directory Service. For more information about Amazon VPC, see What is Amazon VPC? and Subnets in Your VPC in the Amazon VPC User Guide.
• You do not have an existing VPC in the region with a CIDR of 10.0.0.0/16.

Step 1: Create and Configure Your VPC

The following sections demonstrate how to create and configure a VPC for use with AWS Directory Service.

Topics
• Create a New VPC (p. 167)
• Add a Second Subnet (p. 168)

Create a New VPC

This tutorial uses one of the VPC creation wizards to create the following:
• The VPC
• One of the subnets
• An Internet gateway

To create your VPC using the VPC wizard
1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
2. In the navigation pane, click VPC Dashboard. If you do not already have any VPC resources, locate the Your Virtual Private Cloud area of the dashboard and click Get started creating a VPC. Otherwise, click Start VPC Wizard.
3. Select the second option, VPC with a Single Public Subnet, and then click Select.
4. Enter the following information into the wizard and click Create VPC.

   IP CIDR block
   10.0.0.0/16

   VPC name
   ADS VPC

   Public subnet
   10.0.0.0/24

   Availability Zone
   No Preference

   Subnet name
   ADS Subnet 1

   Enable DNS hostnames
   Leave default selection
Hardware tenancy

Default

5. It takes several minutes for the VPC to be created. After the VPC is created, proceed to the following section to add a second subnet.

Add a Second Subnet

AWS Directory Service requires two subnets in your VPC, and each subnet must be in a different Availability Zone. The VPC wizard only creates one subnet, so you must manually create the second subnet, and specify a different Availability Zone than the first subnet. Create the second subnet by performing the following steps.

To create a subnet

1. Open the Amazon VPC console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/vpc/.
2. In the navigation pane, select Subnets, select the subnet with the name ADS Subnet 1, and select the Summary tab at the bottom of the page. Make a note of the Availability Zone of this subnet.
3. Click Create Subnet and enter the following information in the Create Subnet dialog box and click Yes, Create.

   Name tag
   ADS Subnet 2

   VPC
   Select your VPC. This is the VPC with the name ADS VPC.

   Availability Zone
   Select any Availability Zone other than the one noted in step 2. The two subnets used by AWS Directory Service must reside in different Availability Zones.

   CIDR Block
   10.0.1.0/24

Step 2: Create Your Simple AD Directory

To create a new directory, perform the following steps. Before starting this procedure, make sure you have completed the prerequisites identified in Simple AD Prerequisites (p. 134).

To create a Simple AD directory

1. In the AWS Directory Service console navigation pane, choose Directories and then choose Set up directory.
2. On the Select directory type page, choose Simple AD, and then choose Next.
3. On the Enter directory information page, provide the following information:

   Directory size
   Choose from either the Small or Large size option. For more information about sizes, see Simple Active Directory (p. 133).

   Organization name
   A unique organization name for your directory that will be used to register client devices.
This field is only available if you are creating your directory as part of launching Amazon WorkSpaces.

**Directory DNS name**

The fully qualified name for the directory, such as corp.example.com.

**Directory NetBIOS name**

The short name for the directory, such as CORP.

**Administrator password**

The password for the directory administrator. The directory creation process creates an administrator account with the user name Administrator and this password.

The directory administrator password is case-sensitive and must be between 8 and 64 characters in length, inclusive. It must also contain at least one character from three of the following four categories:

- Lowercase letters (a-z)
- Uppercase letters (A-Z)
- Numbers (0-9)
- Non-alphanumeric characters (~!#$%^&*_-+=`|(){}[]:;'",.<>?/)

**Confirm password**

Retype the administrator password.

**Directory description**

An optional description for the directory.

4. On the **Choose VPC and subnets** page, provide the following information, and then choose **Next**.

   **VPC**

   The VPC for the directory.

   **Subnets**

   Choose the subnets for the domain controllers. The two subnets must be in different Availability Zones.

5. On the **Review & create** page, review the directory information and make any necessary changes. When the information is correct, choose **Create directory**. It takes several minutes for the directory to be created. Once created, the **Status** value changes to **Active**.

---

**Best Practices for Simple AD**

Here are some suggestions and guidelines you should consider to avoid problems and get the most out of AWS Managed Microsoft AD.

**Setting Up: Prerequisites**

Consider these guidelines before creating your directory.

**Verify You Have the Right Directory Type**

AWS Directory Service provides multiple ways to use Microsoft Active Directory with other AWS services. You can choose the directory service with the features you need at a cost that fits your budget:
• **AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory** is a feature-rich managed Microsoft Active Directory hosted on the AWS cloud. AWS Managed Microsoft AD is your best choice if you have more than 5,000 users and need a trust relationship set up between an AWS hosted directory and your on-premises directories.

• **AD Connector** simply connects your existing on-premises Active Directory to AWS. AD Connector is your best choice when you want to use your existing on-premises directory with AWS services.

• **Simple AD** is an inexpensive Active Directory–compatible service with the common directory features. In most cases, Simple AD is the least expensive option and your best choice if you have 5,000 or fewer users and don’t need the more advanced Microsoft Active Directory features.

For a more detailed comparison of AWS Directory Service options, see *Which to Choose* (p. 1).

**Ensure Your VPCs and Instances are Configured Correctly**

In order to connect to, manage, and use your directories, you must properly configure the VPCs that the directories are associated with. See either *AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites* (p. 8), *AD Connector Prerequisites* (p. 110), or *Simple AD Prerequisites* (p. 134) for information about the VPC security and networking requirements.

If you are adding an instance to your domain, ensure that you have connectivity and remote access to your instance as described in *Join an EC2 Instance to Your AWS Managed Microsoft AD Directory* (p. 30).

**Be Aware of Your Limits**

Learn about the various limits for your specific directory type. The available storage and the aggregate size of your objects are the only limitations on the number of objects you may store in your directory. See either *Limits for AWS Managed Microsoft AD* (p. 90), *Limits for AD Connector* (p. 130), or *Limits for Simple AD* (p. 170) for details about your chosen directory.

**Use AWS Managed Microsoft AD If Trusts Are Required**

Simple AD does not support trust relationships. If you need to establish a trust between your AWS Directory Service directory and another directory, you should use AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory.

**Setting Up: Creating Your Directory**

Here are some suggestions to consider as you create your directory.

**Remember Your Administrator ID and Password**

When you set up your directory, you provide a password for the administrator account. That account ID is *Administrator* for Simple AD. Remember the password that you create for this account; otherwise you will not be able to add objects to your directory.

**Limits for Simple AD**

Generally, you should not add more than 5,000 users to a Simple AD directory. If you have more than 5,000 users, consider AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory instead.

The following are the default limits for Simple AD. Each limit is per region unless otherwise noted.
Simple AD Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Default Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple AD directories</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual snapshots *</td>
<td>5 per Simple AD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The manual snapshot limit cannot be changed.

Increase Your Limit

Perform the following steps to increase your limit for a region.

To request a limit increase for a region

1. Go to the [AWS Support Center](https://support.aws.amazon.com) page, sign in, if necessary, and click [Open a new case](https://support.aws.amazon.com/สวิสด้า/).
2. Under **Regarding**, select **Service Limit Increase**.
3. Under **Limit Type**, select **AWS Directory Service**.
4. Fill in all of the necessary fields in the form and click the button at the bottom of the page for your desired method of contact.

Application Compatibility Policy for Simple AD

Simple AD is an implementation of Samba that provides many of the basic features of Active Directory. Due to the magnitude of custom and commercial off-the-shelf applications that use Active Directory, AWS does not and cannot perform formal or broad verification of third-party application compatibility with Simple AD. Although AWS works with customers in an attempt to overcome any potential application installation challenges they might encounter, we are unable to guarantee that any application is or will continue to be compatible with Simple AD.

The following third-party applications are compatible with Simple AD:

- Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) on the following platforms:
  - Windows Server 2003 R2
  - Windows Server 2008 R1
  - Windows Server 2008 R2
  - Windows Server 2012
  - Windows Server 2012 R2
- Microsoft SQL Server:
  - SQL Server 2005 R2 (Express, Web, and Standard editions)
  - SQL Server 2008 R2 (Express, Web, and Standard editions)
  - SQL Server 2012 (Express, Web, and Standard editions)
  - SQL Server 2014 (Express, Web, and Standard editions)
- Microsoft SharePoint:
  - SharePoint 2010 Foundation
  - SharePoint 2010 Enterprise
  - SharePoint 2013 Enterprise

Customers can choose to use AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory ([AWS Managed Microsoft AD](#)) for a higher level of compatibility based on actual Active Directory.
Troubleshooting Simple AD

The following can help you troubleshoot some common issues you might encounter when creating or using your directory.

Topics

- I am not able to update the DNS name or IP address of an instance joined to my domain (DNS dynamic update) (p. 172)
- I cannot log onto SQL Server using a SQL Server account (p. 172)
- My directory is stuck in the "Requested" state (p. 172)
- I receive an "AZ Constrained" error when I create a directory (p. 172)
- Some of my users cannot authenticate with my directory (p. 173)
- Simple AD Directory Status Reasons (p. 173)

I am not able to update the DNS name or IP address of an instance joined to my domain (DNS dynamic update)

DNS dynamic updates are not supported in Simple AD domains. You can instead make the changes directly by connecting to your directory using DNS Manager on an instance that is joined to your domain.

I cannot log onto SQL Server using a SQL Server account

You might receive an error if you attempt to use SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) with a SQL Server account to log into SQL Server running on a Windows 2012 R2 EC2 instance or in Amazon RDS. The issue occurs when SSMS is run as a domain user and can result in the error "Login failed for user," even when valid credentials are provided. This is a known issue and AWS is actively working to resolve it.

To work around the issue, you can log into SQL Server with Windows Authentication instead of SQL Authentication. Or launch SSMS as a local user instead of a Simple AD domain user.

My directory is stuck in the "Requested" state

If you have a directory that has been in the "Requested" state for more than five minutes, try deleting the directory and recreating it. If this problem persists, contact the AWS Support Center.

I receive an "AZ Constrained" error when I create a directory

Some AWS accounts created before 2012 might have access to Availability Zones in the US East (N. Virginia), US West (N. California), or Asia Pacific (Tokyo) region that do not support AWS Directory Service directories. If you receive an error such as this when creating a directory, choose a subnet in a different Availability Zone and try to create the directory again.
Some of my users cannot authenticate with my directory

Your user accounts must have Kerberos preauthentication enabled. This is the default setting for new user accounts, and it should not be modified. For more information about this setting, go to Preauthentication on Microsoft TechNet.

The following topic helps you troubleshoot some common reasons you might encounter when creating or using your directory.

Topics
• Simple AD Directory Status Reasons (p. 173)

Simple AD Directory Status Reasons

When a directory is impaired or inoperative, the directory status message contains additional information. The status message is displayed in the AWS Directory Service console, or returned in the DirectoryDescription.StageReason member by the DescribeDirectories API. For more information about the directory status, see Understanding Your Directory Status (p. 27).

The following are the status messages for a Simple AD directory:

Topics
• The directory service's elastic network interface is not attached (p. 173)
• Issue(s) detected by instance (p. 173)
• The critical AWS Directory Service reserved user is missing from the directory (p. 174)
• The critical AWS Directory Service reserved user needs to belong to the Domain Admins AD group (p. 174)
• The critical AWS Directory Service reserved user is disabled (p. 174)
• The main domain controller does not have all FSMO roles (p. 175)
• Domain controller replication failures (p. 175)

The directory service's elastic network interface is not attached

Description
The critical elastic network interface (ENI) that was created on your behalf during directory creation to establish network connectivity with your VPC is not attached to the directory instance. AWS applications backed by this directory will not be functional. Your directory cannot connect to your on-premises network.

Troubleshooting
If the ENI is detached but still exists, contact AWS Support. If the ENI is deleted, there is no way to resolve the issue and your directory is permanently unusable. You must delete the directory and create a new one.

Issue(s) detected by instance

Description
An internal error was detected by the instance. This usually signifies that the monitoring service is actively attempting to recover the impaired instances.
Troubleshooting

In most cases, this is a transient issue, and the directory eventually returns to the Active state. If the problem persists, contact AWS Support for more assistance.

The critical AWS Directory Service reserved user is missing from the directory

Description

When a Simple AD is created, AWS Directory Service creates a service account in the directory with the name AWSAdminD-xxxxxxxxx. This error is received when this service account cannot be found. Without this account, AWS Directory Service cannot perform administrative functions on the directory, rendering the directory unusable.

Troubleshooting

To correct this issue, restore the directory to a previous snapshot that was created before the service account was deleted. Automatic snapshots are taken of your Simple AD directory one time a day. If it has been more than five days after this account was deleted, you may not be able to restore the directory to a state where this account exists. If you are not able to restore the directory from a snapshot where this account exists, your directory may become permanently unusable. If this is the case, you must delete your directory and create a new one.

The critical AWS Directory Service reserved user needs to belong to the Domain Admins AD group

Description

When a Simple AD is created, AWS Directory Service creates a service account in the directory with the name AWSAdminD-xxxxxxxxx. This error is received when this service account is not a member of the Domain Admins group. Membership in this group is needed to give AWS Directory Service the privileges it needs to perform maintenance and recovery operations, such as transferring FSMO roles, domain joining new directory controllers, and restoring from snapshots.

Troubleshooting

Use the Active Directory Users and Computers tool to re-add the service account to the Domain Admins group.

The critical AWS Directory Service reserved user is disabled

Description

When a Simple AD is created, AWS Directory Service creates a service account in the directory with the name AWSAdminD-xxxxxxxxx. This error is received when this service account is disabled. This account must be enabled so that AWS Directory Service can perform maintenance and recovery operations on the directory.

Troubleshooting

Use the Active Directory Users and Computers tool to re-enable the service account.
The main domain controller does not have all FSMO roles

Description

All the FSMO roles are not owned by the Simple AD directory controller. AWS Directory Service cannot guarantee certain behavior and functionality if the FSMO roles do not belong to the correct Simple AD directory controller.

Troubleshooting

Use Active Directory tools to move the FSMO roles back to the original working directory controller. For more information about moving the FSMO roles, go to https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/324801. If this does not correct the problem, please contact AWS Support for more assistance.

Domain controller replication failures

Description

The Simple AD directory controllers are failing to replicate with one another. This can be caused by one or more of the following issues:

• The security groups for the directory controllers does not have the correct ports open.
• The network ACLs are too restrictive.
• The VPC route table is not routing network traffic between the directory controllers correctly.
• Another instance has been promoted to a domain controller in the directory.

Troubleshooting

For more information about your VPC network requirements, see either AWS Managed Microsoft AD AWS Managed Microsoft AD Prerequisites (p. 8), AD Connector AD Connector Prerequisites (p. 110), or Simple AD Simple AD Prerequisites (p. 134). If there is an unknown domain controller in your directory, you must demote it. If your VPC network setup is correct, but the error persists, please contact AWS Support for more assistance.
IAM Authentication and Access Control for AWS Directory Service

Access to AWS Directory Service requires credentials that AWS can use to authenticate your requests. Those credentials must have permissions to access AWS resources, such as an AWS Directory Service directory. The following sections provide details on how you can use AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) and AWS Directory Service to help secure your resources by controlling who can access them:

- Authentication (p. 176)
- Access Control (p. 177)

Authentication

You can access AWS as any of the following types of identities:

- **AWS account root user** – When you first create an AWS account, you begin with a single sign-in identity that has complete access to all AWS services and resources in the account. This identity is called the AWS account root user and is accessed by signing in with the email address and password that you used to create the account. We strongly recommend that you do not use the root user for your everyday tasks, even the administrative ones. Instead, adhere to the best practice of using the root user only to create your first IAM user. Then securely lock away the root user credentials and use them to perform only a few account and service management tasks.

- **IAM user** – An IAM user is an identity within your AWS account that has specific custom permissions (for example, permissions to create a directory in AWS Directory Service). You can use an IAM user name and password to sign in to secure AWS webpages like the AWS Management Console, AWS Discussion Forums, or the AWS Support Center.

In addition to a user name and password, you can also generate access keys for each user. You can use these keys when you access AWS services programmatically, either through one of the several SDKs or by using the AWS Command Line Interface (CLI). The SDK and CLI tools use the access keys to cryptographically sign your request. If you don’t use AWS tools, you must sign the request yourself. AWS Directory Service supports Signature Version 4, a protocol for authenticating inbound API requests. For more information about authenticating requests, see Signature Version 4 Signing Process in the AWS General Reference.

- **IAM role** – An IAM role is an IAM identity that you can create in your account that has specific permissions. It is similar to an IAM user, but it is not associated with a specific person. An IAM role enables you to obtain temporary access keys that can be used to access AWS services and resources. IAM roles with temporary credentials are useful in the following situations:

- **Federated user access** – Instead of creating an IAM user, you can use existing user identities from AWS Directory Service, your enterprise user directory, or a web identity provider. These are known as federated users. AWS assigns a role to a federated user when access is requested through an identity provider. For more information about federated users, see Federated Users and Roles in the IAM User Guide.
• **AWS service access** – You can use an IAM role in your account to grant an AWS service permissions to access your account’s resources. For example, you can create a role that allows Amazon Redshift to access an Amazon S3 bucket on your behalf and then load data from that bucket into an Amazon Redshift cluster. For more information, see Creating a Role to Delegate Permissions to an AWS Service in the IAM User Guide.

• **Applications running on Amazon EC2** – You can use an IAM role to manage temporary credentials for applications that are running on an EC2 instance and making AWS API requests. This is preferable to storing access keys within the EC2 instance. To assign an AWS role to an EC2 instance and make it available to all of its applications, you create an instance profile that is attached to the instance. An instance profile contains the role and enables programs that are running on the EC2 instance to get temporary credentials. For more information, see Using an IAM Role to Grant Permissions to Applications Running on Amazon EC2 Instances in the IAM User Guide.

### Access Control

You can have valid credentials to authenticate your requests, but unless you have permissions you cannot create or access AWS Directory Service resources. For example, you must have permissions to create an AWS Directory Service directory or to create a directory snapshot.

The following sections describe how to manage permissions for AWS Directory Service. We recommend that you read the overview first.

- Overview of Managing Access Permissions to Your AWS Directory Service Resources (p. 177)
- Using Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) for AWS Directory Service (p. 180)
- AWS Directory Service API Permissions: Actions, Resources, and Conditions Reference (p. 184)

### Overview of Managing Access Permissions to Your AWS Directory Service Resources

Every AWS resource is owned by an AWS account, and permissions to create or access the resources are governed by permissions policies. An account administrator can attach permissions policies to IAM identities (that is, users, groups, and roles), and some services (such as AWS Lambda) also support attaching permissions policies to resources.

**Note**

An **account administrator** (or administrator user) is a user with administrator privileges. For more information, see IAM Best Practices in the IAM User Guide.

When granting permissions, you decide who is getting the permissions, the resources they get permissions for, and the specific actions that you want to allow on those resources.

**Topics**

- AWS Directory Service Resources and Operations (p. 178)
- Understanding Resource Ownership (p. 178)
- Managing Access to Resources (p. 178)
- Specifying Policy Elements: Actions, Effects, Resources, and Principals (p. 179)
- Specifying Conditions in a Policy (p. 180)
In AWS Directory Service, the primary resource is a directory. AWS Directory Service supports directory snapshot resources as well. However, you can create snapshots only in the context of an existing directory. Therefore, a snapshot is referred to as a subresource.

These resources have unique Amazon Resource Names (ARNs) associated with them as shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>ARN Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

AWS Directory Service provides a set of operations to work with the appropriate resources. For a list of available operations, see Directory Service Actions.

### Understanding Resource Ownership

A resource owner is the AWS account that created a resource. That is, the resource owner is the AWS account of the principal entity (the root account, an IAM user, or an IAM role) that authenticates the request that creates the resource. The following examples illustrate how this works:

- If you use the root account credentials of your AWS account to create an AWS Directory Service resource, such as a directory, your AWS account is the owner of that resource.
- If you create an IAM user in your AWS account and grant permissions to create AWS Directory Service resources to that user, the user can also create AWS Directory Service resources. However, your AWS account, to which the user belongs, owns the resources.
- If you create an IAM role in your AWS account with permissions to create AWS Directory Service resources, anyone who can assume the role can create AWS Directory Service resources. Your AWS account, to which the role belongs, owns the AWS Directory Service resources.

### Managing Access to Resources

A permissions policy describes who has access to what. The following section explains the available options for creating permissions policies.

**Note**
This section discusses using IAM in the context of AWS Directory Service. It doesn't provide detailed information about the IAM service. For complete IAM documentation, see What Is IAM? in the IAM User Guide. For information about IAM policy syntax and descriptions, see AWS IAM Policy Reference in the IAM User Guide.

Policies attached to an IAM identity are referred to as identity-based policies (IAM polices) and policies attached to a resource are referred to as resource-based policies. AWS Directory Service supports only identity-based policies (IAM policies).

**Topics**
- Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) (p. 179)
- Resource-Based Policies (p. 179)
Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies)

You can attach policies to IAM identities. For example, you can do the following:

- **Attach a permissions policy to a user or a group in your account** – An account administrator can use a permissions policy that is associated with a particular user to grant permissions for that user to create an AWS Directory Service resource, such as a new directory.

- **Attach a permissions policy to a role (grant cross-account permissions)** – You can attach an identity-based permissions policy to an IAM role to grant cross-account permissions. For example, the administrator in Account A can create a role to grant cross-account permissions to another AWS account (for example, Account B) or an AWS service as follows:
  1. Account A administrator creates an IAM role and attaches a permissions policy to the role that grants permissions on resources in Account A.
  2. Account A administrator attaches a trust policy to the role identifying Account B as the principal who can assume the role.
  3. Account B administrator can then delegate permissions to assume the role to any users in Account B. Doing this allows users in Account B to create or access resources in Account A. The principal in the trust policy can also be an AWS service principal if you want to grant an AWS service permissions to assume the role.

For more information about using IAM to delegate permissions, see Access Management in the IAM User Guide.

The following permissions policy grants permissions to a user to run all of the actions that begin with `Describe`. These actions show information about an AWS Directory Service resource, such as a directory or snapshot. Note that the wildcard character (*) in the `Resource` element indicates that the actions are allowed for all AWS Directory Service resources owned by the account.

```json
{
  "Version":"2012-10-17",
  "Statement":[
    {
      "Effect":"Allow",
      "Action":"ds:Describe*",
      "Resource":"*
    }
  ]
}
```

For more information about using identity-based policies with AWS Directory Service, see Using Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) for AWS Directory Service (p. 180). For more information about users, groups, roles, and permissions, see Identities (Users, Groups, and Roles) in the IAM User Guide.

Resource-Based Policies

Other services, such as Amazon S3, also support resource-based permissions policies. For example, you can attach a policy to an S3 bucket to manage access permissions to that bucket. AWS Directory Service doesn’t support resource-based policies.

Specifying Policy Elements: Actions, Effects, Resources, and Principals

For each AWS Directory Service resource (see AWS Directory Service Resources and Operations (p. 178)), the service defines a set of API operations. For a list of available API operations,
Specifying Conditions in a Policy

When you grant permissions, you can use the access policy language to specify the conditions when a policy should take effect. For example, you might want a policy to be applied only after a specific date. For more information about specifying conditions in a policy language, see **Condition** in the [IAM User Guide](#).

To express conditions, you use predefined condition keys. There are no condition keys specific to AWS Directory Service. However, there are AWS-wide condition keys that you can use as appropriate. For a complete list of AWS-wide keys, see **Available Global Condition Keys** in the [IAM User Guide](#).

Using Identity-Based Policies (IAM Policies) for AWS Directory Service

This topic provides examples of identity-based policies in which an account administrator can attach permissions policies to IAM identities (that is, users, groups, and roles).

**Important**

We recommend that you first review the introductory topics that explain the basic concepts and options available for you to manage access to your AWS Directory Service resources. For more information, see **Overview of Managing Access Permissions to Your AWS Directory Service Resources** (p. 177).

The sections in this topic cover the following:

- **Permissions Required to Use the AWS Directory Service Console** (p. 182)
• AWS Managed (Predefined) Policies for AWS Directory Service (p. 182)
• Customer Managed Policy Examples (p. 183)

The following shows an example of a permissions policy.

```json
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Action": [
        "ds:CreateDirectory"
      ],
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Resource": "*"
    },
    {
      "Action": [
        "iam:PassRole",
        "iam:GetRole",
        "iam:CreateRole",
        "iam:PutRolePolicy"
      ],
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Resource": "*"
    },
    {
      "Action": [
        "ec2:DescribeSubnets",
        "ec2:DescribeVpcs",
        "ec2:CreateSecurityGroup",
        "ec2:DeleteSecurityGroup",
        "ec2:CreateNetworkInterface",
        "ec2:DescribeNetworkInterfaces",
        "ec2:DeleteNetworkInterface",
        "ec2:AuthorizeSecurityGroupIngress",
        "ec2:AuthorizeSecurityGroupEgress",
        "ec2:RevokeSecurityGroupIngress",
        "ec2:RevokeSecurityGroupEgress"
      ],
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Resource": "*"
    }
  ]
}
```

The policy includes the following:

• The first statement grants permission to create a AWS Directory Service directory. AWS Directory Service doesn't support permissions for this particular action at the resource-level. Therefore, the policy specifies a wildcard character (*) as the *Resource* value.

• The second statement grants permissions to certain IAM actions. The access to IAM actions is needed so that AWS Directory Service can read and create IAM roles on your behalf. The wildcard character (*) at the end of the *Resource* value means that the statement allows permission for the IAM actions on any IAM role. To limit this permission to a specific role, replace the wildcard character (*) in the resource ARN with the specific role name. For more information, see IAM Actions.

• The third statement grants permissions to a specific set of Amazon EC2 resources that are necessary to allow AWS Directory Service to create, configure, and destroy its directories. The wildcard character (*) at the end of the *Resource* value means that the statement allows permission for the EC2 actions on any EC2 resource or subresource. To limit this permission to a specific role, replace the wildcard character (*) with the specific role name.
character (*) in the resource ARN with the specific resource or subresource. For more information, see EC2 Actions

The policy doesn't specify the Principal element because in an identity-based policy you don't specify the principal who gets the permission. When you attach policy to a user, the user is the implicit principal. When you attach a permission policy to an IAM role, the principal identified in the role's trust policy gets the permissions.

For a table showing all of the AWS Directory Service API actions and the resources that they apply to, see AWS Directory Service API Permissions: Actions, Resources, and Conditions Reference (p. 184).

Permissions Required to Use the AWS Directory Service Console

For a user to work with the AWS Directory Service console, that user must have permissions listed in the policy above or the permissions granted by the Directory Service Full Access Role or Directory Service Read Only role, described in AWS Managed (Predefined) Policies for AWS Directory Service (p. 182).

If you create an IAM policy that is more restrictive than the minimum required permissions, the console won't function as intended for users with that IAM policy.

AWS Managed (Predefined) Policies for AWS Directory Service

AWS addresses many common use cases by providing standalone IAM policies that are created and administered by AWS. Managed policies grant necessary permissions for common use cases so you can avoid having to investigate what permissions are needed. For more information, see AWS Managed Policies in the IAM User Guide.

The following AWS managed policies, which you can attach to users in your account, are specific to AWS Directory Service:

- AWSDirectoryServiceReadOnlyAccess – Grants a user or group read-only access to all AWS Directory Service resources, EC2 subnets, EC2 network interfaces, and AWS SNS topics and subscriptions for the root AWS account. For more information, see Using AWS Managed Policies with AWS Directory Service (p. 74).
- AWSDirectoryServiceFullAccess – Grants a user or group the following:
  - Full access to AWS Directory Service
  - Access to key Amazon EC2 services required to use AWS Directory Service
  - Ability to list Amazon Simple Notification Service topics
  - Ability to create, manage, and delete Amazon Simple Notification Service topics with a name beginning with “DirectoryMonitoring”

  For more information, see Using AWS Managed Policies with AWS Directory Service (p. 74).

In addition, there are other AWS-managed policies that are suitable for use with other IAM roles. These policies are assigned to the roles associated with users in your AWS Directory Service directory and are required in order for those users to have access to other AWS resources, such as Amazon EC2. For more information, see Grant Users and Groups Access to AWS Resources (p. 72).

You can also create custom IAM policies that allow users to access the required API actions and resources. You can attach these custom policies to the IAM users or groups that require those permissions.
Customer Managed Policy Examples

In this section, you can find example user policies that grant permissions for various AWS Directory Service actions.

**Note**
All examples use the US West (Oregon) Region (us-west-2) and contain fictitious account IDs.

**Examples**
- Example 1: Allow a User to Perform Any Describe Action on Any AWS Directory Service Resource (p. 183)
- Example 2: Allow a User to Create a Directory (p. 183)

**Example 1: Allow a User to Perform Any Describe Action on Any AWS Directory Service Resource**

The following permissions policy grants permissions to a user to run all of the actions that begin with `Describe`. These actions show information about an AWS Directory Service resource, such as a directory or snapshot. Note that the wildcard character (*) in the `Resource` element indicates that the actions are allowed for all AWS Directory Service resources owned by the account.

```json
{
   "Version": "2012-10-17",
   "Statement": [
      {
         "Effect": "Allow",
         "Action": "ds:Describe*",
         "Resource": "*"
      }
   ]
}
```

**Example 2: Allow a User to Create a Directory**

The following permissions policy grants permissions to allow a user to create a directory and all other related resources, such as snapshots and trusts. In order to do so, permissions to certain Amazon EC2 services are also required.

```json
{
   "Version": "2012-10-17",
   "Statement": [
      {
         "Effect": "Allow",
         "Action": [
            "ds:Create*",
            "ec2:AuthorizeSecurityGroupEgress",
            "ec2:AuthorizeSecurityGroupIngress",
            "ec2:CreateNetworkInterface",
            "ec2:CreateSecurityGroup",
            "ec2:DeleteNetworkInterface",
            "ec2:DeleteSecurityGroup",
            "ec2:DescribeNetworkInterfaces",
            "ec2:DescribeSubnets",
            "ec2:DescribeVpcs",
            "ec2:RevokeSecurityGroupEgress",
            "ec2:RevokeSecurityGroupIngress"
         ]
      }
   ]
}
```
AWS Directory Service API Permissions: Actions, Resources, and Conditions Reference

When you are setting up Access Control (p. 177) and writing permissions policies that you can attach to an IAM identity (identity-based policies), you can use the following table as a reference. The list includes each AWS Directory Service API operation, the corresponding actions for which you can grant permissions to perform the action, the AWS resource for which you can grant the permissions. You specify the actions in the policy’s Action field and the resource value in the policy’s Resource field.

You can use AWS-wide condition keys in your AWS Directory Service policies to express conditions. For a complete list of AWS-wide keys, see Available Global Condition Keys in the IAM User Guide.

Note
To specify an action, use the ds: prefix followed by the API operation name (for example, ds:CreateDirectory).

Related Topics
- Access Control (p. 177)
Document History

The following table describes the important changes since the last release of the *AWS Directory Service Administrator Guide*.

- **Latest documentation update:** June 21, 2018

<table>
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<td>Migrated content to new Amazon Cloud Directory Developer Guide</td>
<td>The Amazon Cloud Directory content previously in this guide has been moved to the new <em>Amazon Cloud Directory Developer Guide</em>.</td>
<td>June 21, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete overhaul of the Admin Guide TOC</td>
<td>Reorganized the content to more directly map to customer needs and added new content where needed.</td>
<td>April 5, 2018</td>
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<td>AWS delegated groups</td>
<td>Added list of AWS delegated groups that can be assigned to on-premises users.</td>
<td>March 8, 2018</td>
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<td>Fine-grained password policies</td>
<td>Added new password policies content.</td>
<td>July 5, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional domain controllers</td>
<td>Added information for adding more domain controllers to your AWS Managed Microsoft AD.</td>
<td>June 30, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Added new tutorials for testing a AWS Managed Microsoft AD lab environment.</td>
<td>June 21, 2017</td>
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<td>MFA with AWS Managed Microsoft AD</td>
<td>Added documentation for using MFA with AWS Managed Microsoft AD.</td>
<td>February 13, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazon Cloud Directory</td>
<td>New directory type introduced.</td>
<td>January 26, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major reorganization of the Directory Service Admin Guide</td>
<td>Reorganized the content to more directly map to customer needs.</td>
<td>November 14, 2016</td>
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<td>SNS notifications</td>
<td>Added documentation for SNS notifications.</td>
<td>February 25, 2016</td>
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<td>AWS Managed Microsoft AD</td>
<td>Added documentation for AWS Managed Microsoft AD, and combined guides into a single guide.</td>
<td>November 17, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allow Linux instances to be joined to a Simple AD directory</td>
<td>Added documentation for joining a Linux instance to a Simple AD directory.</td>
<td>July 23, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guide separation</td>
<td>The AWS Directory Service administration guide is split into separate guides, the Simple AD guide and the AD Connector guide.</td>
<td>July 14, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single sign-on support</td>
<td>Added single sign-on documentation.</td>
<td>March 31, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>New guide</td>
<td>This is the first release of the AWS Directory Service Administration Guide.</td>
<td>October 21, 2014</td>
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