

Proposal to Migrate from a Workgroup to a Domain



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Summary

The number of problems with our current network scheme has become more and more noticeable. KMS has grown very fast over a short period of time and has shown that our current system is not going to be maintainable for much longer.

A domain can provide a solution to many of the problems we're currently facing with sharing resources and the management of users.

We can get a domain up and running in about 3 months and costing approximately \$25,000. Considering the growth KMS has experienced has brought its annual sales in excess of 10 million dollars, this is a small figure to guarantee that growth can be maintained uninterrupted.

There are two persons available and capable of performing the task immediately. A server can be ordered and will arrive within 2 weeks. During that time, Ken and Steve and start preparing immediately.

A complete schedule, budget and evaluation process is enclosed within.

Introduction

KMS Tools and Equipment (hereinafter 'KMS') is currently using a workgroup as their networking model. Workgroups allow for the basic sharing of resources such as files and printers between computer systems. Allowing sharing is excellent for leveraging resources in order for them to be used optimally. However, to allow one computer to access a resource on another computer is a manual process and grows exponentially as more systems are added to the network. This is due to the fact that every user needs to be added to each system and given the appropriate access rights.

This proposal stems from the rapid growth of KMS over the last 5 years by expanding from 2 retail locations to 9. Computer resources and users have also grown exponentially to over 100 workstations and users including a mobile sales team. All of KMS' resources are being managed by 1 fulltime end user support specialist. KMS is a medium sized business (Glossary of Terms, 2011) trying to run like a small sized business. Some of the problems this has caused are as follows:

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- Too many users have to be added to too many workstations to share resources
- One person needs to support a large number of users and hasn't been given the tools to do so
- New employees are missing access to resources they need to do their job
- Terminated employees access remains after termination allowing them re-entry into our systems

In order to resolve the aforementioned problem areas, I propose that KMS purchases a new server and the windows licensing to create a domain controller. A domain controller will give us the ability to transform from a workgroup into a domain. The domain controller will act as the central point of contact for all workstations.

A domain will provide the following benefits:

- Ability to set policies to control user and group access
- Central management to create, delete or change users
- Central management of company resources
- Backing up important documents on workstations like email is more intuitive
- Ability to set up roaming profiles which will provide the following added benefits:
 - Users are not restricted to a particular workstation, they can work anywhere with their own credentials
 - Workstations do not need to be reconfigured for new users
 - Staff changes are easily accommodated
 - Minimal setup to bring a new workstation online

Project Details

Once the proposal has been approved, the server should be ordered as it will take 2 weeks to arrive. The server that has been chosen has the operating system pre-

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installed which eliminates that step in the process. More information on the proposed server can be found in appendix A.

During the two weeks awaiting the server's arrival, the project team, Ken Ketola and Steve Holland, will proceed to gather information to produce a requirements document. It will be imperative to collect data regarding the employees of KMS regarding the company functions. This will form the basis of the policies that will be set up within the domain structure.

Once the server has arrived, Ken will take the requirements gathered and will be given two weeks to compile a complete requirements document that will be submitted to the senior management team for approval. Steve Holland will perform initial maintenance on the server. This task will include installing patches, updating drivers, applying fixes and setting up the initial values for the server itself such as its name and the domain name.

Once the document has been approved, Steve will create the policies on the domain controller and create the appropriate users applying the policies as necessary. Steve will also setup roaming profiles. Groups will be formed among the users to provide a logical organizational structure. Ken will begin configuring two spare machines as test machines to join the domain and begin testing the ability to join the domain as well as roaming profiles.

Once the testing phase has been completed to a satisfactory level, Ken will finalize user documentation that will explain any differences a user may encounter on a domain compared with their experience before the domain. The documentation will also provide answers to commonly asked questions that may arise. This document will be updated as necessary. Steve will begin planning deployment and contingencies in conjunction with the senior management team to allow for any issues that may arise and rollback if necessary.

Deployment will involve joining every workstation to the domain manually. Ken and Steve will perform testing adhoc to detect any problems early in the process. If problems occur, Steve will make the decisions as to whether a resolution can be found or whether termination and rollback is needed.

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Upon a successful deployment, Ken and Steve will plan to provide extra support as part of an adjustment period. After this period, a review of the project between the project team and senior management will be scheduled to determine the level of success of the project.

Once a successful review has been reached, this project will be closed.

Schedule

	Ken Ketola	Steve Holland
Week 1-2	Gather Requirements	Gather Requirements
Week 3-4	Create Requirements Document	Initial Server Maintenance
Week 5-7	Configuring Test Machines	Configuring Policies and Users
Week 8-9	Creating User Document	Planning Deployment
Week 10	Deployment	Deployment
Week 11-12	Support	Support

Evaluations

The following stages of evaluation are recommended:

After the week two, senior management verifies that Ken and Steve were thorough and reached all business areas in acquiring requirements.

After week four, requirements documentation is submitted for approval to the senior management team.

After week seven, senior management verifies that testing is complete. Documented proof is submitted.

After week nine, user document is submitted to the senior management team for approval.

After week 10, a review of deployment is scheduled with the senior management team.

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After week 12, an extensive meeting is scheduled to evaluate the success of the whole project and submit the closure of the project.

Personnel & Qualifications

Steve Holland is a leader in British Columbia in developing Microsoft based solutions for companies big and small. Having graduated from the British Columbia Institute of Technology with distinction, he has acquired the tools necessary to make this project a success.

Ken Ketola has recently finished his first year of the Computer System Technology program at the British Columbia institute of Technology. His program contained extensive communications training specializing in technical writing which makes him an ideal candidate for a project such as this that requires a great deal of documentation.

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Budget

Line Item	Cost
Month 1	
Server and OS	1630.40
40 CALs	1798.00
Ken Ketola – Salary	2000.00
Steve Holland – Salary	4000.00
Sales Tax	411.40
Month 1 -Subtotal	9839.80
Month 2	
40 CALs	1798.00
Ken Ketola – Salary	2000.00
Steve Holland – Salary	4000.00
Sales Tax	215.76
Month 2 -Subtotal	8013.76
Month 3	
40 CALs	1798.00
Ken Ketola – Salary	2000.00
Steve Holland – Salary	4000.00
Sales Tax	215.76
Month 3 -Subtotal	8013.76
Grand Total	25867.32

Conclusions

KMS has been extremely successful over the last 5 years and that success while overall being good has led to some problems with its information technology

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infrastructure. At this rate, it won't be long before it becomes completely unmaintainable which could result in downtime for KMS. The cost of that potential downtime is high with 9 stores sales based off the same infrastructure.

By purchasing a domain controller, KMS is investing in its future. This proposed solution creates an environment that is maintainable and scalable. By making the infrastructure maintainable, KMS can also offset the potential cost of hiring more staff to maintain the systems. Lastly, being able to move, hire and terminate staff with low overhead in computer configuration is extremely beneficial in an industry like retail that has a high turnover rate.

Recommendations

I recommend that KMS purchases the server immediately in order to have it arrive as soon as possible. This will allow us to start working right away and remedy this issue before it gets worse. KMS can't risk the possibility of down time or having former staff find ways back into their system. The benefits of moving to a domain will be realized immediately.

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Appendices

A - Dell Server Configuration and Cost



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- PowerEdge T110 II

Date	30/03/2012 1:47:23 AM Central Standard Time			
Catalog Number	70703 Retail cabsdt1			
Catalog Number / Description	Product Code	Qty	SKU	Id
PowerEdge T110 II: PowerEdge T110 II Chassis with Cabled 4x3.5 Hard Drives.				
Processor: Intel® Pentium® G850 2.90 GHz, 3M Cache, Dual CoreZT	IPTG850	1	[317-8084] [330-5552]	6
Operating System: Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1, Standard Edition, Includes 5 CALS	WS8S5C	1	[421-5425]	11
Memory: 8GB Memory (2x4GB), 1333MHz, Dual Ranked UDIMM	8G2X4G	1	[317-2022] [317-6961]	3
Hard Drives (Multi-Select): 1TB 7.2K RPM SATA 3.5in Cabled Hard Drive	1TBCHD	2	[341-9862]	1209
Primary Hard Drive: HD Multi-Select	HDMULTI	1	[341-4158]	8
Hard Drive Configuration: PERC S100 (Embedded SATA Software RAID) supporting 2 Hard Drives – RAID 0	PS12R0	1	[331-2392] [341-0793]	27
Internal Controller: No Controller	NCTRLR	1	[341-3933]	9
Internal Optical Drive: DVD Drive, Internal	16XDVD	1	[313-9100] [331-2399]	16
Embedded Management: Baseboard Management Controller	BMC	1	[313-7919]	14
System Documentation: Edocs and OpenManage DVD	EDOCS	1	[331-2505]	21
Shipping: Shipping for PowerEdge T110 II	SH110II	1	[331-2391]	2
Network Adapter: On-Board Single Gigabit Network Adapter	OBNIC	1	[430-0488]	1230
Power Cords: NEMA 5-15P to C13 Wall Plug, 125 Volt, 15 AMP, 10 Feet (3m), Power Cord	125V10F	1	[310-8509]	106
Hardware Support Services: 1Yr Basic Hardware Warranty Repair: 5x10 HW-Only, 5x10 NBD Onsite	U10S	1	[931-5387] [936-8879] [954-9880] [968-7347] [994-4018]	29
Installation Services: No Installation	NOINSTL	1	[900-9897]	32
Proactive Maintenance: Maintenance Declined	NOMAIN	1	[926-2979]	33

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(PowerEdge T110 II)

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