

Comprehensive Active Directory Naming Convention Guide for Home Lab

Here's a bird's eye view of industry-standard conventions for your Active Directory home lab. This comprehensive list covers all the common elements you'll need to create a realistic replica environment.

Location Codes

- **Headquarters:** HQ
- **Branch Offices:**
 - NY (New York)
 - CHI (Chicago)
 - LA (Los Angeles)
 - DAL (Dallas)
 - SF (San Francisco)
 - BOS (Boston)
 - LON (London)
 - SYD (Sydney)
 - TOR (Toronto)
 - SIN (Singapore)
- **Data Centers:**
 - DC1 (Primary Data Center)
 - DC2 (Secondary Data Center)
 - DR (Disaster Recovery Site)

Department Codes

- **FIN:** Finance
- **HR:** Human Resources
- **IT:** Information Technology
- **DEV:** Development
- **QA:** Quality Assurance
- **SALES:** Sales
- **MKTG:** Marketing
- **EXEC:** Executive
- **LEGAL:** Legal
- **OPS:** Operations
- **PROD:** Production

- **RD:** Research & Development
- **SUPP:** Support
- **ACCT:** Accounting
- **ADMIN:** Administration

Computer Types

- **WS:** Workstation
- **LT:** Laptop
- **TC:** Thin Client
- **VM:** Virtual Machine
- **POS:** Point of Sale
- **KIOSK:** Kiosk

Server Roles

- **DC:** Domain Controller
- **FS:** File Server
- **PS:** Print Server
- **SQL:** SQL Database Server
- **APP:** Application Server
- **WEB:** Web Server
- **EXCH:** Exchange Mail Server
- **WSUS:** Windows Server Update Services
- **RDS:** Remote Desktop Services
- **VDI:** Virtual Desktop Infrastructure
- **SCCM:** System Center Configuration Manager
- **CA:** Certificate Authority
- **DFS:** Distributed File System
- **NPS:** Network Policy Server
- **DNS:** Domain Name Server
- **DHCP:** Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
- **RADIUS:** Remote Authentication Server
- **NAP:** Network Access Protection
- **ADFS:** Active Directory Federation Services
- **MDM:** Mobile Device Management
- **PROXY:** Proxy Server
- **FW:** Firewall
- **LB:** Load Balancer
- **MON:** Monitoring Server
- **BACKUP:** Backup Server
- **HV:** Hyper-V Host
- **ESXI:** VMware ESXi Host

User Account Naming Examples

- **Standard Format:** FirstInitialLastName
 - jsmith (John Smith)
 - mwilliams (Mary Williams)
 - dkim (David Kim)
 - rfernandez (Rosa Fernandez)
 - janderson (James Anderson)
 - Inguyen (Lisa Nguyen)
 - bbaker (Bob Baker)
 - slee (Sarah Lee)
 - mthompson (Mark Thompson)
 - jgarcia (Jessica Garcia)
- **Administrative Accounts:**
 - admin-jsmith
 - a-mwilliams
- **Service Accounts:**
 - svc-sql
 - svc-backup
 - svc-sccm
 - svc-exchange
 - svc-scheduler

Computer/Workstation Naming Examples

- HQ-FIN-WS-001
- NY-SALES-LT-042
- CHI-HR-WS-015
- LA-MKTG-LT-023
- HQ-IT-WS-007
- SF-DEV-LT-035
- BOS-LEGAL-WS-003
- DAL-OPS-TC-011
- HQ-EXEC-LT-008
- CHI-ACCT-WS-022

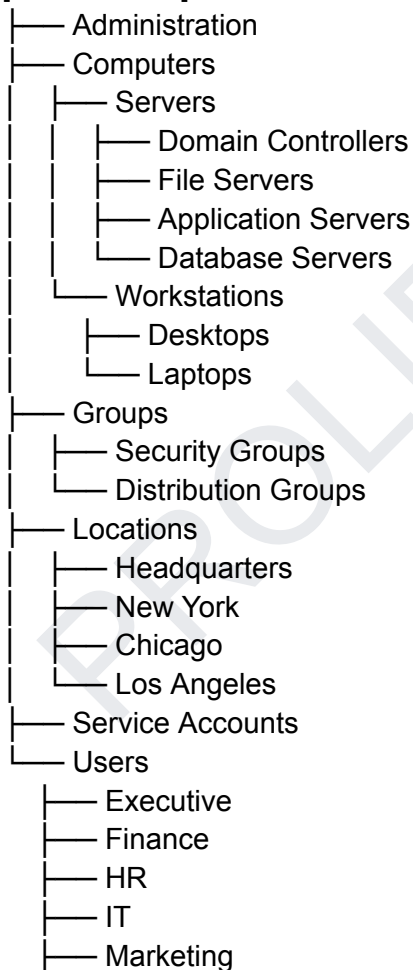
Server Naming Examples

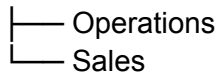
- HQ-DC-01
- NY-DC-01
- HQ-FS-01
- HQ-SQL-01
- HQ-APP-01

- HQ-WEB-01
- HQ-EXCH-01
- DC1-SQL-02
- DC2-FS-03
- DR-DC-01
- HQ-WSUS-01
- NY-FS-01
- CHI-PS-01
- HQ-CA-01
- DC1-SCCM-01
- HQ-RDS-01
- DC1-BACKUP-01
- HQ-PROXY-01
- DC1-MON-01
- HQ-DFS-01

Organizational Unit (OU) Structure

[Domain Root]





Group Examples

- **Security Groups:**
 - SG-FIN-RW-Budgets
 - SG-IT-ADMIN-Servers
 - SG-MKTG-R-Assets
 - SG-SALES-RW-CRM
 - SG-HR-RW-Personnel
 - SG-ALL-LocalAdmin
 - SG-DEV-RW-CodeRepo
 - SG-EXEC-RW-Reports
- **Distribution Lists:**
 - DL-All-Staff
 - DL-Finance
 - DL-IT-Support
 - DL-Marketing
 - DL-ProjectX
 - DL-Management
 - DL-Newsletters
 - DL-Emergency

GPO Naming Examples

- ALL-SEC-PasswordPolicy
- ALL-SEC-AccountLockout
- ALL-COMP-PowerSettings
- ALL-USER-FolderRedirection
- FIN-APP-USBRestrictions
- IT-SYS-RemoteAccess
- EXEC-APP-MobileAccess
- DEV-APP-DeveloperTools
- MKTG-COMP-SpecialApps
- ALL-NET-ProxySettings
- SALES-APP-CRMAccess
- HQ-COMP-PrinterDeployment
- ALL-SEC-BitLocker
- ALL-USER-DesktopSettings

Network Configuration Examples

- **Main Office Subnet:** 10.1.0.0/16
 - **Management VLAN:** 10.1.1.0/24
 - **Server VLAN:** 10.1.10.0/24
 - **User VLAN:** 10.1.20.0/24
 - **Voice VLAN:** 10.1.30.0/24
 - **Guest VLAN:** 10.1.40.0/24
- **Branch Office Subnets:**
 - NY: 10.2.0.0/16
 - CHI: 10.3.0.0/16
 - LA: 10.4.0.0/16
- **DHCP Scopes:**
 - HQ-10.1.20.0-Staff
 - HQ-10.1.40.0-Guest
 - NY-10.2.20.0-Staff

Site Links

- HQ-NY-LINK
- HQ-CHI-LINK
- HQ-LA-LINK
- NY-CHI-LINK

Shared Folder Examples

- \HQ-FS-01\Departments\Finance
- \HQ-FS-01\Departments\HR
- \HQ-FS-01\Departments\Marketing
- \HQ-FS-01\Projects\ProjectX
- \HQ-FS-01\Public
- \NY-FS-01\NY-Departments
- \HQ-FS-01\Applications
- \HQ-FS-01\UserData

Printer Naming Examples

- HQ-FIN-HP4200-01
- NY-MKTG-Canon-02
- CHI-SALES-Xerox-01
- HQ-IT-HP5550-01
- LA-HR-Brother-01

This comprehensive list should give you everything you need to build a realistic and properly organized Active Directory home lab. By following these naming conventions, you'll create an environment that mirrors enterprise standards and will help you develop transferable skills for real-world environments.

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