

# Common Naming Conventions in Active Directory

When building your Active Directory environment, consistent naming conventions are crucial for manageability and organization. Here are the standard industry naming conventions for various AD objects:

## Domain Names

- **Format:** company.local, company.internal, company.lan, or company.corp
- **Examples:**
  - technova.local
  - contoso.internal
  - acme.corp

## User Accounts

- **Format 1:** FirstInitialLastName
  - Examples: jsmith, mwilliams, dkim
- **Format 2:** FirstName.LastName
  - Examples: john.smith, mary.williams, david.kim
- **Format 3:** LastNameFirstInitial
  - Examples: smithj, williamm, kimd
- **Administrative Accounts:**
  - Format: admin-username or a-username
  - Examples: admin-jsmith, a-mwilliams

## Computer Names

- **Workstations:**
  - Format: [Location]-[Department]-[Type]-[Number]
  - Examples:
    - HQ-FIN-WS-001 (Headquarters, Finance, Workstation, #001)
    - NY-MKT-LT-042 (New York, Marketing, Laptop, #042)
- **Common Type Codes:**
  - WS = Workstation
  - LT = Laptop
  - VM = Virtual Machine
  - TC = Thin Client

## Server Names

- **Format:** [Location]-[Role]-[Number]
- **Examples:**
  - HQ-SQL-001 (SQL Server)
  - NY-FS-002 (File Server)
  - HQ-APP-003 (Application Server)
  - HQ-WEB-001 (Web Server)
- **Common Role Codes:**
  - DC = Domain Controller
  - SQL = SQL Server
  - FS = File Server
  - PS = Print Server
  - APP = Application Server
  - WEB = Web Server
  - EXCH = Exchange Server
  - WSUS = Windows Server Update Services
  - RDS = Remote Desktop Services
  - CA = Certificate Authority

## Domain Controllers

- **Format:** [Location]-DC-[Number]
- **Examples:**
  - HQ-DC-01
  - NY-DC-01
  - LON-DC-02

## Site Links

- **Format:** [SourceLocation]-[DestinationLocation]-LINK
- **Examples:**
  - HQ-NY-LINK
  - NY-LON-LINK
  - HQ-BRANCH-LINK

## Organizational Units (OUs)

- **Format:** [Department/Function/Location]
- **Examples:**
  - OU=Finance,DC=technova,DC=local
  - OU=Servers,OU=IT,DC=technova,DC=local

- OU=NewYork,OU=Locations,DC=technova,DC=local

## Groups

- **Format:** [Purpose]-[Permission Level]-[Resource]
- **Examples:**
  - FIN-RW-Budgets (Finance Read-Write access to Budgets)
  - IT-ADMIN-Servers (IT Administrators for Servers)
  - MKTG-R-ProjectFiles (Marketing Read access to Project Files)
- **Distribution Lists:**
  - Format: DL-[Department/Team/Function]
  - Examples: DL-Finance, DL-ProjectAlpha, DL-AllStaff

## Service Accounts

- **Format:** SVC-[Service/Application]
- **Examples:**
  - SVC-SQL
  - SVC-Backup
  - SVC-WebApp

## Shared Folders/Resources

- **Format:** [Department/Purpose]-[Resource Type]
- **Examples:**
  - FIN-Reports
  - MKTG-Assets
  - IT-Software

## Printers

- **Format:** [Location]-[Department]-[Type/Model]-[Number]
- **Examples:**
  - HQ-FIN-HP4200-01
  - NY-MKTG-Canon-02

## Virtual Machines

- **Format:** VM-[Role]-[Number]
- **Examples:**
  - VM-SQL-01

- VM-WEB-02

## Group Policy Objects (GPOs)

- **Format:** [Scope]-[Purpose]-[Setting]
- **Examples:**
  - ALL-SEC-PasswordPolicy
  - FIN-APP-RestrictUSB
  - IT-SYS-RemoteAccess

## DHCP Scopes

- **Format:** [Location]-[Network]-[Purpose]
- **Examples:**
  - HQ-10.1.10.0-Staff
  - NY-10.2.20.0-Wireless
  - HQ-10.1.30.0-Printers

These naming conventions will help you build a well-organized Active Directory environment that follows industry best practices. When implementing these in your lab, remember that consistency is key - once you decide on a naming scheme, apply it uniformly across your environment.