100 XP

Describe Azure Active Directory concepts

2 minutes

To implement Azure Active Directory in your corporate configuration, you need to understand the key components of the service. The following table describes the main components and concepts of Azure AD and explains how they work together to support service features.

Azure AD concept	Description
Identity	An *identity* is an object that can be authenticated. The identity can be a user with a username and password. Identities can also be applications or other servers that require authentication by using secret keys or certificates. Azure AD is the underlying product that provides the identity service.
Account	An *account* is an identity that has data associated with it. To have an account, you must first have a valid identity. You can't have an account without an identity.
Azure AD account	An *Azure AD account* is an identity that's created through Azure AD or another Microsoft cloud service, such as Microsoft 365. Identities are stored in Azure AD and are accessible to your organization's cloud service subscriptions. The Azure AD account is also called a *work or school account*.
Azure tenant (directory)	An Azure *tenant* is a single dedicated and trusted instance of Azure AD. Each tenant (also called a *directory*) represents a single organization. When your organization signs up for a Microsoft cloud service subscription, a new tenant is automatically created. Because each tenant is a dedicated and trusted instance of Azure AD, you can create multiple tenants or instances.
Azure subscription	An Azure subscription is used to pay for Azure cloud services. Each subscription is joined to a single tenant. You can have multiple subscriptions.

> ♀ **Tip**
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> If you're a Microsoft 365, Azure, or Dynamics CRM Online customer, you might already be using Azure AD! Every Microsoft 365, Azure, and Dynamics CRM tenant is already an Azure AD tenant. You can start using your tenant to manage access to thousands of other cloud apps that integrate with Azure AD.

Next unit: Compare Active Directory Domain Services to Azure Active Directory

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