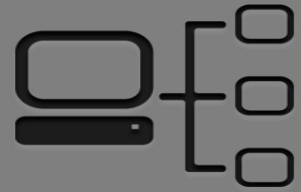# What is Active Directory (AD)?

- Active Directory is a directory service, developed by Microsoft to manage Windows Domain network.

- It's single repository for all user and computer-related information on a network.

- In AD, administrators can store information about users, assign security policies, and deploy software.

- It provides centralized authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) through:
    - Single Sign-on Functionality
    - Logical Access Control
    - Security Groups
    - Organizational Units (OUs)
    - Group Policy Objects (GPOs)

AD Domain Controllers

- A Domain Controller (DC) is a Windows Server in which AD has been installed and activated.

- This is accomplished by adding the Active Directory Domain Services Role and promoting a server to a DC.

- We'll be doing this in the next video.

Understanding LDAP
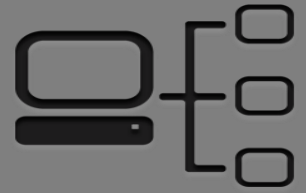
- AD is based on the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

- LDAP is a protocol designed for querying and modifying directory services by the University of Michigan in the early 1990s.

- It provides a common language for clients and servers to speak to one another.