**Intro to Active Directory**

**What is Active Directory?**

A directory service by Microsoft

* Used to manage domains in the windows environment
* Centralised management of users and computers
* Handles all authentication and authorisation
  + Restricting access
  + Loading profiles
  + Password timeouts
  + Restricting applications

Used in enterprise environments

* Most will have a windows-based network
* As not every employee would want a MacBook

Commonly used for users’ workstations and windows servers

Centralised management

Gaining domain administrator on a windows domain has full access to EVERY machine attached to the domain

* Not just the single machine
* The admin password is most likely different across all machines so domain access would allow you to move laterally