**storage area network (SAN)**

A storage-area network (SAN) is a dedicated high-speed [network](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/network) (or [subnetwork](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/subnetwork)) that interconnects and presents shared pools of [storage](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/storage) devices to multiple [servers](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/server)

# failover cluster

A failover cluster is a group of servers that work together to maintain [high availability](http://searchdatacenter.techtarget.com/definition/high-availability) of applications and services. If one of the servers, or [nodes](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/node), fails, another node in the cluster can take over its workload without any [downtime](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/uptime-and-downtime) (this process is known as [failover](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/failover)).

# VHDX (Hyper-V virtual hard disk)

VHDX is a Hyper-V virtual hard disk ([VHD](http://searchvirtualdesktop.techtarget.com/definition/virtual-hard-disk-VHD)) format found in [Windows Server 2012](http://searchwindowsserver.techtarget.com/definition/Windows-Server-2012-WS-2012).

The main advantage of switching to VHDX is its increased storage capacity of 64 [TB](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/terabyte) (terabytes), instead of VHD's standard storage limit of 2 TB. Other advantages of VHDX include file corruption protection and the ability to create [differencing disks](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/differencing-disk).

# thick provisioning

In virtual storage, thick [provisioning](http://searchsoa.techtarget.com/definition/provisioning) is a type of [storage](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/storage) [allocation](http://searchcio.techtarget.com/definition/resource-allocation) in which the amount of [storage capacity](http://searchenterprisewan.techtarget.com/definition/capacity-planning) on a [disk](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/hard-disk-drive) is pre-allocated on physical storage at the time the disk is created.

# thin provisioning (TP)

Thin provisioning (TP) is a method of optimizing the efficiency with which the available space is utilized in storage area networks ([SAN](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/storage-area-network-SAN)). TP operates by allocating disk [storage](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/storage) space in a flexible manner among multiple users, based on the minimum space required by each user at any given time.

# data center resiliency

Resiliency is the ability of a [server](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/server), network, storage system, or an entire [data center](http://searchdatacenter.techtarget.com/definition/data-center), to recover quickly and continue operating even when there has been an equipment failure, power outage or other disruption

# hot spare

A hot spare, also called a hot standby, is a backup component that can be placed into service immediately when a primary component fails.

# Server Message Block Protocol (SMB protocol)

he Server Message Block Protocol (SMB protocol) provides a method for [client](http://searchenterprisedesktop.techtarget.com/definition/client) applications in a computer to read and write to files on and to request services from [server](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/server) programs in a computer network

# Delegatation

By delegating administration, you can assign a range of administrative tasks to the appropriate users and groups. You can assign basic administrative tasks to regular users or groups, and leave domain-wide and forest-wide administration to members of the Domain Admins and Enterprise Admins groups. By delegating administration, you can allow groups within your organization to take more control of their local network resources. You also help secure your network from accidental or malicious damage by limiting the membership of administrator groups.

# What Is a Starter GPO?

A Starter GPO can be thought of as a Group Policy Object (GPO) template that may administrators use as a baseline while creating any new GPO. The benefit of having a starter GPO is that the administrators can configure a starter GPO with the baseline and mandatory settings that they want to automatically include in every new Group Policy Object that they create.

# Security filtering

Security filtering is a way of refining which users and computers will receive and apply the settings in a Group Policy object (GPO). Using security filtering, you can specify that only certain security principals within a container where the GPO is linked apply the GPO. Security group filtering determines whether the GPO as a whole applies to groups, users, or computers; it cannot be used selectively on different settings within a GPO.

# IPsec (Internet Protocol Security)

IPsec (Internet Protocol Security) is a framework for a set of [protocol](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/protocol)s for security at the network or [packet](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/packet) processing layer of network communication.

# encapsulation

In general, encapsulation is the inclusion of one thing within another thing so that the included thing is not apparent.

## Data Integrity

Data integrity refers to the overall completeness, accuracy and consistency of data. This can be indicated by the absence of alteration between two instances or between two updates of a data record, meaning data is intact and unchanged.

# Windows Service Hardening

Windows Service Hardening restricts critical Windows services from doing abnormal activities in the file system, registry, network or other areas that could be exploited by malware.

## Schema

The Active Directory schema is a component of Active Directory which contains rules for object creation within an Active Directory forest. The Active Directory schema is a list of definitions about Active Directory objects and information about those objects that are stored in Active Directory.

The schema is the blueprint of Active Directory and schema defines what kinds of objects can exist in the Active Directory database and attributes of those objects.

# DHCP Failover

DHCP failover enables two DHCP servers to share service availability information with each other, providing DHCP high availability. DHCP failover works by replicating IP address leases and settings in one or more DHCP scopes from a primary DHCP server to a failover partner server.

# RSoP (Resultant Set of Policy)

RSoP (Resultant Set of Policy) is a report of all [Group Policy](http://searchwindowsserver.techtarget.com/definition/Group-Policy-Management-Console) settings within [Active Directory](http://searchwindowsserver.techtarget.com/definition/Active-Directory) that shows how those settings can affect a network, or how existing [Group Policy Objects (GPOs)](http://searchwindowsserver.techtarget.com/definition/Group-Policy-Object) affect various combinations of users and computers when the local security policy is applied.

**Memory Buffer**

A *buffer*, also called *buffer memory*, is a portion of a computer's [memory](http://www.linfo.org/memory.html) that is set aside as a temporary holding place for data that is being sent to or received from an external device, such as a hard disk drive (HDD), keyboard or printer.

# Microsoft iSCSI Initiator

Microsoft iSCSI Initiator is a tool that connects external [iSCSI](http://searchstorage.techtarget.com/definition/iSCSI)-based storage to host computers with an [Ethernet](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/Ethernet) network adapter.

# Active Directory forest (AD forest)

An [Active Directory](http://searchwindowsserver.techtarget.com/definition/Active-Directory) forest is the highest level of organization within Active Directory. Each forest shares a single [database](http://searchsqlserver.techtarget.com/definition/database), a single global address list and a security boundary. By default, a user or administrator in one forest cannot access another forest.

# RSAT (Microsoft Remote Server Administration Tools)

RSAT (Remote Server Administration Tools) is a Windows Server component for  remote management of other computers also running that operating system.

# Background jobs

**background job** is a [computer process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Process_%28computing%29) that runs "behind the scenes" (i.e. in the background) and without user intervention.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Background_process#cite_note-tlt-1) Typical tasks for these processes include logging, system monitoring, scheduling,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Background_process#cite_note-2) and user notification.