# Implementing AD DS Sites and Replication

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The company has implemented a single AD DS domain with the domain controllers. The users in some branch offices took so long to sign in to their computers because a large number of users does not fit to the current AD DS environment. Also, when they attempt to get into the network resources, the network goes slowly and fails sporadically. The administrators should find a way to implement a new AD DS infrastructure to help organizations meet the business requirements. If configuring AD DS sites and replication, it would optimize the user experience and network utilization within the corporate.

#### **AD DS Replication**

The standard domain controllers replicate AD information with a multiple master replication model. In the default partitions, there are four partitions: configuration partition, schema partition, domain partition, and application partition. Also, the multi-master replication should have accuracy or integrity, consistency or convergence, and performance or reasonable-level replication traffic. Any domain controllers with these components could initiate and promote to AD DS so that they can provide fault tolerance. Besides the multi-master replication, there are other critical characteristics of AD DS replication, including pull replication, store-and-forward replication, partitions, automatic generation of an efficient, robust replication topology, attribute-level and multivalue replication, distinct control of intersite replication and collision detection and management.

## **Configuring AD DS Sites**

A site is a physical office or a city in a physical location. A group of sites could link up together as the physical network infrastructure. The AD DS site objects should achieve three primary service management tasks: managing replication traffic, providing service localization,

and linking GPOs to a site. The companies want to implement sites when controlling replication between domain controllers or service localization. Replication within sites is a fast, inexpensive, and highly reliable network. In contrast, replication between sites would cost more, have limited bandwidth and unreliable network links.

## KCC, ISTG and Bridgehead Servers

The replication topology is usually two-way so that when one fails, the other will continue uninterrupted. The Knowledge Consistency Checker (KCC) is a component of AD DS to generate and optimize the replication automatically. The KCC will automatically rearrange the replication topology if a domain controller does not respond when checking every 15 minutes by default. When configuring multiple sites, the KCC on one DC in each site is designated as the intersite topology generator (ISTG). Only one ISTG should be in each site, regardless of the number of domains in the site. It calculates the ideal replication topology within the sites. The ISTG creates the connection agreement to replicate it to the bridgehead server. One of the domain controllers would be selected as the bridgehead server, and the other would be for the configuration.

