Configuring Directory Synchronization

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The IT department wants to configure and test synchronization between on-premises AD DS and Azure AD. The organization should have AD DS for directory synchronization, install and run Azure AD Connect and verify the directories synchronize. Also, before configuring directory synchronization, the admins should create and configure the Azure AD tenant by provisioning the Office 365 subscription. When preparing for directory synchronization, the Azure AD Connect tool should be configured along with the initial synchronization. Lastly, managing users and group accounts should be identified with directory synchronization.

AD DS vs. Azure AD

ADDS is designed primarily for on-premises deployments, whereas Azure AD is for cloud deployments. The AD DS has a single tenant and should have domain-joined computers to deliver full functionality so that the authentication and authorization mechanisms rely on the domain member computers. AD DS can provide a higher level of autonomy with multiple domains and forests with trust relationships between them. However, Azure AD is designed for Internet-based applications, which means it does not have OUs or GPOs or not use Kerberos authentication. There are several methods for Azure AD authentication: cloud-only, directory synchronization with optional password synchronization, SSO with AD FS, Pass-through authentication.

Azure AD Connect

When deploying the Azure AD Connect, the purpose is to allow coexistence between AD DS and Azure AD. This is an essential tool when any objects in on-premises AD DS are added to Azure AD, attributes of existing objects are modified in Azure AD, deleting existing objects from AD DS to Azure AD and disabling in on-premises AD DS also disabling in Azure AD. However,

when identifying Azure AD Connect, the admins should review Azure AD, domain and forest, OS, and supporting software and database requirements and permission and accounts.

Identity Synchronization

There are three different options with directory synchronization: directory synchronization only, directory synchronization with password synchronization, and directory synchronization with SSO. In directory synchronization only, the objects from AD DS replicate to Azure AD. With password synchronization, the password used in on-premises should be used for the Azure AD account. Lastly, the directory synchronization with SSO could deploy and configure AD DS in Azure AD so that they can replicate objects to Azure AD.

