Genesis Grant

CTEC 305

Reflective Questions: FSMO

Active Directory is a Microsoft product, organized in a hierarchical structure, used for storing information such as computer users, connected devices, applications, etc. as well as authenticating and authorizing users and computers within the network. For Active Directory to function effectively throughout the network, Flexible Single Master Operations (FSMO) Roles are utilized. There are 5 specific types of roles, and each role carries out specific functions in order to upkeep and maintain the Active Directory.

The Schema Master deciphers what information you can store for user accounts or computer accounts, as well as make any adjoining changes. There is 1 Schema Master per forest and this role will make sure that any changes done, is done throughout the entire forest.

The Domain Naming Master makes sure the user does not use the same name for multiple domains and domain controllers. They are able to add, remove and move domains throughout the forest. This role is also only 1 per forest.

The Relative Identifier Master assigns blocks of SID values for every object created in the Active Directory. RIDs are utilized in SIDs to become unique identifiers for security practices. When RIDs and SIDs are created, the Relative Identifier Master will make sure to allocate enough to each domain objects.

The PDC (Primary Domain Controller) Emulator Role prioritizes time synchronization within a domain, authentication requestions, changing passwords and managing group policy objects. The PDC Emulator Role will process password changes and assure the change was updated throughout other domain controllers. It will maintain time synchronization, allowing for accurate time reflection through all domains. There is only 1 PDC Emulator role per domain.

The Infrastructure Master role will update and coordinate group membership and references. For multidomain environments, this role is required. Similar to the other roles, if there are any changes within the forest concerning group membership and its other attributes it will be replicated.