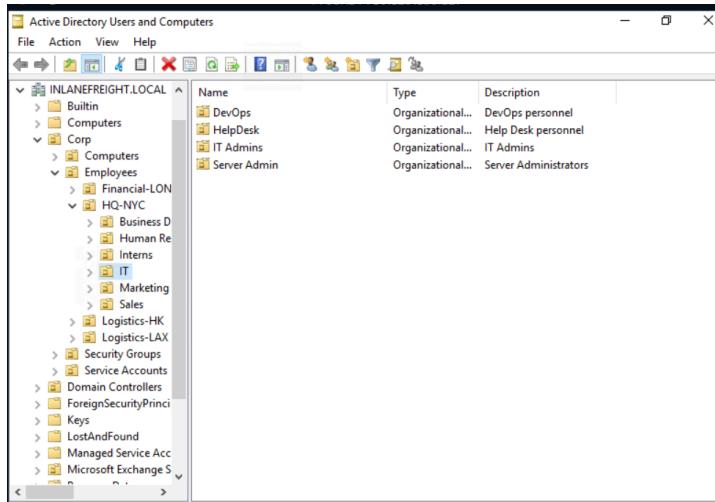


# Configuring groups and performing basic administrative tasks with Microsoft Active Directory (part 1)

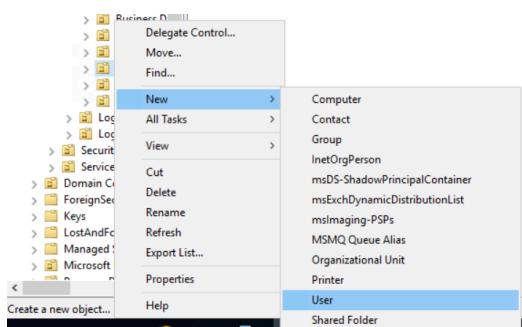
In this project I was able to get some hands-on experience using Microsoft Active Directory, an important tool used in IT and Cyber security jobs. I began with basic administrative tasks such as adding new users into AD and then went on to modify group policies. This project was completed via Hackthebox on a virtual machine.

## Adding users into AD

The organisation had some new-hires that needed to have their accounts ready to use. I needed to place them into Active Directory with their own logins and passwords.



Firstly, I opened up AD on a remote desktop. Then I right-clicked on the IT organisational unit as shown in the screenshot above.



After that, I clicked on 'New' before selecting 'User'.

New Object - User

Create in: \NEFREIGHT.LOCAL\Corp\Employees/HQ-NYC/IT

First name: Andromeda Initials:

Last name: Cepheus

Full name: Andromeda Cepheus

User logon name: acepheus @INLANEFREIGHT.LOCAL

User logon name (pre-Windows 2000): INLANEFREIGHT acepheus

< Back Next > Cancel

This opened up the page displayed above. I then inputted the details of the new-hires including their first and last names and a logon name. I then clicked 'Next'.

New Object - User

Create in: INLANEFREIGHT.LOCAL\Corp\Employees/HQ-N

Password:  Confirm password:

User must change password at next logon  
 User cannot change password  
 Password never expires  
 Account is disabled

New Object - User

Create in: INLANEFREIGHT.LOCAL\Corp\Employees/HQ-NYC/IT

When you click Finish, the following object will be created:

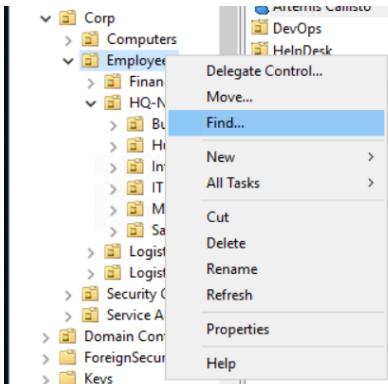
Full name: Andromeda Cepheus  
User logon name: acepheus@INLANEFREIGHT.LOCAL  
The user must change the password at next logon.

< Back Next > Finish Cancel

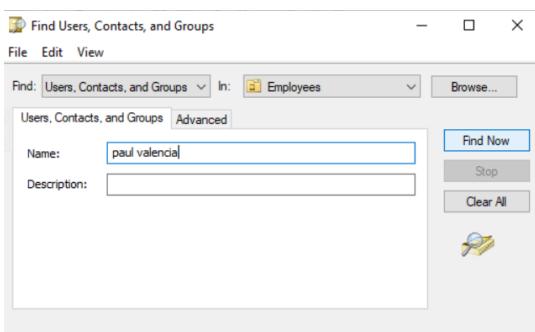
I was then required to input the password that the new-hires would use to log in for the first time. I then needed to check the box 'User must change password at next logon' so that the new-hires would be able to change their password to something unique to them. After this I clicked 'Next' which presented me with an overview of the new account details (shown in the second screenshot). I then clicked on 'Finish'. The new users have now been added to the AD.

## Removing old user accounts

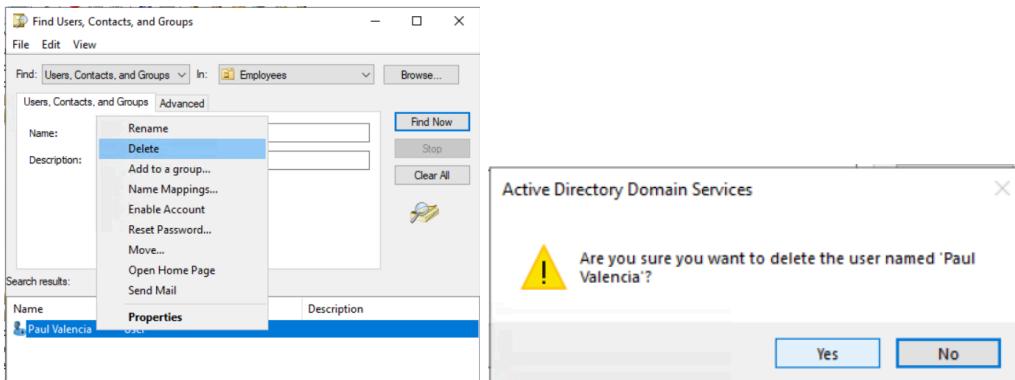
The company had found in an audit that there were a few old accounts that were still active in the AD that were no longer required. I needed to remove them.



To do this, I right-clicked on the 'Employees' OU before clicking on 'Find' as shown in the screenshot above.



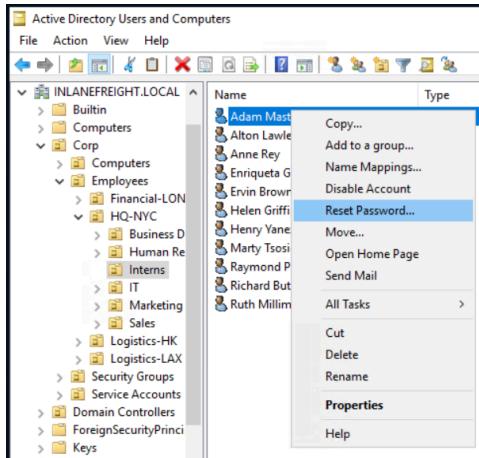
This opened up the page displayed above. I now needed to input the name of the user that needed to be removed before clicking 'Find Now'.



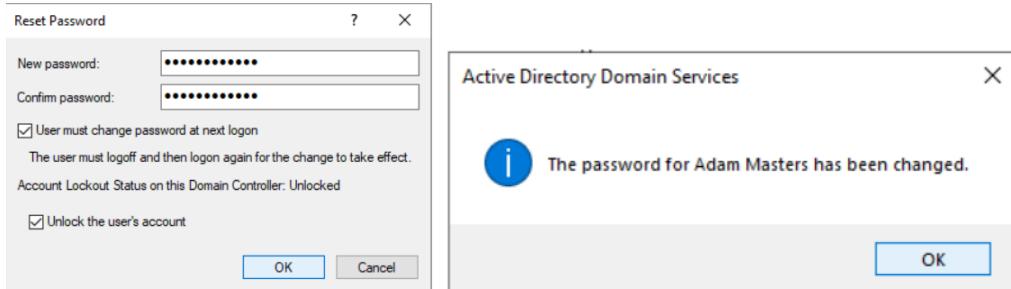
This resulted in the user being searched and found in the system. I then right-clicked on the name before selecting 'Delete'. This opened the prompt shown in the second screenshot where I clicked 'Yes' to confirm the deletion. The old users have now been removed from the AD.

## Resetting password of a locked account

A user at the company has raised a ticket indicating that his account has been locked due to inputting the incorrect password too many times. I needed to reset his account password and also make him change his password at his next log in.



Since he was an Intern, I clicked on the ‘Interns’ folder before right-clicking on his name ‘Adam Masters’. I then selected ‘Reset Password’.



This opened up the window displayed above. I then inputted the new password before checking the boxes ‘User must change password at next logon’ and ‘Unlock the user’s account’. I then clicked ‘OK’. The second screenshot shows that the password has been changed. I then clicked ‘OK’. The locked account has now been unlocked.