

Physical Active Directory Components



Active Directory Components

Active Directory is composed of both physical and logical components.

• PHYSICAL

- Data store
- Domain controllers
- Global catalog server
- Read-Only Domain Controller (RODC)

• LOGICAL

- Partitions
- Schema
- Domains
- Domain trees
- Forests
- Sites
- Organization units (OUs)



Domain Controllers

A domain controller is a server with the AD DS server role installed that has specifically been promoted to a domain controller



Domain controllers:

- Host a copy of the AD DS directory store
- Provide authentication and authorization services
- Replicate updates to other domain controllers in the domain and forest
- Allow administrative access to manage user accounts and network resources

Source: Microsoft Virtual Academy

AD DS Data Store

The AD DS data store contains the database files and processes that store and manage directory information for users, services, and applications

The AD DS data store:

- Consists of the Ntds.dit file
- Is stored by default in the %SystemRoot%\NTDS folder on all domain controllers
- Is accessible only through the domain controller processes and protocols

Source: Microsoft Virtual Academy