

Foreword

There is a tremendous variety and volume of literature available these days on how to install and configure Windows 2000, so you may ask “How is this book different?” As the title indicates, this book concentrates on configuring Windows 2000 *Without* Active Directory. It’s about making the most of those Windows 2000 features and services that can be used independently of Active Directory—whether that’s in an existing NT4 domain environment, Novell’s NDS, UNIX, or even a standalone workgroup.

I was motivated to write this book because the existing books on Windows 2000 invariably explain the new features only in the context of Active Directory, with the result that many people just do not realize what is possible without Active Directory. This approach ignores the reality that many companies don’t want or need the services Active Directory offers and would prefer to keep their legacy services intact. Of course it’s easy enough to get a Windows 2000 computer up and running so it’s functional without Active Directory, but it’s entirely a different thing to fully use and exploit Windows 2000’s new features to your advantage. And yet, these exciting new features are there, and are yours for the taking.

This book is not anti-Active Directory. I won’t tell you why you should or shouldn’t use Active Directory. I won’t tell you which alternative directory service to use, or advocate everybody should be running P2P. Rather, this book is an acknowledgement that many corporations are currently running Windows 2000 without Active Directory for many reasons. Some of those reasons may boil down to timing and budget constraints, or perhaps a lack of suitably trained staff. It can take many months of designing, planning and testing before a migration deployment can even begin. Still recovering from Y2K upgrades, and with an economic downturn with fewer staff and restricted budgets, IT Managers need to make the most of the resources they already have with minimal risk of disruption to existing services—and Active Directory migration does not neatly fit into this category.