
Appendix C: LDAP Names



Information in this document, including URL and other Internet Web site references, is subject to change without notice. Unless otherwise noted, the example companies, organizations, products, domain names, e-mail addresses, logos, people, places, and events depicted herein are fictitious, and no association with any real company, organization, product, domain name, e-mail address, logo, person, places or events is intended or should be inferred. Complying with all applicable copyright laws is the responsibility of the user. Without limiting the rights under copyright, no part of this document may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), or for any purpose, without the express written permission of Microsoft Corporation.

Microsoft may have patents, patent applications, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights covering subject matter in this document. Except as expressly provided in any written license agreement from Microsoft, the furnishing of this document does not give you any license to these patents, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property.

© 2000 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Microsoft, Active Directory, BackOffice, FrontPage, IntelliMirror, PowerPoint, Visual Basic, Visual Studio, Win32, Windows, Windows Media, and Windows NT are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the U.S.A. and/or other countries.

The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

Understanding LDAP Names of Objects

Because Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) is the protocol used for accessing Active Directory, some Active Directory operations require the use of LDAP naming paths. The protocol specification for LDAP specifies that an object is represented by a series of domain components, organizational units (OUs), and common names that form a path to the object within the directory. LDAP naming paths include the following:

- Distinguished names
- Relative distinguished names
- Uniform resource locators (URLs)

LDAP Distinguished Names

The full path to an object from the directory root is an LDAP distinguished name. It consists of a series of attributes with their values, which are separated by commas, beginning with the most specific reference. When a search context does not exist, it is always used to find an object.

Example

For example, the distinguished name for a user called Don Hall in the Sales department of Contoso, Ltd. is:

CN=Don Hall,OU=Sales,DC=contoso,DC=msft

Microsoft® Windows® 2000 uses the distinguished name attributes listed in the following table.

Key	Attribute	Description
DC	Domain Component	A component of the Domain Name System (DNS) name of the domain, such as com.
OU	Organizational Unit	An organizational unit that can be used to contain other objects.
CN	Common Name	Any object other than domain components and organizational units, such as user and computer objects.

Note LDAP allows for additional name attributes, but Windows 2000 uses only the attributes in the preceding table.

LDAP Relative Distinguished Names

The LDAP relative distinguished name is the portion of the LDAP distinguished name that uniquely identifies the object in its container. Its composition varies depending upon the extent of the existing search context established by the client.

Example

The following table provides examples of distinguished names, the search contexts established by the client, and relative distinguished names.

Distinguished name	Relative distinguished name
OU=Sales,DC=contoso,DC=msft	OU=Sales
CN=Don Hall,OU=Sales,DC=contoso,DC=msft	CN=Don Hall
CN=Judy Lew,OU=Shipping,DC=europe,DC=contoso,DC=msft	CN=Judy Lew

LDAP URLs

An *LDAP URL* is a concatenation of the domain controller's name and the LDAP distinguished name of the object being located. You can use LDAP URLs in Active Directory Service Interface (ADSI) scripts to gain access to Active Directory™ directory service objects. An LDAP URL contains the address of the server to which you want to connect and the distinguished name of the object you reference.

Example

In the following example:

```
LDAP://server1.contoso.msft/CN=Don  
Hall/CN=Users/DC=contoso/DC=msft
```

The LDAP URL queries the domain controller server1.contoso.msft, for the object with the common name Don Hall in the Users container in the domain contoso.msft.

Viewing LDAP Object Names

Many utilities in Active Directory display an object's LDAP name. To view the LDAP name of an object in Active Directory Users and Computers:

1. On the **View** menu, click **Advanced**.
2. Click the object that you want to view, and then click **Properties**.
3. Click the **Object** tab.

Active Directory Users and Computers displays the object's name in the **Object Pathname** box.