Enterprise Architecture Practice

Statewide Active Directory Configuration Practice
Reference Model Type and ID No: SRM 76.761.649.2
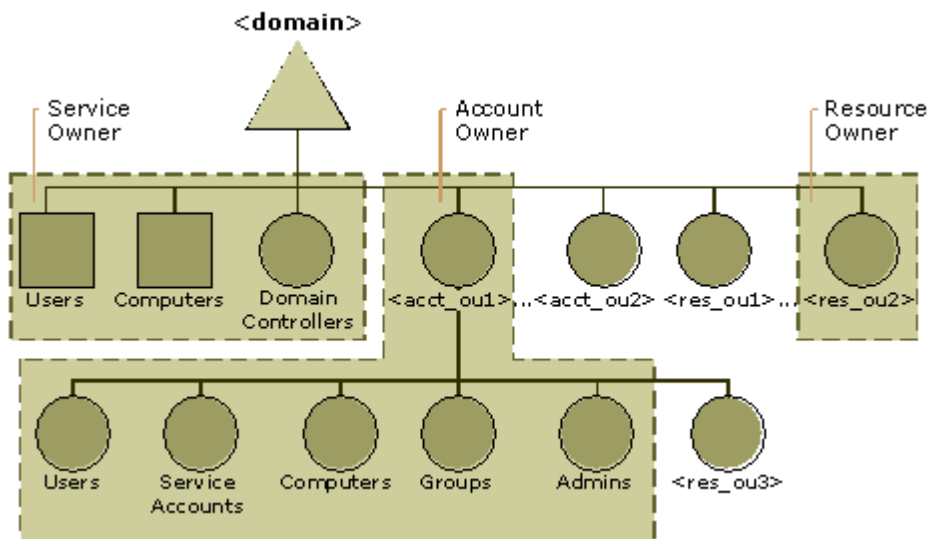**Status:** Approved
Analysis: Active Directory Workgroup
Effective Date: 04/05/2011
Next Review Date: 04/04/2012
Approved By: Enterprise Architecture Standards Workgroup

Organizational Unit Structure

Since there is no real way to have one Organizational Unit Structure (OU Structure) "fit" all agencies, please review the following sample of a generic OU Structure:

Keep the following rules in mind when you create OU structures:
- Think in terms of equipment and objects in the directory.
- Determine how you will implement the administrative delegation process.
- Identify standards for all administrative categories in the organization.
- Use the administrative service or function or the line of business to name OUs. These tend to be more stable than organizational structure.
- Limit your structure to five levels, three if you are not responsible for the finalization of the structure. Recommend a maximum of five levels even though ten are possible. This gives you some breathing room.
- Each OU you create must add value to the system.

- Never create an OU that does not contain any objects.
- Never create an OU that does not have a specific purpose.
- If an OU reaches an empty state, consider removing it. This may not be necessary because it may only be temporarily empty. If not, remove it.
- Identify an OU owner for each one you create. If no owner can be identified, remove the OU
- Justify all OUs you create.
- If you find that two OUs have the same purpose, merge them. This means that the combination of owner plus Group Policy Object (GPO) plus delegation strategy is the same for both OUs.
- Use default OUs to administer the whole domain. Domain Controllers (DC) should be kept in the DC OU. Domain Administrator accounts and groups should be kept in the User's OU. Domain Administrator PCs should be kept in the Computer's OU.
- Use the production domain OU strategy to define the OU strategy for other domains and forests.
- Do not forget to define and put in place standards for the recurring creation and deletion of OUs. These will help control the proliferation of OU's in your directory.

Authorities

Section 11545 of the Government Code (b) The duties of the Secretary of the Technology Agency shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (2) Establishing and enforcing state information technology strategic plans, policies, standards, and enterprise architecture.

Implementation

Changes and variances to the EA Standard for Statewide Active Directory may be proposed using the Compliance Component Tools in Section 3.2.2 of the Enterprise Architecture Developers Guide, and by following the EA Compliance Package submittal instructions in Section 5.2. Additional detail is also included in Section 4.1 within the "Compliance Components Modification" sub-section. The Enterprise Architecture Developers Guide is available in Section 58A of the Statewide Information Management Manual.