

## Customer Case Study

### The Met Office

Government Agency  
Chooses Templated Active  
Directory Implementation



#### Customer Feedback

*"Security is a key consideration of the way we use our computer technology. With the help of RKeyTec Genesis we have implemented a flexible and easily manageable security solution to the foundation of our whole computing infrastructure; our Active Directory."*

Sam Green  
Technical Architect  
The Met Office



#### Solution Overview

##### Customer Profile

The Met Office is one of the world's leading providers of environmental and weather related services.

##### Business Situation

The Met Office needs maximum leverage from all available security tools.

##### Solution

The Met Office uses Genesis for initial Active Directory deployment and subsequent upgrades.

##### Benefits

- Full implementation of true hierarchical authority within the Active Directory
- Reduced Active Directory design costs from saving time
- Reduced Active Directory implementation costs from using proven techniques
- Enhanced reliability due to use of a mature product

##### Software & Services

- Microsoft Windows Server with Active Directory
- Genesis
- Genesis RKeyTec Consultancy Services

##### Hardware

40 Servers Servicing 4 Domains

The Met Office, as a UK Government agency and provider of services to the military, places security high on its list of technological requirements. This means that it must leverage all native security capabilities within chosen technologies – in this case extracting the maximum security capabilities from the Active Directory. This has been achieved through the use of the Genesis Active Directory tool, with the added benefits of reduced design and implementation costs and the confidence of implementing a mature product.

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### The Situation



The Met Office is one of the world's leading providers of environmental and weather-related services. Their solutions and services meet the needs of many communities of interest from the general public, government and schools, through broadcasters and online media, to civil aviation and almost every other industry sector - in the UK and around the world. The Met Office has 1,500 employees both at its headquarters in Exeter and at other locations around the world. More information about the Met Office can be found at their web site at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>

Recently the Met Office decided to continue the improvement of their technology base with a migration from their Windows 2000 infrastructure to a Windows 2003 infrastructure. This was a logical progression from the original NT4 migration that occurred in 2002 when the Met Office moved offices from Berkshire to a brand new office and data centre in Devon.

### The Solution

When the time came to perform the recent Windows Server upgrade the Met Office commissioned Genesis RKeyTec to handle the Windows Server and Active Directory components. This was a logical step as the Genesis RKeyTec tools and consultants had been used for the for the 2002 migration, which had been a complete success.

### Phase 1: The Initial Design & Implementation of the Active Directory

Prior to their office move the Met Office network infrastructure was based on NT4. As part of the overall move, they decided to upgrade their infrastructure to Windows 2000. The demands on the IT department arising from the physical move meant that they had little time to fully develop and implement their Active Directory themselves, even with the support of external consultants. The Genesis tool was used to speed up the design and implementation while ensuring expert results.

Genesis takes a pre-fabrication approach to the implementation of an Active Directory with an inbuilt architecture designed to realise the Active Directory's full capabilities. This approach enabled a design of strong security and high functionality to be completed within 2 weeks. Because several custom elements were requested by the Met Office, full system testing took an additional two weeks. It has been estimated that the conventional approach to designing and implementing an Active Directory would have taken around six months, with associated costs. Within a few days Genesis allowed the Met Office to see an accurate prototype their Active Directory design.

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The next step: Request a web-based demonstration or personal appointment by using the contact information, opposite. Reference sites available upon request.

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## Genesis Met Office Case study

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### Phase 2: The Active Directory Upgrade – building on the past

The Met Office decided that the upgrade process from Server 2000 to Server 2003 should be overseen by an Active Directory specialist, having realised that commissioning a specialist for a 'one-off' event would be a more cost and time effective option. Genesis RKeyTec was commissioned to perform this task based on the success of their previous collaboration.

- The Active Directory itself was upgraded and the "Focal" Domain Controllers for each of the Active Directory Domain were re-built to Windows 2003
- The Genesis expert system was fully upgraded to the latest version. This allowed the Met Office to take advantage of all the latest product features:
  - Full compatibility with Windows 2003
  - Greater flexibility within Multiple Domain implementations
  - Greater flexibility and enhanced security for domain member workstations and servers
  - Enhanced design template capability
  - Enhanced user interface and toolset
- A simplified audit of their Active Directory was undertaken and as a result recommendations and changes were made to their application of Full Hierarchical Authority, with the corresponding benefit of increased security and security awareness.
- The Exchange 2003 Active Directory Schema updates were implemented, preparing the way for the planned upgrade of Exchange 2000 to Exchange 2003.

They received a 'health check' as to the current state of their Active Directory, a valuable aspect of their ongoing maintenance program.

### The Active Directory Maturity Model

The Active Directory Maturity Model is an audit process that examines the "current state" of the Active Directory. It delivers an accurate and quantitative report on the security and functional capability of any Microsoft Active Directory Implementation.

For more information on this subject and a White Paper entitled 'Why Is It Important to Audit the Active Directory' please visit our website at:

[www.GenesisRKeyTec.com](http://www.GenesisRKeyTec.com)

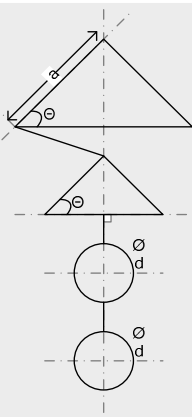
please feel free to **Contact Us** if you require more information.

### Benefits Accrued to the Met Office

The Met Office has accrued many benefits from their association with Genesis RKeyTec and the use of the Genesis Expert System.

- Increased security through the implementation of full hierarchical authority.
- Reduced Total Cost of Ownership through the use of tried and tested, mature and resilient structures.
- Greater flexibility with the implementation of full hierarchical authority.
- Simplified administration.
- A long term technical relationship between two parties always derives benefits of understanding both business and technical requirements.
- Cheaper and faster initial implementation.
- Cheaper upgrade paths for Active Directory and its configuration.
- Cost effective & certain upgrade path.
- Future proofing of their Active Directory Design.

**Cost savings, such as those delivered by Genesis; make a significant difference to every organisation, balancing security and functionality against cost.**



### The Genesis Advantage

- Reducing the design, prototyping and testing phases of Active Directory implementation projects by up to 90%
- Substantial reduction in deployment time
- Greatly increased security and functional capability of the Active Directory
- Simpler and more reliable administration leading to reduced administration overhead
- Stable global application behaviour
- Enhanced user experience: Systems, services & applications will behave the same regardless of logon location
- Quicker problem resolution due to standardised, fully documented structures
- Greater security against malicious attacks or administrative accidents.

### What Is Genesis?

GENESIS is an expert system that allows any organisation to rapidly, and cost effectively implement a highly secure and functional "Pre-fabricated" Active Directory architecture into a new or existing Active Directory.

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