

Customer Case Study

Thomas Miller

Implementing a Fully Optimised Active Directory as Part of Netware Migration Project



Thomas Miller embarked upon a migration from Netware and wanted all of the benefits of a fully optimised Active Directory, but in a cost effective and timely manner. Genesis allowed this to happen whilst delivering on other key requirements.

Thomas Miller

The Thomas Miller Group manages insurance companies and has the underwriting, claims handling, loss prevention, financial, legal, risk management and investment skills needed to provide world-leading insurance services.

Thomas Miller managed insurance companies include mutual insurance companies (known as Clubs), captive insurance companies and insurance companies providing specialist insurances. The Thomas Miller Group also provides risk management consultancy services; and (through its regulated specialist subsidiaries) delivers a full investment management service to Clubs, captives and other clients.

Founded in 1884, Thomas Miller has a long tradition and reputation for service, externally recognised by its certification under the international ISO 9001:2000 quality management standard. Building on its integrity and solid foundations, it has been steadily and successfully expanding its scope of business since the mid 1980s. Previously a group of partnerships, the firm incorporated in 1999, and is now owned and controlled by employees. Thomas Miller employs over 550 people worldwide and has offices in four continents.

For further information about Thomas Miller please visit their web site:

<http://thomasmiller.com>

The Situation

Thomas Miller was a predominantly Netware site. They wanted to migrate into a Windows environment, with Terminal Servers as the main focus for the new environment.

The Windows network infrastructure was to be built in advance prior to a staged migration conducted by the in-house administration team.

If you would like further information or would like to see a demonstration of Genesis then please do not hesitate to contact us. Reference sites are available upon request.

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Customer Testimony

"Genesis was recommended to us by GSS - our long term IT consultancy provider. We were very, very impressed by how fast our (Active) Directory was built, and the combination of simplicity and sophistication that was delivered. Our expectations were definitely exceeded."

Damian Albiez, IT Manager,
Thomas Miller



Initial Project scope

Thomas Miller were very happy with the performance of the existing IT Administration personnel and they wanted to retain the department in its entirety. The department was already working at full capacity and did not have the time or the highly specialised skills necessary to design and implement an Active Directory solution that would meet the requirements of the business. For this reason they decided to outsource this aspect of the migration project.

The major initial requirement that their new Active Directory had to deliver was true hierarchical authority - whereby each level of employee is only allowed access to resources based on their seniority and the needs of their job.

A critical secondary requirement was full documentation of the Active Directory structures so that the existing IT Administration team would be able to effectively use and support the structures they were to inherit.

Full documentation was also necessary for compliance purposes.

Genesis

Genesis was selected as the method by which their new Active Directory would be built. Genesis was selected for:

- Speed of implementation
- Guarantee of fulfilling all business requirements

Genesis was able to extend its base architecture to meet the business requirements of Thomas Miller in a matter of days, thus removing a large potential bottleneck from the project.

The use of Genesis allowed the existing administrative team to carry on with the migration planning and execution, safe in the knowledge that the environment into which they were migrating would meet all of the specified business requirements, as well as being stable and secure as befits production tested technology

For more information on how this was possible, please see over.

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Partner

Genesis Thomas Miller Case Study

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The Basics of an Active Directory Implementation

Active Directory Installation

Most of us have this. This doesn't provide the true value of Active Directory



Active Directory Optimisation

Surprisingly few people have this, but Genesis can do this for you



Successful Active Directory Implementation

This is where we all want to get to!

What Genesis Does

Genesis will create prefabricated architecture within your Active Directory - this is achieved by running Genesis.

Once you have your base architecture in place it can be extended to suit your requirements. This is a process that can be achieved in about 3 days for a typical 500 user organisation. This includes provision of full documentation.

Genesis has been proven time and again in production environments all over the world. It is this that enables us to guarantee the level of result you will achieve if you use Genesis to optimise your Active Directory.

The Benefits of using Genesis

After a Genesis Installation your Active Directory will be:

Fully Secured - the Genesis architecture brings you true role based authority and is so strong that it protects itself from the degradation of uncontrolled change

Fully Flexible - the Genesis architecture instantly fulfils the 90% of Active Directory requirements that all organisations share, and is then easily extended to realise the final 10% of requirements that are unique to your organisation

Fully Documented - the Genesis architecture complies with all the appropriate standards and best practice

Part Played by Genesis in Thomas Miller Migration Project

Genesis RKeyTec undertook to implement the Active Directory in the new Windows environment commissioned by Thomas Miller.

Thomas Miller had some key requirements to fall within certain compliance rules pertaining to their industry:

- Hierarchical Authority - where employees and administrators can only see and modify data according to their seniority and job
- Full documentation

Genesis delivered both of these requirements and, as part of a fully optimised Active Directory, other benefits such as increased security and manageability. These additional benefits are delivered naturally when an Active Directory is designed (as Genesis is) and delivered on a platform of best practice recommendations.

Genesis RKeyTec used Genesis to build the initial Active Directory structures. They then spent 3 days customising the base structures to meet the exact business and operational needs of Thomas Miller.

Using Genesis enabled the in house IT Administrators to concentrate on their normal duties and to spend time on other aspects of the migration. This benefitted all of the project stakeholders.

Once the structures were built they were released to Thomas Miller who were then able to immediately commence their staged migration into the new environment.

The Customer in Numbers

Customer Profile

- Employees: 600
- Locations: 12
- Countries: 10
- Main Data Centres: 2

Hardware

- Servers 50
- Client PCs 600

Infrastructure

- Domains: 1
- IT Staff 20
- Terminal Servers: 10

What they Run

Operating Systems

- Servers: Server 2003
- Clients: XP
- File Servers: Netware

Main Software

- Email: Lotus Notes
- Other: Custom VB

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