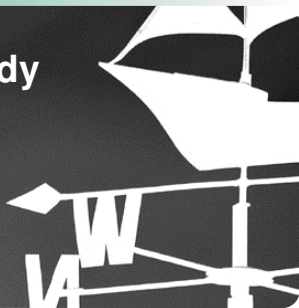


## Customer Case Study

### UCAS

How to handle the aftermath of an Audit



**UCAS, as part of a periodic review, were made aware of some issues with their Active Directory implementation. Here is the story of how they corrected the issues raised by their audit in a timely and cost effective way.**

### UCAS (in their own words)

We are the organisation responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK. Not only do we process more than two million applications for full-time undergraduate courses every year, but we help students to find the right course. We try to make things run as smoothly as possible by providing innovative online tools which make it easier for students and HEIs to manage applications and offers.

We provide application services across a range of subject areas and modes of study for UK universities and colleges. More than half a million people wanting to study at a university or college use our services each year. Our specialist services, the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTRR), the UK Postgraduate Application and Statistical Service (UKPASS) and the Conservatoires UK Admissions Service (CUKAS) are used by more than 50,000 people every year.

We aim to help students make informed choices about higher education, guiding them, their parents and advisers through the application process.

We carry out research, consultancy and advisory work for schools, colleges, careers services, professional bodies and employers. We also offer continuing professional development tailored to meet the needs of individual institutions or subject areas. This ensures a long-term commitment to improving admissions processes across the industry.

For further information please visit the UCAS web site:

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

### The Situation

UCAS, by nature of the function they fulfil, keep very, very sensitive data in their systems - extremely personal data for each of the students that they process. Therefore data security is of paramount importance to the organisation and to the students.

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

*"With an AD infrastructure of over 400 users and some 100 Windows Servers, the ability to ensure security and compliance for Active Directory is our top priority. To achieve this we turned to Genesis and it has proven time and again a priceless tool to simplify management, documentation and ensure security"*

Ben Tyson, Infrastructure Manager,  
UCAS

UCAS were in the process of conducting a periodic security review and decided, for the first time, to review their Active Directory implementation.

Genesis RKeyTec were commissioned to perform an Active Directory Optimisation Audit on their Active Directory.

### The Audit Results

On the surface the UCAS Active Directory appeared to be functioning correctly in that it appeared to be adequately serving the business.

Closer inspection revealed that the UCAS Active Directory was exhibiting all the classic symptoms of an Active Directory that had evolved rather than a directory that had been planned and implemented according to a clear and documented philosophy.

The UCAS Active Directory was showing signs of:

- Vulnerability to full disaster scenarios
- Incomplete implementation of Role Based Authority
- Non standard use of powerful Administrative Accounts
- Under use of Group Policy for environmental control
- Insufficient documentation

Having discovered these problems, UCAS needed to solve them.

### Genesis

UCAS had to resolve all of these issues so they commissioned Genesis RKeyTec to assist them.

Genesis RKeyTec advised that the quickest and most cost effective way of solving their problem would be to create new Active Directory architecture and migrate all their existing objects into the new structures.

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

- Speed of implementation
- Cost effectiveness
- Surety of result

See over for more information about how Genesis achieves this.

**Microsoft**  
**GOLD CERTIFIED**

Partner

## Genesis

### UCAS Case Study

Continued . . .



## 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 users organisation. Including 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

## UCAS Active Directory Optimisation

Genesis RKeyTec used Genesis to build the new UCAS Active Directory architecture. Once the new architecture was in place it was extended to accommodate the UCAS unique requirements.

Work done:

- Building new Active Directory architecture
- Analyse UCAS unique requirements
- Extend Active Directory architecture for UCAS requirements
- Document all of the above
- Assist in devising migration plan into new architecture
- Perform full handover and training for appropriate administrators

All of the above was achieved with 4 days of Genesis RKeyTec consultancy.

Using Genesis enabled the in house IT Administrators to concentrate on their usual duties and not be distracted or drawn into this project. They had a complete working solution, fully documented, delivered to them and they received full training on how to correctly use and maintain their fully optimised Active Directory.

The new Active Directory also offered them additional advantages over the old directory. They now had a fully fledged multi-layered Group Policy architecture with which to exert greater control over their environment.

All Active Directory optimisation goals were achieved within very strict timescales and at a fraction of the usual costs for such projects.

## The Customer in Numbers

### Customer Profile

- Employees: 430
- Locations: 1
- Main Data Centres: 1
- Disaster Recovery: 1

### Hardware

- Servers: 100
- Client PCs: 600

### Infrastructure

- Domains: 1
- IT Staff: 10

### What they Run

#### Operating Systems

- Servers: Server 2003  
Server 2008
- Clients: XP, Windows 7,  
Windows 2000,  
Windows NT4

#### Main Software

- Email: MS Exchange
- Other: Sage

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