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Research and testing of Microsoft's Active Directory services at Northwestern have been completed, and information has been issued to help guide schools and departments in the deployment of Active Directory.

Active Directory, a component of the Windows 2000 architecture, presents organizations with a directory service designed for distributed computing environments. Active Directory allows for central management and sharing of information about networked resources and users.

Evidence at other major colleges and universities support NUIT's conclusion that a single, central Active Directory tree is not the best way to use this technology. Instead, NUIT recommends separate "forests" for each school within Northwestern, to avoid replication of changes across the University.

Communications between schools will still be possible via "trust" relationships. University administrative/business units with servers being maintained by NUIT will be joined in a single forest similar to a school's forest.

For more information, go to the NUIT Web site (www.it.northwestern.edu) and search on "active directory." Further details are available on the Microsoft Web site at www.microsoft.com/windows2000/technologies/directory/ad/.

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