AD DS Users, OUs, & Groups

Users and OUs

Organisational Units - a means of separating users and devices/objects based on location, site, role, job, department

- A user account can only be a part of one OU (unlike groups)
- OUs can be used to handle Group Policy objects - will filter down to OUs below the specified OU
- Helps to visually separate objects

Example 1

- Sydney OU
  - Users
  - Computers
- Brisbane OU
  - Users
  - Computers

Example 2

- Sales OU
  - Users
  - Computers
- Finance OU
  - Users
  - Computers

Groups

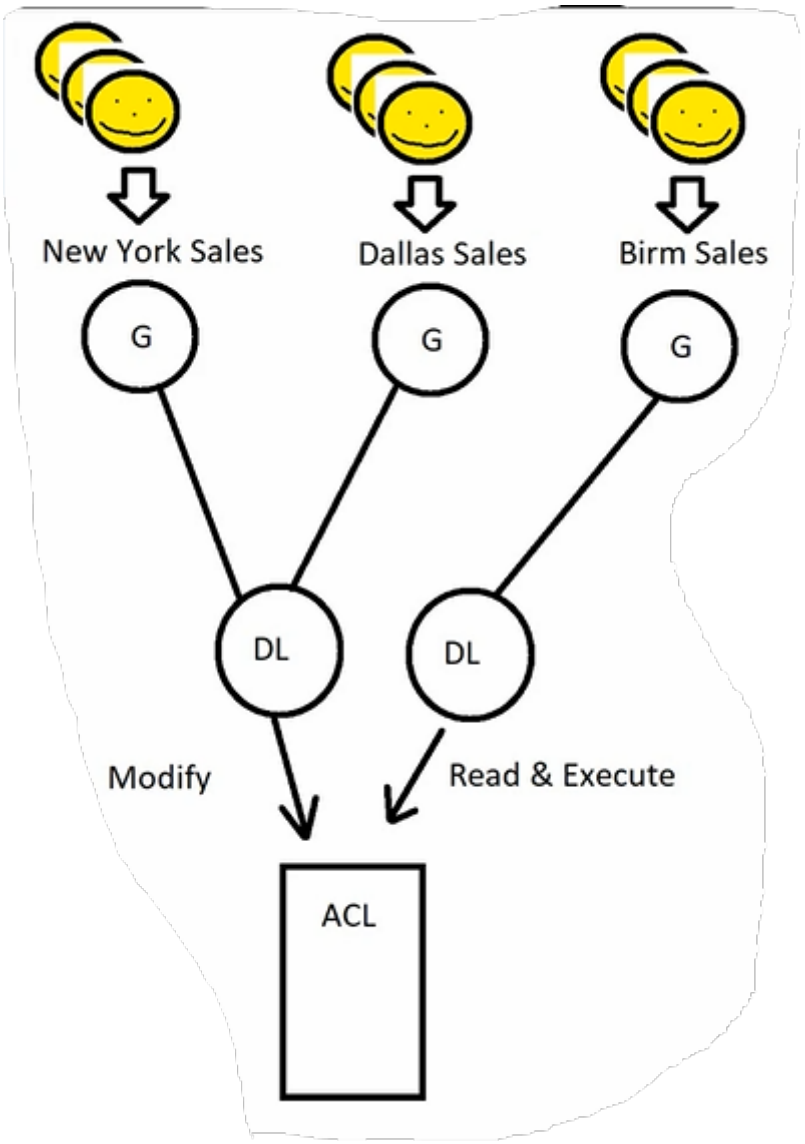
- Dsitribution Groups (DLs) for Email
- Security Groups (Permissions) and Email

Group Scopes

- Global
- Domain Local
- Universal

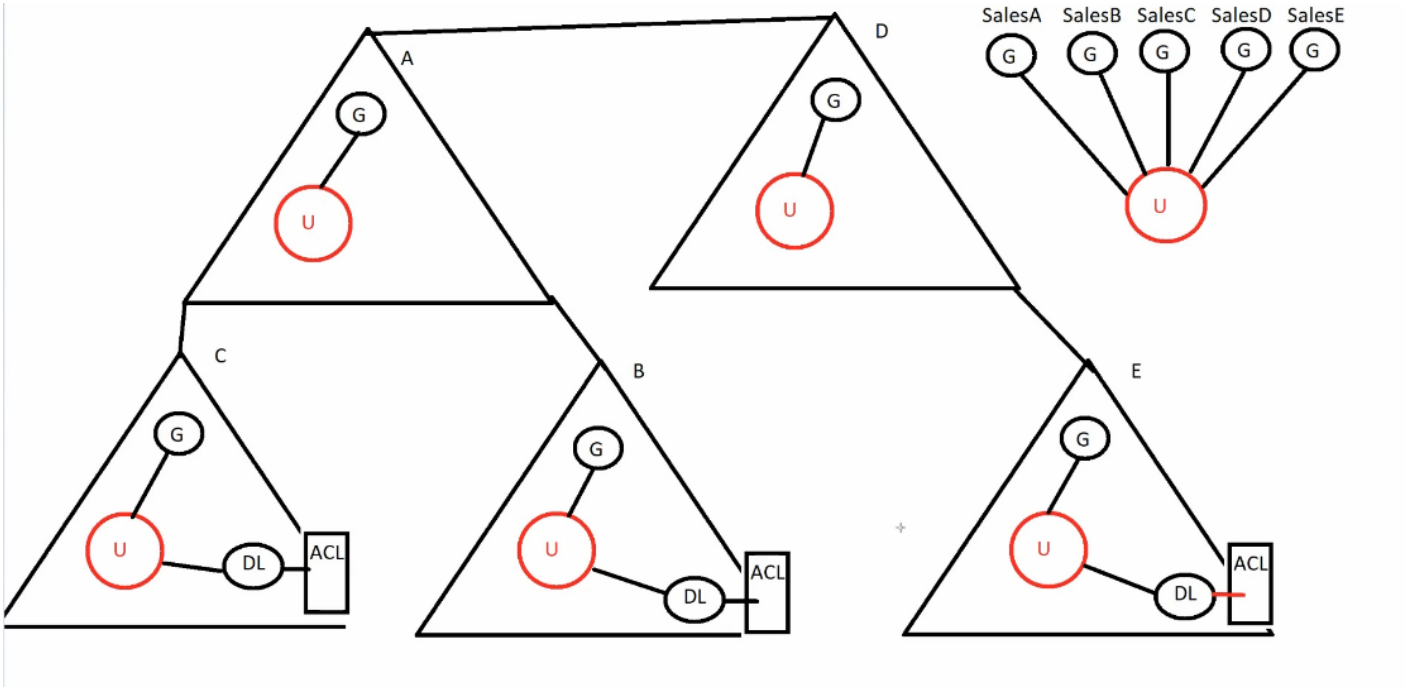
Microsoft Strategy

- Accounts
  - Global
    - Domain Local
      - Permissions



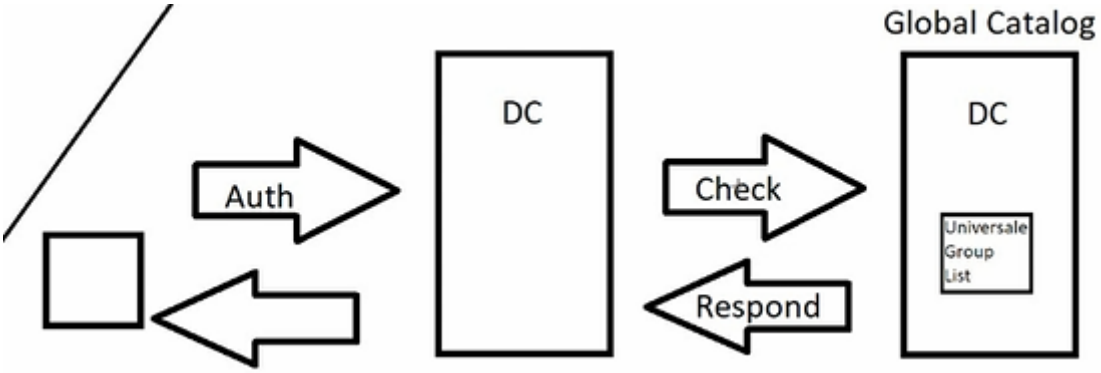
Universal Groups

*For larger organisations multiple globval groups can be linked to a single universal group, which is replicated across all domains



Universal Group Membership Caching Feature

- Global Catalog Servers contain a Universal Group List
- User Authentication occurs on D.C.s via Kerberos
- Kerberos needs to validate with the GCS to identify which groups this user is a member of (via the universal group list)



Scenario: users are finding it take a long time to log in - the global catalog server might be located in a different site to where the user and the domain controller are located

Solutions

- Make the D.C. a Global Catalog server (adds processing overhead)
- Universal Group Membership Caching
  - Every 8 hours (default) domain controller will cache the Universal Group List locally

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