

**Company Background**

Steel Dynamics, Inc. Steel Dynamics, Inc. (SDI) is the nation's fifth largest producer of carbon steel products with 2008 annual revenues of \$8.1 billion. SDI operates electric arc furnace mini-mills, steel scrap processing centers, and steel fabrication facilities. SDI is among the most profitable American steel companies in terms of profit margins and operating profit per ton. Steel Dynamics ranks 318th on the FORTUNE 500 list.

**The Challenge:**

During the past several years SDI has made a number of acquisitions and the company quickly found itself faced with a number of autonomous technology infrastructures. Each location had an individual technology staff, server infrastructure, application infrastructure, development staff, datacenter, external e-mail domains, etc. As SDI began to unify their business model and corporate appearance the need to consolidate and unify this infrastructure became paramount. While SDI desired uniformity, it also recognized the need for upper level autonomy to allow each organization to prosper without undue influence by decisions of the other divisions.

**The Solution:**

SDI contracted ENS to design the new environment, generate implementation documentation, build the base environment, and work with the different technology staffs on a project management, implementation, or consultative basis. Since the goal was for SDI's different locations to look very similar in terms of technology infrastructure, ENS was tasked with creating a template of migration tasks. This template would be used to allow each location to migrate their location. The design and planning phase resulted in a plan to merge all of the separate Microsoft Active Directory (AD) forests into a single new corporate wide AD forest and AD domain. ENS was able to effectively use AD security, AD organizational units (OU), group policies (GPO), and scripting tools to segregate the separate locations so each was able to effectively manage and support their local environment while affording protection from changes at other locations.

**The Technical Aspect:**

ENS built the new domain by utilizing virtualization technology, therefore making the domain controllers very portable and easily recoverable. Security was implemented on DNS zones, AD OU objects, servers and workstations, file structures, etc., affording the desired level of divisional autonomy. The Microsoft Exchange Server infrastructure was developed using in a single Exchange organization so that each location had administrator rights to their respective servers and a unified Global Address List (GAL).

**By implementing this solution SDI achieved the following benefits:**

- Traveling users that frequent different SDI divisions are able to utilize one user account no matter what their physical location. This allows them to access resources at either their home office or other visited locations.
- Each location has increased AD redundancy so that if any of their domain controllers fail or if disaster strikes a location the AD information will remain intact and accessible due because it is replicated to all locations. This will allow authentication of the affected users.
- The granulated technology security infrastructure was improved. Each location is now cognizant of a user's ability to access computers, files, AD objects, and other resources.
- SDI can more easily implement corporate wide offerings such as corporate file sharing, SharePoint services, Microsoft Office Communication Server, HR applications, etc.
- SDI now has a unified Microsoft Exchange Global Address List so users throughout the entire organization can more easily communicate. This has eliminated the need to support and maintain a Microsoft Identity Integration Services infrastructure.

ENS was able to help SDI implement their technology goals so that they can continue to evolve and grow their company with ease. 🚀



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Enhanced Network Solutions Group  
7224 Engle Road • Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
Phone: 260.432.1364 • Fax: 260.432.3168