

# Active Directory Integrated Security

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# Agenda

- Who he?
- Why
- How
- Demo



# My background



- Originally a developer (when it was all G&B)
  - COBOL, Algol68R, Fortran
- Added minis and then PC's to my world
- Access developer since the 1<sup>st</sup> beta
- During employment (to 2004) always programming to internal needs
- Now three development models:
  - Take over maintenance
  - Turn data into information clients to take over (long term agile/prototyping projects)
  - Build new systems to replace rubbish or outmoded system
- That's my excuse list finished 😊

# Why not Access Security?



- I only tried it once and I hated it (try anything once except Morris Dancing and ...)
- It was easy to make errors or use the wrong MDW
- Active Directory exists (even works in NT4!).
- Some larger clients may reject non-AD security
- Much easier to see what is happening
- Can tie the application to a domain (good for sales 😊 )

# How



- Use a per client front end.
- Use a (largely standard) module and local table
- Local evaluation of AD group membership
- Can then either
  - Backend table to control object rights (if needed)
  - Hard code into form design
- Whichever method – use code to check object usage rights and visibility of objects

# So - Demo!

- Two VM's
  - Server
  - Client
- Two methods
  - Hard coded
  - Table driven



# Other uses



- Colour schemes based on rights
- Check during code processing to do things differently per user-group
- Change visibility, size, shape, position of items on the form
- Use your imagination!

# Pros/Cons



- Pros

- Separate security from the DB, makes hacking it a more interesting challenge
- Active Directory is a separate beast, security can be managed outside the DB/Dev team
- Can hard code, or use tables
- Less exposed to Access version changes (same code since Windows 2000)

- Cons

- Log out and back in to get new group membership
- Uses a local table (so not so good for old fashioned ADP, but see MUST)
- Untested against Windows 2012/Windows Server 10

# Recommendations



- Use a separate OU
  - Clarity in the directory
  - Ease of use
  - Can even be secured to certain users for extra security

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