

Novell to Microsoft Migrations at Indiana School Districts

Background

The Clinton Prairie School Corporation and Concord Community Schools were both facing a challenging task—migrating hundreds of student, faculty, and shared storage locations, along with their corresponding ownership and security rights, from each district’s Novell network to a new Microsoft network. One Community, a systems integrator and Condrey Corporation partner in Indiana, was up to the task. Here is how they did it using the Cross-Empire Data Migration add-on to File System Factory for Active Directory.

Clinton Prairie School Corporation

Located in Frankfort, Indiana, the Clinton Prairie School Corporation comprises the Clinton Prairie Elementary and Clinton Prairie Junior High/High School. After a thorough review of its long term networking initiatives, the school corporation had made a decision to replace its Novell network with a Microsoft network.

Making a decision to change the network operating system was one thing, carrying that decision out was another. Jon Myers, Technology Coordinator at Clinton Prairie School Corporation knew that the transition project was something they didn’t want to take on internally. He reached out to One Community CEO Norm O’Neal.

Norm had been evaluating a number of different tools for migrating Novell data to Microsoft, and was especially encouraged by what he was hearing from Condrey Corporation about a new identity mapping technology that was being developed for an update of the Cross-Empire Data Migration add-on to File System Factory for Active Directory. After a demonstration of the new technology, coupled with his confidence in a support organization that Norm describes as “the best there is,” he proposed File System Factory for Active Directory with the Cross-Empire Data Migration add-on—not only for the migration capabilities, but for the automated user and collaborative storage management that the product would continue to provide.

While Norm developed a process for creating corresponding Novell eDirectory User and Group objects in Microsoft Active Directory, Jon began working with the Cross-Empire Data Migration add-on. According to Jon, using the technology was pretty straight forward. “The interface was easy to work with, so making associations between eDirectory objects and Active Directory objects was very simple.”

Over a two-day period, Jon and Norm were able to migrate about 1200 student, faculty and shared storage locations. And now File System Factory is automating many of the tasks that Jon had to do manually in the past. Jon remarks: “I recently created a few new users in Active Directory and it was really nice to see File System Factory create the corresponding user storage.”

Concord Community Schools

About two and a half hours drive North of Frankfort is Elkhart, Indiana—the location of the district offices of Concord Community Schools. Concord Community Schools includes four elementary schools, an intermediate school, a junior high school, and a high school. Like Clinton Prairie School Corporation, Concord Community Schools needed to migrate its

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student, faculty, and shared storage locations from Novell eDirectory to Active Directory—not because of a complete network operating system and directory changeover, but because the district needed student, faculty, and collaborative storage in Active Directory for some Microsoft network applications, Citrix configurations, and virtual desktops that were being deployed.

Convincing Concord to migrate using the Cross-Empire Data Migration add-on to File System Factory was not difficult for Norm O’Neal, especially after all the great things he had to say about the experience at Clinton Prairie.

Working with Concord Technology Technician Kevin Edwards, and Network Engineer Kris Hurley, Norm oversaw the first phase of a migration project that included all of the home folders for the entire student body of the junior high school. This first phase took about a week, and there were no major problems with the migration, nor were there problems with the application access via Citrix. The remaining migration phases at Concord will take place later in the school year.

“Using Cross-Empire Data Migration was great,” remarks Kevin Edwards. “It was easy to use, and it maintained all of the rights during the migration.”

One Community continues to utilize the Cross-Empire Data Migration add-on to File System Factory for Active Directory as its means of moving school districts from Novell to Microsoft. At the time of this publication, Norm was involved in another migration of 6,600 user home folders—and once again, everything was working almost perfectly.

About One Community

One Community serves the technology needs of education with over 25 years of combined experience. Implementing the best technology practices while partnering with outstanding software companies has resulted in a reputation of excellence in technical areas that include: enterprise management, storage services, virtualization, collaboration, disaster recovery, and more.

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About Condrey Corporation

Condrey Corporation develops identity-based software that solves network challenges pertaining to user storage, access, and file sharing. A variety of products developed for the Microsoft Windows, Linux, Macintosh, and Novell network platforms automate user storage management tasks and expand network access and file sharing capabilities, while dramatically reducing management costs.

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