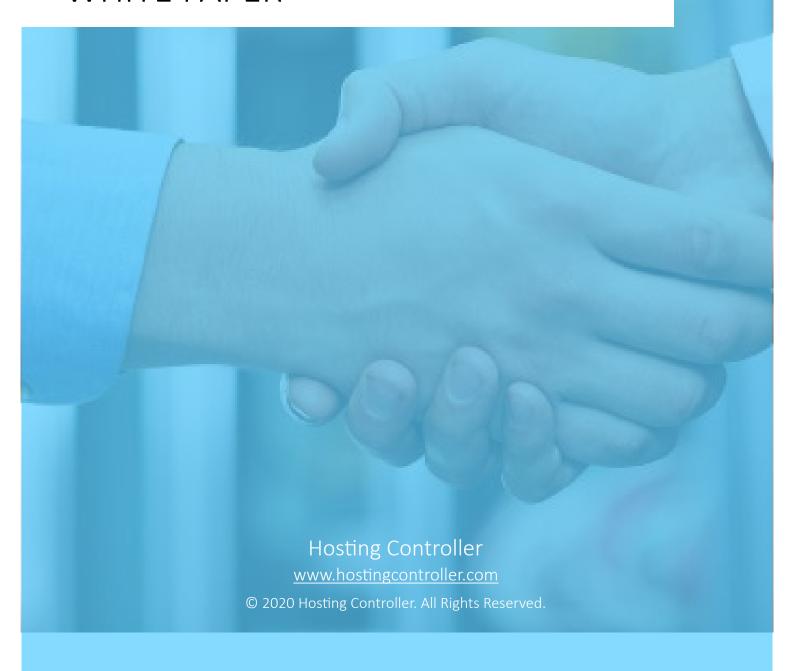# AD Consolidation for Mergers & Acquisitions

WHITE PAPER

No two mergers ever go the same way. If you are faced with a task to arrange for the merger of two organizations using Active Directory, this document explains different options to do that right.

There are some standard tools available for such consolidations, but all require establishing cross-forest trust between the merging domains.. In some scenarios, a one-way trust is possible but that falls short in many situations and a two-way trust (also called transitive trust) needs to be established eventually.

'Trust' in an IT environment is precisely what is lacking when two organizations are merging. One organization inherently manages a weaker or a different security policy and it takes time for the two IT departments to understand each other, their security policies and all details before they can enable trust between the Active Directories.

Compliance to many security standards like HIPAA may also prohibit from establishing trust between Active Directories.

While the employees cannot wait for the IT to resolve its issues and execute their plan, IT remains under pressure to provide 'business continuity' during such mergers.

Introducing Hosting Controller's AD Connect Sync Tool.

Hosting Controller AD Connect Sync is the tool used to copy identity data between two Active Directory instances without the need to establish any formal trust relationship between the two.

It polls the source Active Directory to changes to any objects, whether users or groups or contacts or other attributes, and copies them over to the target AD over the LDAP protocol.

This is all done without any formal trust. The product has extra features to help IT Administrators get going with the newer AD as soon as possible.

- Apply rules before copying
- Add a suffix before the domain part
- Put some special value in any attribute
- Selectively choose the objects and attributes to be copied

These features can be used in different scenarios to achieve the desired results.

Password Synchronization is also supported in real-time.

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