

## Re: secure storage in Active Directory

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2003-05/0204.html>

---

**From:** Michael Howard [MSFT] ([mikehow\\_at\\_online.microsoft.com](mailto:mikehow_at_online.microsoft.com))

**Date:** 05/05/03

Date: Sun, 4 May 2003 20:28:58 -0700

by default, AD does not store user account passwords – it stores a hash of the password.

--

Cheers, Michael

Writing Securce Code 2nd Edition

(<http://www.microsoft.com/MSPress/books/5957.asp>)

This posting is provided "AS IS" with no warranties, and confers no rights.

OR if you wish to include a script sample in your post please add "Use of

included script samples are subject to the terms specified at

<http://www.microsoft.com/info/copyright.htm>"

"megan" <[zhongmeiyi@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:zhongmeiyi@yahoo.com.sg)> wrote in message

news:57257a88.0305041854.13e0f162@posting.google.com...

> Hi,

>

> I understand that the Active Directory stores user data and passwords.

> How does it store these securely within its internal structure?

> i.e. how are the passwords protected? Through hashing? PKI?

>

> I've read that the Active Directory database is the ntds.dit, but

> I've yet to read anywhere that the passwords are stored there. I've

> also read about the NTLM (mostly for backward compatibility with NT

> systems), they store the password hash (either NTLM hash or NTLMv2 hash).

>

> Thanks in advance for any feedback.

> Megan