

Case Study # 11

You are a Network Consultant with specialized skills in designing Win2000 directory services. You are recently requested by B2BExpert to design the Windows 2000 network for the entire company.

Background

B2Bexpert is an open, business-to-business electronic marketplace for building materials that enhances the customer-supplier relationship. The B2BExpert marketplace enables buyers and sellers of building materials to benefit from timely and relevant market information, broader customer reach, highly efficient transactional capabilities, and more automated logistical and back-office processes allowing greater control over the relationship side of business.

The B2BExpert marketplace will initially focus on structural lumber, but quickly move into other building materials, starting with structural panels. Ultimately, B2BExpert's marketplace will support the buying and selling of all building materials used in residential home and light commercial construction, such as engineered wood products, millwork, siding, roofing, gypsum wallboard, insulation, and other major building materials.

B2BExpert's customers are buyers and sellers of truckload and railcar quantities of building materials including producers, wholesalers, and retailers.

B2BExpert Services

B2BExpert has partnered with a number of partners, allowing members to choose from a variety of value-added services to fulfill transactions in the B2BExpert Marketplace. B2BExpert works with individual members to design specific service packages. Members will always control the extent to which the services are used.

- Shipment management - Experienced transportation managers will take care of facilitating client's shipments
- Shipment tracking - Improve inventory forecasting through online tracking of rail shipments.
- ETA's for B2BExpert shipments are continuously monitored, updated, and displayed online.
- Delivered price automatically calculated for buyers - Delivered prices displayed from all mills enable quicker, more accurate purchasing decisions
- Customized pricing for multiple ship-to locations
- FOB mill pricing for sellers - Mills need only enter FOB mill or region prices, all freight costs are automatically calculated for delivered prices to customer locations.
- Guaranteed payments to sellers - Secure payment transaction through 3rd party escrow service

B2B IT Infrastructure

All servers are running NT4.0 and are housed in the head office in Boston. B2Bexpert itself forms a single NT4 domain. To work with the partners without disclosing confidential information, the IT department has to pay extreme attention in terms of setting up the trusts necessary for the domains to communicate.

Currently Exchange Server 5.5 is deployed as their email solution.

B2Bexpert is using the same domain name for internal and external network. Administrator needs to add host to the DNS manually. Also, users have difficulty logging onto the internal network and access the resource they need.