



## DaimlerChrysler Speeds to Active Directory with ActiveRoles

Deploying Microsoft's Active Directory to 70,000 users and ultimately to 110,000 users is no easy task. To deploy Active Directory in an efficient and secure manner, while retaining maximum flexibility at the local level, DaimlerChrysler turned to ActiveRoles.

### Customer Overview

DaimlerChrysler is one of the world's leading automotive companies. Its passenger car brands include Maybach, Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler, Jeep®, Dodge, and Smart. Commercial vehicle brands include Mercedes-Benz, Freightliner, Sterling, Western Star, and Setra. It offers financial and other automotive services through DaimlerChrysler Services. With 365,600 employees, DaimlerChrysler achieved revenues of EUR 149.6 billion (\$158.8 billion) in 2002.

DaimlerChrysler has a global workforce, a global shareholder base, globally recognised brands, and a global outlook. DaimlerChrysler's strategy rests on four pillars: global presence, strong brands, broad product range, and technology leadership.

### The Challenge

A global project team is responsible for deploying Active Directory to an initial user base 70,000 people. Ultimately, it will be rolled out to 110,000 employees.

Karlheinz Blank, the project leader for the design of Active Directory, reports that the Active Directory project started in mid-2000, although it wasn't until a year later that the company had evaluated the marketplace and finally took delivery of Quest Software's ActiveRoles solution.

The basis of the team's thinking in looking for an alternative to native tools was straightforward: "When it comes to managing a large number of users with a complex security scheme, the Microsoft Management Console (MMC) just isn't enough."

On the other hand, proxy-based management solutions also fell short. The global project team insisted on a solution that utilized the features of Active Directory, without introducing extra layers of administrative overhead or possible points of failure into the system.

### The Quest Solution

The project team at DaimlerChrysler quickly understood the advantages of a directory enabled application such as ActiveRoles. "Quest offers a solution that truly integrates with Active Directory. This model allows us flexibility in many areas, for example in the development of a customised user interface to Active Directory."

In conjunction with local Quest support personnel, the team then tested the software in a real-life scenario. "Quest personnel were very helpful," Blank reports. "They presented the various tools to us, accompanied us during the validation phase in the test environment, and were available to answer further questions." Following the testing procedures, the production installation brought no disappointments, as Blank recalls: "The installation was straightforward, and the system was ready to apply in our environment quickly."

### Overview

#### User

DaimlerChrysler – The global car, truck, and bus manufacturer

#### Quest Software products

ActiveRoles

#### Environment

- Worldwide users: 110,000 worldwide
- Windows users in Germany: 70,000
- Hardware: Compaq DL5750 servers

#### Benefits

- Deployed Active Directory efficiently and securely
- Minimized manual overhead
- Preserved administrative flexibility at local level

Quest also proved responsive to DaimlerChrysler's needs. Blank explains, "A project of this scale requires a supplier that is able to meet requirements both from a technical as well as from a commercial perspective. Quest proved to comply with these requirements."

One year into its use of the ActiveRoles solution, DaimlerChrysler is finding that the software has lived up to its promises. Blank recalls some of the highlights: "The delegation of administrative rights is simplified. Predefined roles are provided, so ActiveRoles straight out-of-the box means we can immediately start realizing high service levels with Active Directory, with a low administrative overhead."

## The Bottom Line

"The ActiveRoles product has allowed us to deploy Active Directory in a secure and efficient way, while preserving flexibility for our remote locations. In fact, Quest Software has been chosen as a preferred supplier to DaimlerChrysler for Active Directory administration tools."

## About Quest Software, Inc.

Quest Software, Inc. delivers innovative products that help organizations get more performance and productivity from their applications, databases and Windows infrastructure. Through a deep expertise in IT operations and a continued focus on what works best, Quest helps more than 18,000 customers worldwide meet higher expectations for enterprise IT. Quest Software can be found in offices around the globe and at [www.quest.com](http://www.quest.com)