








Rethinking Reliance on Active Directory

Active Directory (AD) was born in 1999, before the rise of cloud applications, iPhones and remote workforces. While AD met the identity needs of organizations in the early 2000's, the needs of a modern organization have evolved beyond the capabilities of AD.

Constraints of AD in a modern world

-  Reduced flexibility for change, due to AD's static, proprietary directory
-  Declining talent pool of AD administrators
-  Extra hardware, software and people requirements
-  Poor management of non-Windows machines
-  Poor experience for web-based software
-  Poor security for external users, devices and applications
-  Expensive to install and maintain

The evolving IT Ecosystem



The rise of cloud

77% of enterprises have at least one application or a portion of their enterprise computing infrastructure in the cloud.⁽¹⁾



Device heterogeneity

Windows share of desktop and mobile OS markets is shrinking; from 57% to just 35% from 2016-2018.⁽²⁾



Workplace flexibility

69% of younger managers support remote employees.⁽³⁾

Reducing reliance on AD

It's likely you've encountered these trends and supporting them drives productivity in your workforce. The challenge— adopting and securing a modern IT stack requires modern identity. AD was never designed for this.

At the same time, simply decommissioning AD is not realistic as it's responsible for triggering important workflows, supporting compliance, connecting devices, and more. Often, AD has become so entangled that admins lack visibility into all the AD related interdependencies.

Because of this, reducing reliance on AD is a journey. Luckily, Okta has helped thousands of organizations take their first steps toward an AD-free world and we've built the Rethink AD Maturity Model to share common patterns we've seen across organizations moving off of AD.

1. [Forbes State of Enterprise Cloud Computing](#)
 2. [www.netmarketshare.com](#)
 3. [Upwork New Workforce Report 2019](#)

Rethink Active Directory Maturity Model

