

## Managing Universal Group Membership Caching

Many networks run into problems due to available network bandwidth and server hardware limitations. For this reason, it may not be wise to install a GC in smaller branch offices. Windows Server 2008 can help these smaller sites by deploying domain controllers that use universal group membership caching.

Once enabled, universal group membership caching stores information locally once a user attempts to log on for the first time. With the use of a GC, the domain controller retains the universal group membership for that logged on user.

The next time that user attempts to log on, the authenticating domain controller running Windows Server 2008 will obtain the universal group membership information from its local cache without the need to contact a GC. The universal group membership information is retained, by default, on the domain controller for 8 hours.

Some of the advantages of using universal group membership caching are as follows:

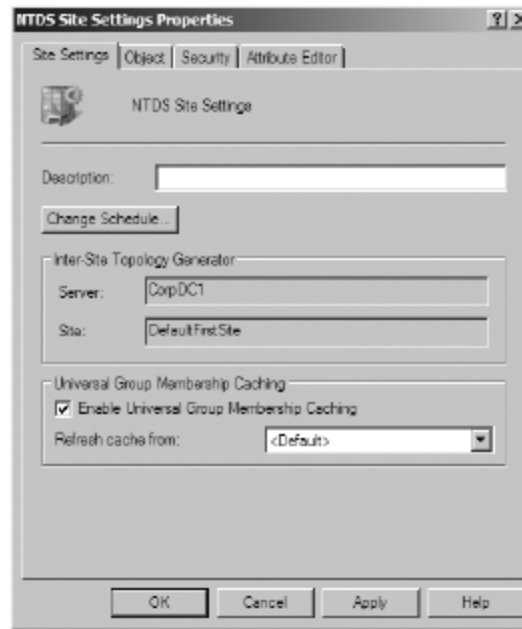
**Faster logon times** Since the domain controller does not need to contact a global catalog, logon authentication is faster.

**Reduced network bandwidth** The domain controller does not have to handle object replication for all the objects located in the forest.

**Ability to use existing hardware.** There is no need to upgrade hardware to support a GC.

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1. Open the Active Directory Sites And Services administrative tool by clicking Start > Administrative Tools > Active Directory Sites And Services.
2. Click Sites, then Click DefaultFirstSite. In the right pane, right-click NTDS Settings and choose Properties.
3. In the NTDS Site Settings Properties dialog box, check the box labeled Enable Universal Group Membership Caching and then click OK to continue.



4. When you are finished, close the Active Directory Sites And Services administrative tool.
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