



A Joint Venture in Automotive Interiors Migrates to a New Directory

Yanfeng Automotive Interiors (YFAI) is a joint venture between Yanfeng, one of the largest automotive suppliers in China, and ADIENT, the global leader in automotive seating (formerly a part of Johnson Controls). Since they formed the venture in 2015, they needed to set up a new IT infrastructure exclusively for YFAI—including a brand-new Active Directory—and then migrate all sites and users to the new environment.

The IT equivalent of open heart surgery

YFAI needed to migrate 9,000 workstations from the ADIENT Active Directory to a new YFAI Active Directory. But with migration needed at 60+ sites spread across Asia, Europe, and North America, this was a complex task—the IT equivalent of open heart surgery.

The project came with a slew of unique challenges. To start, the security considerations of the joint venture meant that while servers and workstations had to be migrated between networks, the networks could never be directly connected. Nor could a trust be established between the Active Directory instances of ADIENT and YFAI.

They also needed to migrate several key servers that directly run their manufacturing processes, which means the migration had to be completed in small maintenance windows, with zero unplanned downtime for the JIT (just in time) plants.

As a final layer of complexity, they had to migrate workstations for remote employees who rarely or never visit one of their physical offices. So their IT team wouldn't be able to physically access those machines.

The search for a flexible, responsive solution

After several months of investigation, planning and working through the logistics on their own, YFAI decided to engage a partner to help speed the effort. They spoke with several vendors and had finally chosen the team from Binary Tree.

“When we talked to other vendors, it sounded like it would be 10 or 100 times more complicated to bring them in,” said Kay Matthiesen, Director of Global Infrastructure for YFAI. “But we were impressed with the flexibility, professionalism, and responsiveness of the team from Binary Tree. They understood the scope of our project and stood behind their commitments.”



Case Study Highlights

Merged from: A parent company's Active Directory

Migrated to: YFAI corp. Network and Active Directory Domain

Locations: Asia, Europe, and North America

Industries: Automotive

Customer Profile

Yanfeng Automotive Interiors (YFAI) is a global leader in automotive interiors, with a mission to redefine the way people relax, work, and play inside their vehicles. It's headquartered in Shanghai, China, with 33,000 employees and 110 manufacturing plants spread across 20 countries in Asia, Europe, and North America.

Business Situation

As a newly minted joint venture, YFAI needed to migrate 9,000 workstations from their previous parent company's AD to their own AD. And they needed to do it all quickly, with no unplanned downtime.

Solutions

Binary Tree Active Directory Pro

Benefits

- Efficient migration that fit into planned maintenance windows, with zero unplanned downtime
- Secure migration without establishing a trust between the directories
- Remote migration, without needing physical access to the computer
- Responsive, bespoke service, including a dedicated engineer to join an onsite implementation team

“To migrate to a new Active Directory, we had to perform what I called ‘open heart surgery’ on 60 manufacturing sites across the world. With support from Binary Tree, we met our goal on time and on budget, with no issues or unplanned downtime. I was able to report up to my executive team that the project was successful.”

Kay Matthiesen, Director of Global Infrastructure for YFAI

A hands on, bespoke solution

YFAI partnered with Binary Tree to create bespoke processes to manage each of their migration scenarios, all using Binary Tree’s **Active Directory Pro**. Binary Tree also trained their technical team to use the software, including run books. And throughout the migration, Binary Tree was on hand to ensure everything went smoothly and that any issues would be resolved quickly.

A sub into the SWAT team

Binary Tree was also quick to respond to a special request. To facilitate the migration at each site, YFAI had assembled a SWAT team of engineers who traveled from site to site. When one of them had to drop off the project, Kay reached out to Binary Tree for an engineer to step in.

Binary Tree was quick to oblige. “Within 24 hours, Binary Tree came back with a name,” said Kay. “Within 48 hours, I had confirmation that the person could be available to help out with our onsite efforts. In fact, they’re still engaged today. And I consider them as part of our team.”

The “surgeries” were a success—with no downtime or issues

YFAI completed their “open heart” migrations on time and within budget. And they were able to do it all without establishing a trust between directories. Or requiring remote users to come into an office.

“The Binary Tree team was really supportive,” said Kay. “We’re a manufacturing company, and we only had short maintenance windows to migrate a particular site. For all the migrations, we met the deadline for the maintenance window. We had no outages due to the production updates.”

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About Binary Tree

Binary Tree provides software and SaaS solutions designed to enable enterprises everywhere to transform and manage change with the Microsoft cloud. Through its business-first approach, Binary Tree has helped over 50% of the Fortune 500 and 9,000 global organizations to plan, modernize, and manage transformations that involve Microsoft 365, Office 365, Azure, business applications and merging organizations. The company is a Microsoft Gold Partner and a globally preferred vendor, with headquarters outside New York City and global offices in France, Germany, Singapore, Sweden and the U.K.

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