

CUSTOMER CASE

Holcim consolidates 31 Active Directory domains with zero downtime

Holcim consolidated 31 Active Directory domains and 40k users into a single environment with Quest Software, with zero downtime or end-user impact.



Building material company Holcim used Quest AD migration solutions to consolidate 31 Active Directory domains and 40,000 users into a single environment for their EMEA region, while enhancing security and avoiding disruption.

Holcim, a leading global building material company with a digital centre based in Spain, specializes in innovative and sustainable building solutions. The company, created after the merger between Lafarge and Holcim, operates in more than 70 countries and employs approximately 40,000 people in its EMEA region.

Before the companies merged, they each had disparate Active Directory approaches. Holcim had a single Active Directory (AD) domain, while Lafarge had 30 — one for each country in which it operated. The size and complexity of this environment created significant security risks.



Region: Spain



Industry: Building Materials



Products:
Microsoft Platform Management,
Migration and Modernization for
Microsoft Platforms,
On Demand Migration

Achievements



31 Active Directory domains and 40k users consolidated into one environment



Delivered a more controlled and efficient environment



Zero-impact migration with no downtime or disruptions for end users



Increased security by reducing AD domains and shrinking the attack surface

“If you have more Active Directory domains, for sure you will have more security issues,” says Samuel López Trenado, who led Holcim’s Active Directory team at the time. “You have more points where you could be compromised.”

Looking for a solution that could consolidate its sprawling AD domains with optimal control and security, Holcim found [Quest Software](#).

Prioritizing simplicity, security, and user experience

Following the company merger, Holcim defined a companywide AD consolidation project to unify the 31 domains into a single environment. Led by López Trenado, the team analyzed the solutions on the market that would facilitate the most seamless consolidation. Due to the complexity of its systems, Holcim quickly realized that Microsoft proprietary tools were not equipped to tackle the elaborate integration.

The team chose [Quest AD migration solutions](#) for their convenience and synchronization capabilities. The company also had previous experience with Quest’s professional services and was impressed by their efficiency. “In terms of proximity and quality of the services commitment and business understanding, Quest’s professional services are much better than others,” López Trenado said.



“The quality of the services that Quest Software offered to us was simply amazing.”

Samuel López Trenado, User Lifecycle Supervisor | Holcim



A seamless migration with no downtime or end user impact

Once the domains and tools were prepared for the migration, the local IT teams in each country were trained on how to execute the migration through the Quest AD migration tools. Minimizing disruption and downtime was top priority to ensure end users experienced the least possible impact. To achieve this, the team set up a tool management process that was administered by a central team and executed by each local team. This allowed the local teams to choose the most convenient timing for their migrations.

This process enabled Holcim to successfully consolidate its AD structure with almost no impact on users and zero downtime. All users had to do was restart their computers, which could be done at their convenience.

“This is a capability which is offered by Quest Software, but for sure is not offered by the native tool,” López Trenado said. “After users restart their computer, they are in the new Active Directory domain and everything works as it was working before. This is quite efficient.”

Holcim’s consolidation project also supported its security goals. The team was able to implement a single sign-on approach for their users, improving the efficiency and security of its organization while modernizing for future success.

A foundation for future success

To companies preparing for an AD consolidation, López Trenado recommends clearly defining each member's roles and responsibilities from the start of the project. He also advises keeping a playbook detailing each step of the process, so it can be easily replicated and executed by others.

López Trenado chose to trust Quest Software with Holcim's Active Directory consolidation because he believes Quest Software has the highest quality of professional services, the most advanced capabilities, and the best technical advantages. He says, "This is what makes the difference between Quest Software and the other solutions or other vendors that you might find in the market."



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About Holcim

Holcim is the leading partner for sustainable construction, creating value across the built environment from infrastructure and industry to buildings. The company is driven by its purpose to build progress for people and the planet with sustainability and innovation at the core of everything it does.

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Datasheet-AbbreviatedTitle-Country-DesignerInitials-Job#

About Quest Software

Quest Software creates technology and solutions that build the foundation for enterprise AI. Focused on data management and governance, cybersecurity and platform modernization, Quest Software helps organizations address their most pressing challenges and make the promise of AI a reality. Around the globe, more than 45,000 companies including over 90% of the Fortune 500 count on Quest Software. For more information, visit www.quest.com or follow [Quest Software on X](#) (formerly Twitter) and [LinkedIn](#).

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