Installing Direct Access

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**Main Post:**

In direct access deployment, the network location server is a critical component. NLS itself is a web server with secure sockets layer certificate installed in it. It is used for the direct access of the clients to the corporate network. For a client to get direct access to the corporate network, it is must that he or she should be inside the network. Generally, it is recommended that NLS should be configured on a dedicated server. For the configuration of NLS, any webs server could be used, for example, Apache, IIS, Lighttpd and many others. The web server under use should have a valid SSL certificate. The DNS record used for the configuration of NLS must use an A host record. NLS must have a capability of responding to ICMP echo requests. The major point that should be kept in mind for the configuration of NLS is that existing web application servers working in the company should not be used for running NLS because it would not be reachable externally which will cause problems for clients. They would not be able to directly access the internal application and eventually it will cause failure in the connection (Richard Hicks, 2017).

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To host NLS (Network Location Server) on server, Internet Information Services (IIS) is must to be installed. For the configuration of IIS a new certificate request is made and to do this the certificate (local) MMC snap-in is used. The major function of this certificate is to provide and create secure services or clients.

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The SSL certificate installed in web server intended for Network Location Server can be issued by an internal PKI or a public third-party Certificate Authority. A self-signed certificate can also be used if its distribution is only limited to Direct Access clients or servers but this approach is not advisable.

References

“DirectAccess Network Location Server Guidance.” Richard M. Hicks Consulting, Inc. Richard M. Hicks Consulting, Inc., April 18, 2017. https://directaccess.richardhicks.com/2015/02/09/directaccess-network-location-server-guidance/.

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