

Active Directory and Student Netbooks

What is Active Directory?

Active Directory is a way to manage a large number of computers over a network. San Diego Unified is using Active Directory to manage all of the i21 computers.

What does this mean for Students and Teachers?

The chart below outlines how student machines worked before Active Directory and how they will work now.

Student Computers without Active Directory (Previous Way)	Student Computers with Active Directory (Currently)
All students use the exact same login.	All students have unique login information.
Student files are saved / stored on the computer.	Student files are saved / stored on a district server.
Students can see & modify each other's work.	Students can only see and modify their own work.
Students can only access their work when they log on to a specific computer.	Students can access their work from any computer that has Active Directory.
Desktops become cluttered with work/files from multiple students.	Desktops become cluttered with just one student's work.
If the computer is lost or damaged, all student work that was saved on that computer is lost.	If the computer is lost or damaged, student work is not lost because it is saved on the server.
Teachers or students have to do software updates.	IT sends out software updates so teachers/students are no longer responsible for doing this.
To troubleshoot common errors, a help desk ticket is required	IT sends out fixes and files to solve common problems.

Summary:

Student netbooks are managed using Active Directory. Students need to save their work in the 'My Documents' folder (*see 'Saving Documents' job aid*). When students save in this location their work will be saved on the district server, and therefore if the computer they are using is lost or damaged they will not lose their work. They simply use their unique username and password to login to another computer that uses Active Directory to access their files.