

Q & A

What is the purpose of the software? Rapid Identity automates the creation, modification, and deletion of Novell eDirectory accounts for all staff and students as they come into and out of the district via the Aeries Student Information System. It then replicates these accounts with other district services such as; Aeries, Google, Destiny, Lightspeed and gives users access to chromebooks, desktop/laptop computers, printers, etc.

Have we looked at any other software? Yes, prior to 2014 the district used a product from a different vendor (CPSI). At the time the CPSI software had limitations with integrations such as Google so Identity Automation was implemented in its place to overcome these limitations. CPSI and Identity Automation offer the only known solutions specific to K-12.

Was the cost of reprogramming negotiated? Yes, the proposal directly from the software vendor was for \$35,000. Staff was able to locate a certified vendor partner, EST Group, who would perform the same scope of work for \$20,000.

What is the purpose of reprogramming the Rapid Identity software? To migrate staff and student accounts from Novell eDirectory to Microsoft Active Directory (AD).

Why are we moving to Microsoft AD?

For nearly 20 years Novell's technology has served PRJUSD well. At the time Novell was the market leader in this space, providing a full range of network services needed by our district. It was also less expensive than competitors, support was robust, and most software products were designed to work with it.

In the last 15 years Microsoft has taken over as the market leader in this space and AD is now the industry standard. Virtually all third-party software is compatible with Microsoft and rarely with Novell. There is a large knowledge base available for IT staff for AD; meanwhile, support for Novell is almost non-existent.

What are some other benefits of moving to Microsoft AD?

- Reduces unnecessary network complexity making it more reliable and easier to maintain
- Reduces day-to-day maintenance freeing up staff for other tasks
- Reduces the number of physical and virtual servers required
- Reduces energy usage by reduction of servers needed

What are the costs or savings with migrating to Microsoft AD?

The cost for Microsoft AD is already included in our annual Microsoft Agreement. This annual agreement primarily covers the licenses for Windows-based computers and servers used throughout the district but also includes licenses for other technologies that only work in a Microsoft AD environment.

By moving to Microsoft AD and leveraging these other Microsoft products we will no longer need to renew agreements for the following third-party products;

- Novell's annual licensing - \$20,592

- Desktop Management Software - \$29,106
- iPad management software - \$5,490
- Anti-Virus - \$9,000

Total annual savings - \$64,188

Is there an existing budget for this proposal? Yes, the IT infrastructure budget can support the cost of the proposal.