Office 365 – Install and configure Directory Synchronization (DirSync)

As you already know, it is possible to synchronize your Active Directory with Office 365 (like with BPOS).

Before starting talking about the installation and configuration steps, there is few reminders about the limitation and prerequisites:

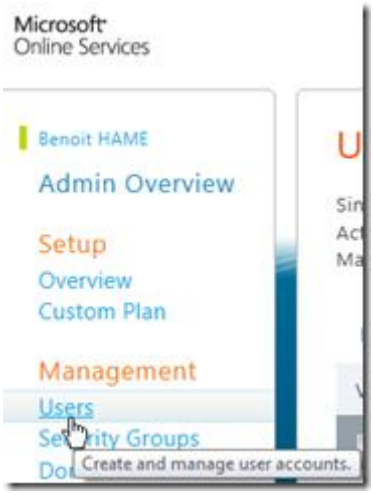
- **Limitations**
  - DirSync is able to synchronize **ONLY** one AD Forest; if you have multiple forest, you may need multiple DirSync implementation and multiple Office 365 tenant OR (a better solution but more complex) implement a 'technical' AD Forest which will be synchronized with your existing AD Forest thanks to ForeFront Identity Manager and then use DirSync from this technical forest to synchronize with Office 365
  - DirSync can't be installed on x64 bits platform; you must run a x32 bits OS
  - DirSync can synchronize ONLY 10 000 objects; if you need more, you have to open a support ticket
  - Once activated, DirSync can't be disabled on Office 365
- **Prerequisites**
  - You must have only one AD forest to synchronize
  - You must use a 32 bits OS version (from Windows Server 2003 to Windows Server 2008)
  - DirSync can't be installed on a domain controller
  - Server running DirSync must be a member of the AD you want to synchronize
  - Framework 3.5 SP1 must be installed
  - PowerShell must be installed

Ok, let's start:

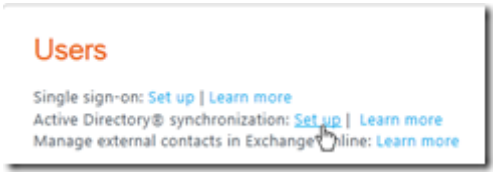
First, enable Directory Synchronization on Office 365.

Enable Office 365 Directory Synchronization

Connect to the administration portal (https://portal.microsoftonline.com) and go to **Management\Users**



Then, click on **Set up** link available on the right of Active Directory Synchronization



Check the prerequisites (if it is not yet done) and click on the **Activate** button

Confirm the activation; this warning reminds you that DirSync can't be disable after

Then download DirSync tool by hitting the **Download** button; **it is really important to use this tool** and not the one which may be available from others Microsoft Downloads sites.

NOTE

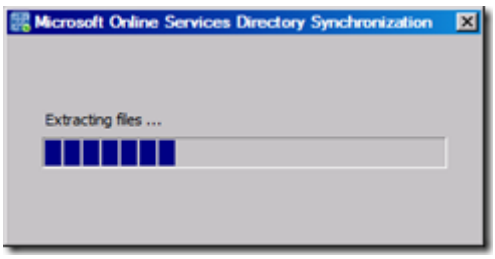
If the download failed, go to the browser settings and **disable** the option **Do not save encrypted page to disk**

Install DirSync

First if you are using a proxy which requires authentication to access internet, you must allow **unauthenticated** access from the server running DirSync to *.microsoftonline.com and *.verisign.com

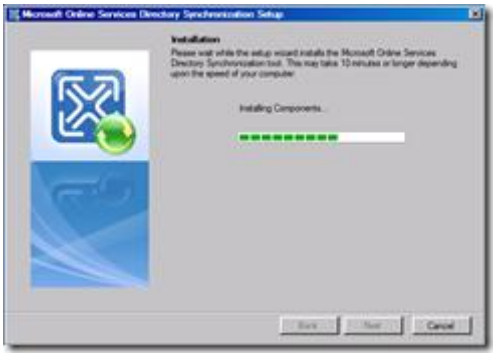
So, let's start the installation

Launch the **dirsync.exe** file and follow the installation wizard



Microsoft Online Services Directory Synchronization Setup
Microsoft Software License Terms
To install the Directory Synchronization tool, you must accept the Microsoft Software License Terms. To accept the terms, select I accept the Microsoft Software License Terms, and then click Next.
View the Privacy Statement online.
MICROSOFT SOFTWARE LICENSE TERMS
MICROSOFT ONLINE SERVICES DIRECTORY SYNCHRONIZATION TOOL
These license terms are an agreement between Microsoft Corporation (or based on where you live, one of its affiliates) and you. Please read them. They apply to the software named above, which includes the media on which
I accept the Microsoft Software License Terms
I do not accept the Microsoft Software License Terms
Back
Next
Cancel

Microsoft Online Services Directory Synchronization Setup
Select Installation Folder
To install the Microsoft Online Services Directory Synchronization tool in the folder shown below, click Next.
To change the installation folder, click Browse or type a new folder path in the box below, and then click Next.
Installation folder:
C:\Program Files\Microsoft Online Directory Sync\
Browse...
Back
Next
Cancel


Microsoft Online Services Directory Synchronization Setup
Installation
Please wait while the setup wizard installs the Microsoft Online Services Directory Synchronization tool. This may take 10 minutes or longer depending upon the speed of your computer.
Installing Components...
Back
Next
Cancel

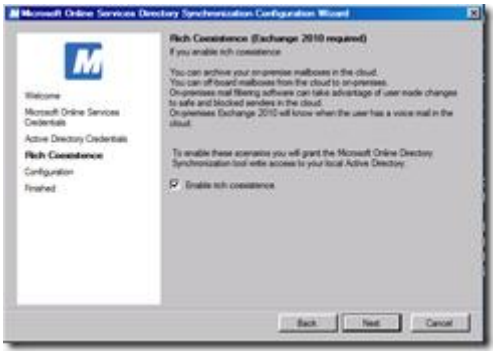
Microsoft Online Services Directory Synchronization Setup
Installation
Please wait while the setup wizard installs the Microsoft Online Services Directory Synchronization tool. This may take 10 minutes or longer depending upon the speed of your computer.
Installation Complete
Back
Next
Cancel

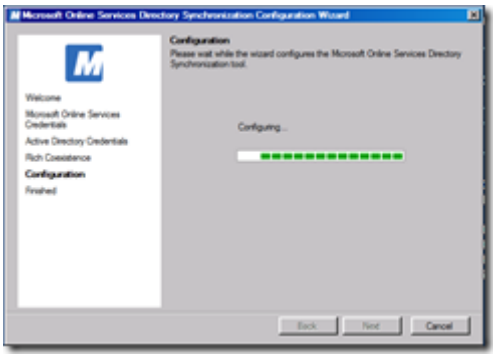
Once the setup has been completed successfully, it's requiered to log off and log on again. I would recommend to restart the server instead.

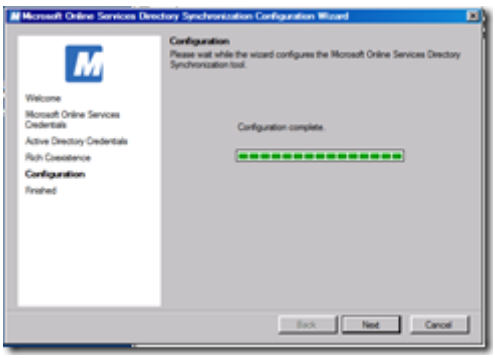
Configure directory synchronization

During the synchronization configuration, you will need to provide your Office 365 credentials for your tenant as well as AD credentials. Please note that the AD account used **must be Enterprise Administrator**

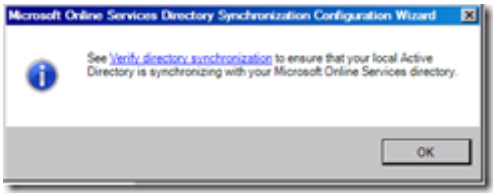
Do not enable the **Rich coexistence**



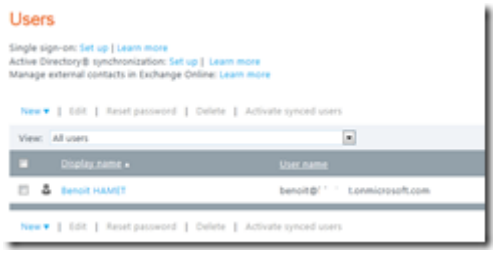




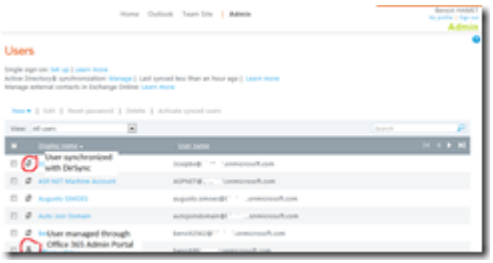
You can start immediately the synchronization



User list before synchronization

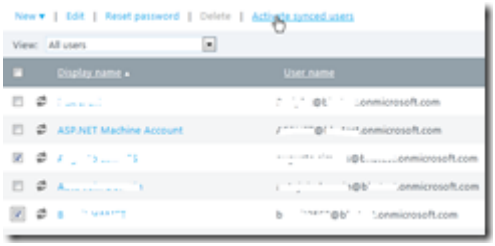


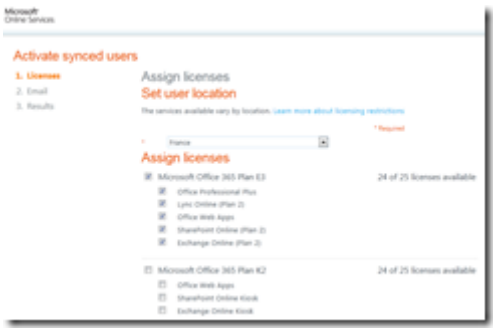
User list after synchronization



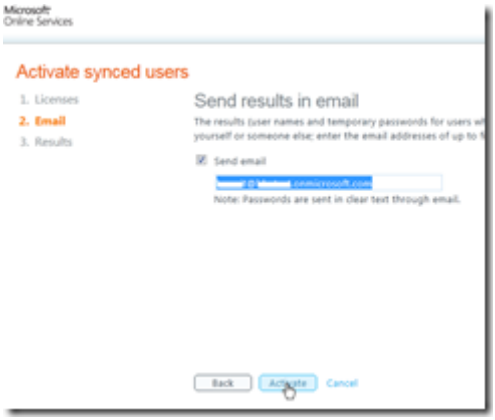
Then activate the user accounts by assigning Office 365 license and location.

Check user account to enabled and click on the **Activate Synced Users** link





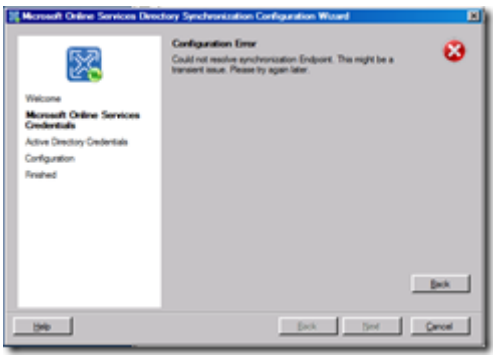
Once users activated, ask to receive the user list and password associated for providing the password to the user IF you have not configured Single-Sign On thanks to ADFS



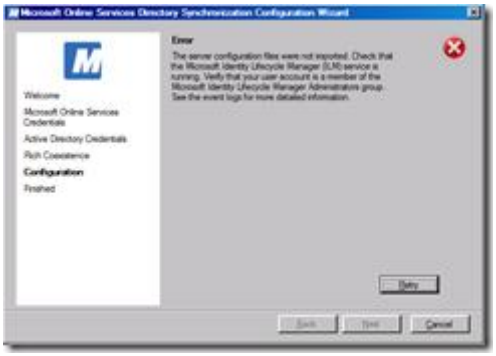
Synchronized user properties are not modifiable from the Office 365 administration portal

Configuration error troubleshooting

1. In case you downloaded and installed wrong DirSync tool, you will have an error (Could not resolve synchronization endpoint) when trying to initiate the synchronization with Office 365.



2. If you have an error like this one: "The server configuration files were not imported. Check that the Microsoft Identity Lifecycle Manager (ILM) service is running.



Verify that:

- Your user account is a member of the Microsoft Identity Lifecycle Manager Administrator group
- The ILM service is running
- The AD account used for the synchronization is member of the **ILM Administrator group** (MIISAdmins) (local group on the server running DirSync) as well as member of the **Local Administrator** group
- The local MIIS account is member of the **Local Administrator**
- This may also be due to the use of a wrong version; ensure you have download the DirSync tool from the Office 365 administration portal
- Check if the service **.Net Tcp Port Sharing Service** is started