

## Using the Centrify Server Suite Kerberos Utilities

### Easily integrate Kerberos utilities with Active Directory using the Centrify-enabled version of Kerberos utilities

Centrify Server Suite uses Kerberos technology to authenticate UNIX sessions with Active Directory credentials. One of the advantages of using Kerberos is that it enables applications and many common network utilities to be used without having to re-enter user and password information. Since Kerberos is built into Server Suite, it is possible to use standard Kerberos utilities to leverage secure, authenticated, ticket-based single sign-on sessions.

Centrify has compiled an optional package that includes Kerberized utilities and services. These are based on the latest Kerberos distribution from MIT, and the utilities can be used with the standard Server Suite product. The Application Note describes how to install, configure and use the components included with the Centrify Server Suite Kerberos Utilities package.

### Get the Kerberos Utilities with Free Active Directory Authentication

You can download the Centrify-enabled Kerberos Utilities along with Centrify Express, our free Active Directory-based solution for authentication and single sign-on to cross-platform systems.

[Download Kerberos Utilities and Centrify Express](#)

[Read the Application Note about how to install the Kerberos Utilities](#)

### About the Centrify-Enabled Kerberos Utilities

Centrify has made a number of enhancements to the Kerberos environment that make deployment of Kerberos applications simpler. Some of these enhancements include:

- Automated setup of Kerberos. When you join a UNIX, Linux or Mac computer to an Active Directory domain using Server Suite, the setup of all Kerberos-related system configuration files is automatically done for you. For example, the file `/etc/krb5.conf` is configured correctly to use the Active Directory domain controller as the Kerberos key distribution center. Having these configuration files automatically set up for you means that Kerberized UNIX applications will "just work" using Active Directory as the Kerberos authority.
- Removing the need for `.k5login`. Normally a Kerberized login-type application such as `ssh`, `telnet` or `rsh` requires a `.k5login` file on the target system. The creation of these files can become a significant administrative burden. Centrify removes the need for this file in almost all cases. Read the Application Note for a detailed explanation of when a `.k5login` file is needed.
- Remove the need for host-to-realm mapping. If you have disjoint DNS and Active Directory domain names, then you normally need host-to-realm name mappings in the Kerberos configuration file. The maintenance of these entries can be a significant administrative overhead. Centrify's Kerberos implementation removes the need for these entries.
- Secure canonicalization. In many cases Kerberos needs to convert a partial host name to a fully qualified name that includes its realm name. This process is called canonicalization. For example, the host name in the command:
  - `telnet -a system1`will actually be interpreted as `system1.centrify.com@CENTRIFY.COM` if the system is part of the CENTRIFY.COM realm. MIT's Kerberos distribution uses a combination of DNS and host-to-realm mappings to achieve this translation. The use of DNS is inherently insecure, and RFC 1510 (the main Kerberos standard) specifically recommends against using it but does not offer an alternative. Server Suite implements a more secure mechanism that uses Active Directory's knowledge of the domain and does not rely on DNS.

## Contact Centrifly

Centrifly provides unified identity management across data center, cloud and mobile environments that result in single sign-on (SSO) for users and a simplified identity infrastructure for IT. Centrifly's unified identity management software and cloud-based Identity-as-a-Service (IDaaS) solutions leverage an organization's existing identity infrastructure to enable single sign-on, multi-factor authentication, privileged identity management, auditing for compliance and enterprise mobility management.

Santa Clara, California: +1 (669) 444-5200

Email

[sales@centrifly.com](mailto:sales@centrifly.com)

EMEA: +44 (0) 1344 317950

Web

<http://www.centrifly.com>

Asia Pacific: +61 1300 795 789

Brazil: +55 11 3958 4876

Latin America: +1 305 900 5354