



Stellar Repair for Active Directory

User Guide for version 3.0

1. General Information

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1.1. About Stellar Repair for Active Directory

What is Active Directory?

Active Directory (AD) is a directory service for Windows domain networks. It's a part of most Windows Server operating systems.

Every Active Directory has a domain controller. An Active Directory domain controller authenticates and authorizes all users and computers in a Windows domain network. It assigns and enforces security policies for all computers and installs or updates software. For example, when a user logs into a computer that is part of a Windows domain, Active Directory checks the submitted password and determines whether the user is a system administrator or normal user.

Active Directory is a special-purpose database - it is not a registry replacement. Active Directory data is hierarchical, replicable, and extensible. Typical examples of data stored in directory include printer queue data, user contact data, and network/computer configuration data. Active Directory database consists of objects and attributes. Objects and attribute definitions are stored in the Active Directory schema.

Why do you need Stellar Repair for Active Directory?

If you have a corrupt or damaged Active Directory database file, Active Directory will not work properly. You will lose all the configuration data as well as user rights and attribute definition data. In such scenario, you can use **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software to repair the damaged Active Directory database file. After repairing, you will get the same rights and properties as they were before. You will be able to recover users, groups, computers and their properties. You will be able to recover other objects like InetOrgPerson, MsMq, Printer, Contacts etc.

Key Features of Stellar Repair for Active Directory:

- Repairs the complete Active Directory file with all its security features and permissions.
- Repairs users, groups, computers and their properties.
- Repairs other objects of Active Directory like InetOrgPerson, MsMq, Printer, Contacts etc.
- Shows a preview of repairable database objects before saving.
- Find option to search items of database while previewing.
- Option to manually add a computer to the Active Directory.
- Supports creation of separate log report after repairing the database.
- Compatible with Windows Server 2019, Windows Server 2016, Windows Server 2012, Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2003.

1.2. About the Guide

This user guide contains steps to assist you through various functions of **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**. Each function is explained in detail, in the corresponding sections. The guide covers the following major topics:

1. General Information
2. Getting Started
3. Working with the Software
4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This guide has the following features for easy navigation and understanding:

- There are **Notes** and **Tips** in some topics of this guide for better understanding and ease of work. These **Notes** and **Tips** are given in *italics* style.

1.3. Stellar Support

Our Technical Support professionals will give solutions for all your queries related to Stellar products.

- You can either call us or go online to our support section at <http://stellarinfo.com/support/>
- For price details and to place the order, click <http://www.stellarinfo.com/windows-tools/active-directory-repair/buy-now.php>
- Chat Live with an Online technician at <http://www.stellarinfo.com/>
- Search in our extensive Knowledgebase at <https://www.stellarinfo.com/support/kb/>
- Submit enquiry at <http://www.stellarinfo.com/support/enquiry.php>
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Stellar has a strong presence across USA, Europe & Asia.

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Photo and Video Tools

Professional tools to rebuild damaged or corrupt photos, videos, audios, and other multimedia files, from Window and Mac systems. Recover files from hard drives, memory cards, iPods, USB flash drives, digital cameras, IBM Micro Drives and more.



Utility Tools

A range of utility software such as SpeedUp Mac, Drive Clone and Partition Manager for Mac systems as well as Password Recovery for Windows and Password Recovery for Windows Server based systems



Stellar Toolkits

Stellar also provides toolkits that are combination of Powerful Tools Designed for Data Recovery, File repair, Mailbox repair and File Conversion. All in one power packed toolkits to meet the need of every business.



For more information about us, please visit www.stellarinfo.com .

2. Getting Started

2.1. Installation Procedure

2.2. User Interface

2.2.1. Ribbons and Buttons

2.3. Ordering the Software

2.4. Activating the Software

2.5. Updating the Software

2.1. Installation Procedure

Before installing the software, ensure that your system meets the minimum system requirements:

Minimum System Requirements:

- **Processor:** Intel compatible (x86, x64)
- **Operating System:** Windows Server 2019 / Windows Server 2016 / Windows Server 2012 / Windows Server 2008 / Windows Server 2003
- **Memory:** 8 GB (recommended) 4 GB (minimum)
- **Hard Disk:** 250 MB of Free Space

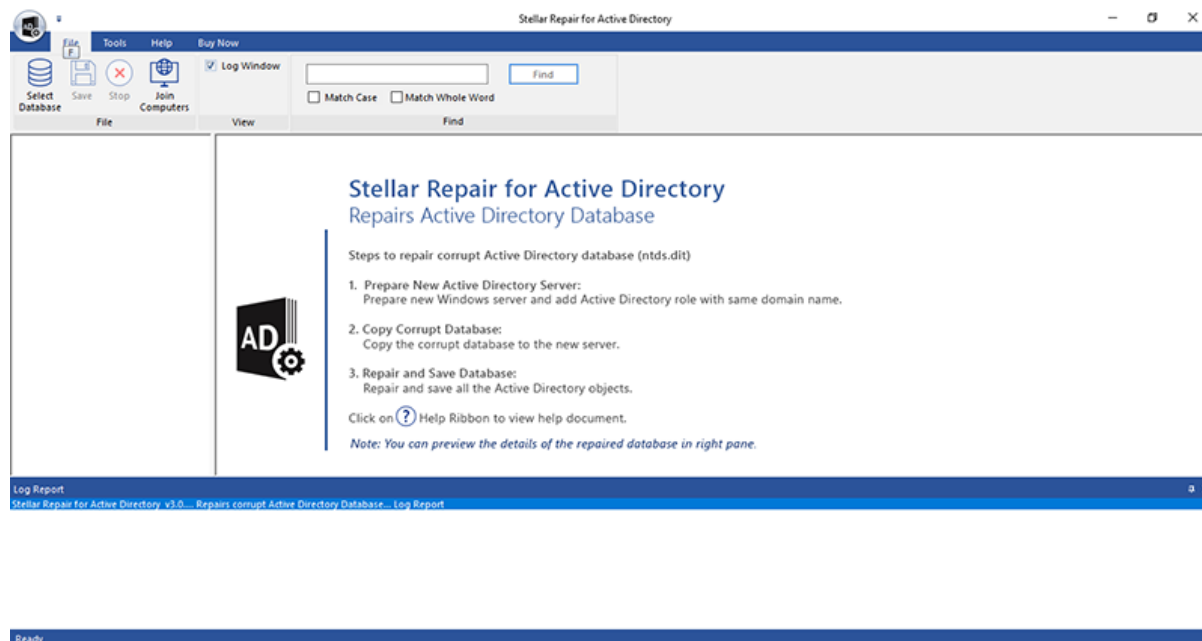
To install the software, follow these steps:

1. Double-click **StellarRepairforActiveDirectory.exe** setup installer to start the installation. **Setup - Stellar Repair for Active Directory** window appears.
2. Click **Next**. **License Agreement** dialog box appears.
3. Choose **I accept the agreement** option. **Next** button will be enabled. Click **Next**. **Select Destination Location** dialog box appears.
4. Click **Browse** to select the destination path where the setup files are stored. Click **Next**. **Select Start ribbon Folder** dialog box appears.
5. Click **Browse** to provide a path for the program's shortcuts. Click **Next**. **Select Additional Tasks** dialog box appears.
6. Select checkboxes as per your choice. Click **Next**. **Ready to Install** dialog box appears.
7. Review your selections. Click **Back** if you want to change them. Click **Install** to start the installation. The **Installing** window shows the installation process.
8. On completion of the installation process, **Completing the Stellar Repair for Active Directory Setup Wizard** window appears. Click **Finish**.

Note: Clear **Launch Stellar Repair for Active Directory** checkbox to prevent the software from launching automatically.

2.2. User Interface

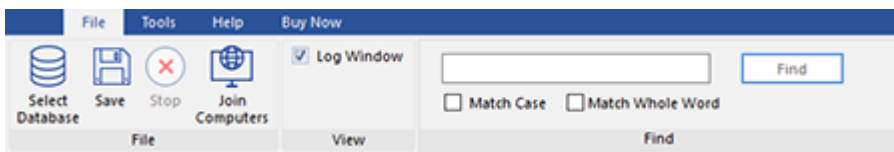
Stellar Repair for Active Directory software has a very easy to use Graphical User Interface. The user interface contains features required for repairing the corrupt Active Directory Database file. After launching the software, you will see the main user interface as shown below:



The user interface contains ribbons and buttons option that let you access various features of the software with ease.

2.2.1. Ribbons and Buttons

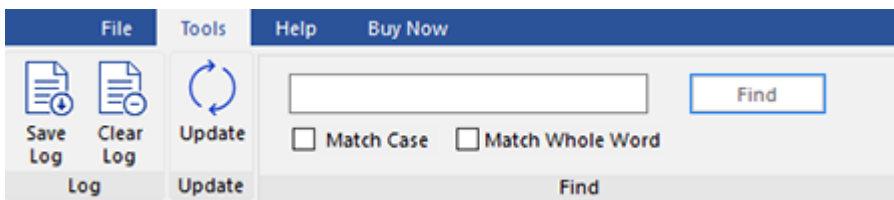
1. File Ribbon:



The **File** ribbon contains the following buttons:

- **Select Database:** Use this option to select backup file of the corrupt or damaged Active Directory file (ntds.dit file).
- **Save:** Use this option to save the repaired file.
- **Stop:** Use this option to stop / abort the current repairing process.
- **Join Computers:** Use this option to manually join computers to Active Directory.
- **View:** Use this option to view or hide the Log Window.
- **Find:** Use this option to search a specific item in a tree.

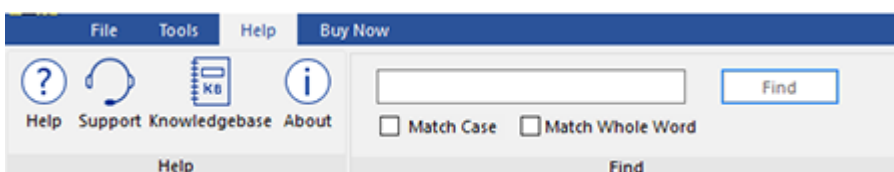
2. Tools Ribbon:



The **Tools** ribbon contains the following buttons:

- **Save Log:** Use this option to save a log report.
- **Clear Log:** Use this option to clear the log report.
- **Update:** Use this option to update the software.

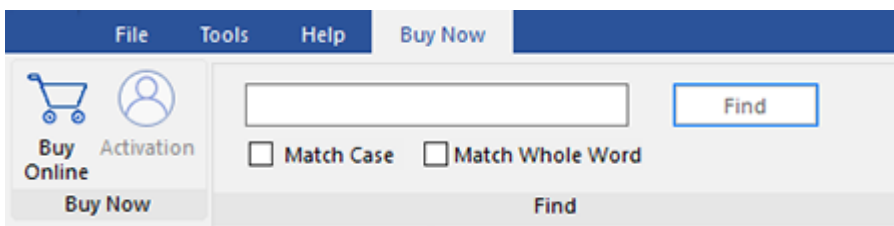
3. Help Ribbon:



The **Help** ribbon contains the following buttons:

- **Help:** Software is accompanied by a descriptive help document. Use this option to view the help manual for the software.
- **Support:** In case you don't find any related content in the help document or on the knowledgebase page that resolves your query, use this option to view the support page of stellarinfo.com and contact the Stellar customer support.
- **Knowledgebase:** Frequently asked questions and other common queries are available as knowledgebase for your reference and to help you use the software to get the best outcome. Use this option to visit Knowledgebase articles of stellarinfo.com
- **About:** Use this option to read information about the software.

4. Buy Now Ribbon:



The **Buy Now** ribbon contains the following buttons:

- **Buy Online:** Use this option to buy **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software.
- **Activation:** Use this option to activate the software.

2.3. Ordering the Software

Click <http://www.stellarinfo.com/windows-tools/active-directory-repair.php> to know more about **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**.

To purchase the software online, visit <http://www.stellarinfo.com/windows-tools/active-directory-repair/buy-now.php>

Alternatively, click **Buy Online** button in **Buy Now** ribbon to purchase the software online.

Select either of the methods given above to purchase the software.

Once the order is confirmed, a serial number will be sent to you through e-mail, which would be required to activate the software.

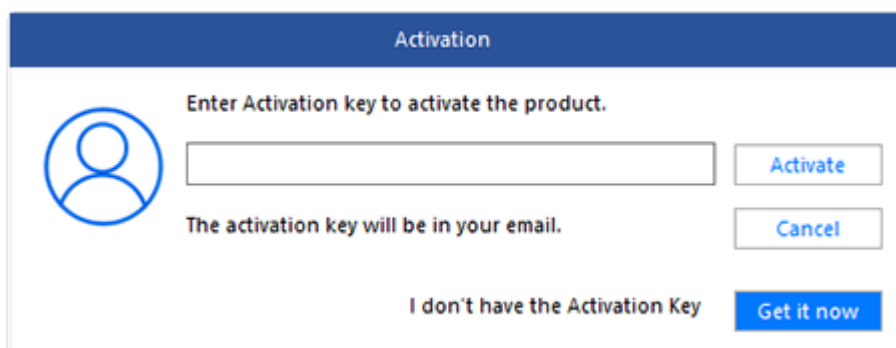
2.4. Activating the Software

After the contents of the repaired Active Directory Database file are previewed, you need to activate your copy to save data. An '**Activation Key**' is required to activate your copy of the software and save data. You will receive an activation key through email after purchasing the software.

Note: Make sure that you have an active Internet connection.

Steps to activate the software:

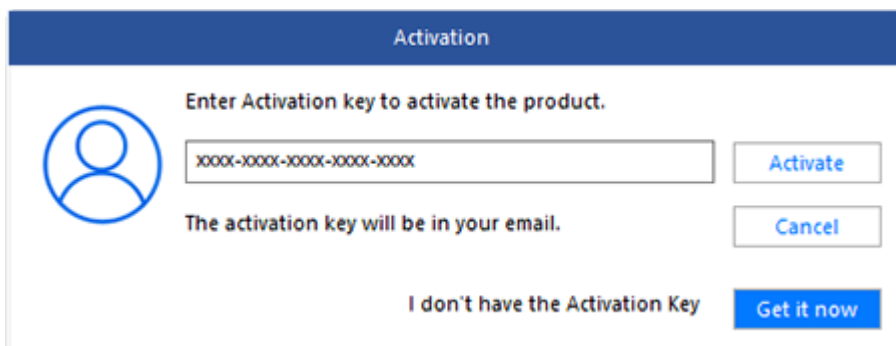
1. Run **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**.
2. Click the **Activation** button on the **Buy Now** ribbon. A window, as displayed below, pops up on the screen.



Note:

- If you don't have the activation key, click **Get it now** button in the window to go online and purchase the product.
- Once the order is confirmed, an Activation Key is provided.

3. Enter the **Activation Key** and click **Activate** button.



4. The software is activated after successful verification of the activation key you have entered.
5. '**Activation Completed Successfully**' message is displayed after the process is completed successfully. Click **OK** to use all the options of the software that have been unlocked after the activation.

If you receive an error while activating the software, follow and verify the steps given below to fix the issue:

1. Check Installer and Re-enter Activation Key

Make sure you have downloaded the correct installer. Use the download link given in the email or visit the desired product page to free download the software and then activate it using the code provided on your email.

2. Uninstall All Other Versions of the software

Uninstall any version of the software you may have installed earlier. Then re-install the desired version of the software and activate it.

3. Re-Enter the Correct Activation Key Without Blank Spaces

If copy and pasting the activation code isn't working, try to enter it manually. Sometimes, while copying, you may copy the blank spaces, which can cause software activation failure.

Entering code manually overcomes this issue. Alternatively, you may copy the code from email to notepad and then remove empty space from the beginning and end of the code. Then copy and paste the code in the activation window of the software

2.5. Updating the Software

Stellar releases updates for **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**. You can update the software to keep it up-to-date. These updates can add new functionality, feature, service, or any other information that can improve the working of the software. The update option of the software is capable of checking for the latest updates. This will check for both latest, minor and major versions available online. While updating the software, it is recommended to close all the running programs.

Automatic Update:

1. Run **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**.
2. If an update is available, **Update Wizard** window appears along with the main user interface.
3. Click **Next** to start downloading the update files from the server. After the completion of the process, the software is updated to the latest version.
4. Click **Finish** to close the **Update Wizard**.

Manual Update:

1. Run **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**.
2. Select **Update** from **Tools** ribbon. **Update Wizard** window pops up.
3. The wizard will start searching for the latest updates:
 - i. If the new version is found a window will pop up indicating the availability of an update.
 - ii. If no update is available then it indicates that the software is up-to-date.
4. If the update is available, click **Next** and the software will start downloading and installing update files from the server.
5. When the process is completed, the software is updated to the latest version. Click **Finish**.

Note: To disable automatic update when you launch the **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**, uncheck the checkbox '**Check updates at startup**'.

Live Update may not happen due to the following reasons:

- Internet connection failure
- Updates are not available
- Unable to download configuration files

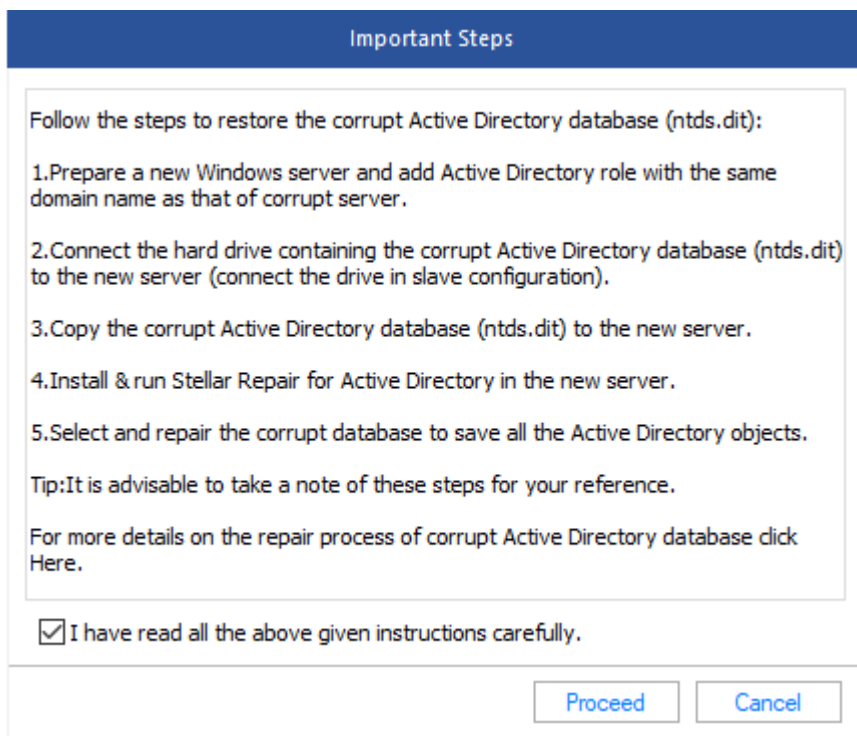
- Unable to locate updated files or version
- Unable to locate the executable file

3. Working with the Software

In this section you will learn how to perform various tasks using **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software. You will learn how to select and repair Active Directory database files and how to preview Active Directory data, save and clear logs of the software.

Before you begin repairing an Active Directory database file you first need to re-install Active Directory with the same domain name. You need to follow the steps mentioned below, before selecting and repairing an Active Directory database file:

1. When you run **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software, a **Important Steps to Follow** screen appears as displayed below. Read the steps carefully and note down all the steps on a paper as mentioned on the screen:



2. Follow the steps given below to copy Active Directory database file ntds.dit:

- i. Attach the HDD of the corrupt server as a slave to a working computer.
- ii. Locate database 'ntds.dit' and copy it to another location. This database contains all data related to corrupt Active Directory.

3. Re-install Active Directory with same domain name.

4. Install **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software to the server with Active Directory.

5. Copy Active Directory database file ntds.dit to the server.

After you have performed the steps given above, refer to the following topics:

3.1. Select, Scan and Preview Active Directory Database

3.2. Repair and Save Active Directory Database

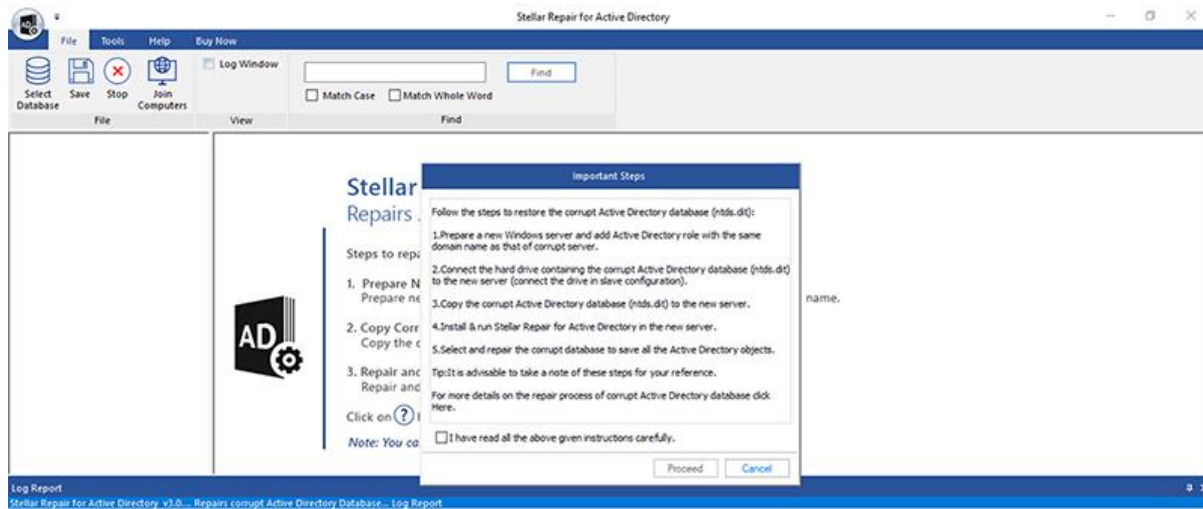
3.3. Manually Join Computers to Active Directory

3.4. Save and Clear Logs

3.1. Select, Scan and Preview Active Directory Database

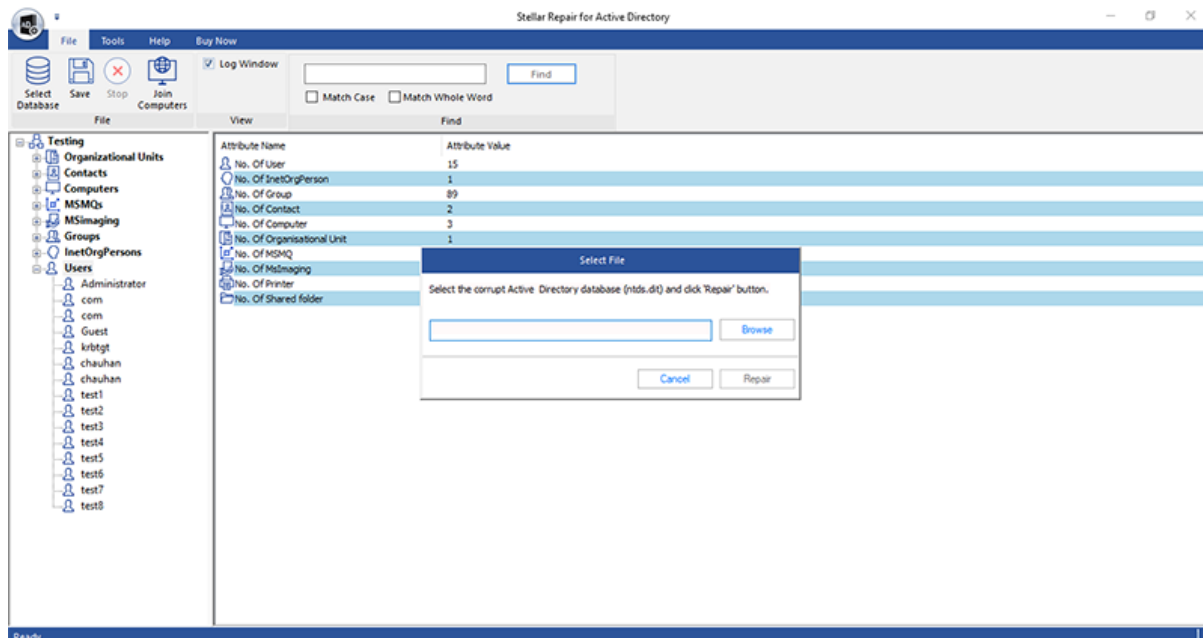
To select, scan and preview the content of an Active Directory database file:

1. Run **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software. A **Important Steps to follow** screen appears.

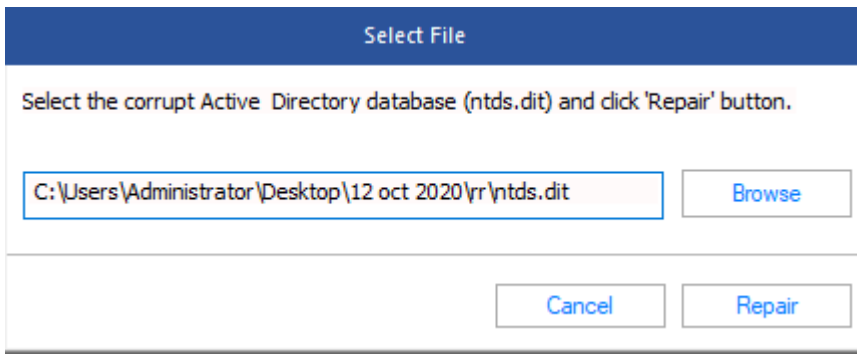


2. Select 'I have read all the above given instruction carefully' and click **Proceed**.

3. Click **Select Database** from **File** ribbon. **Select File** dialog box appears.



4. Click **Browse** to browse the backup file of the corrupt / damaged Active Directory file (ntds.dit file).

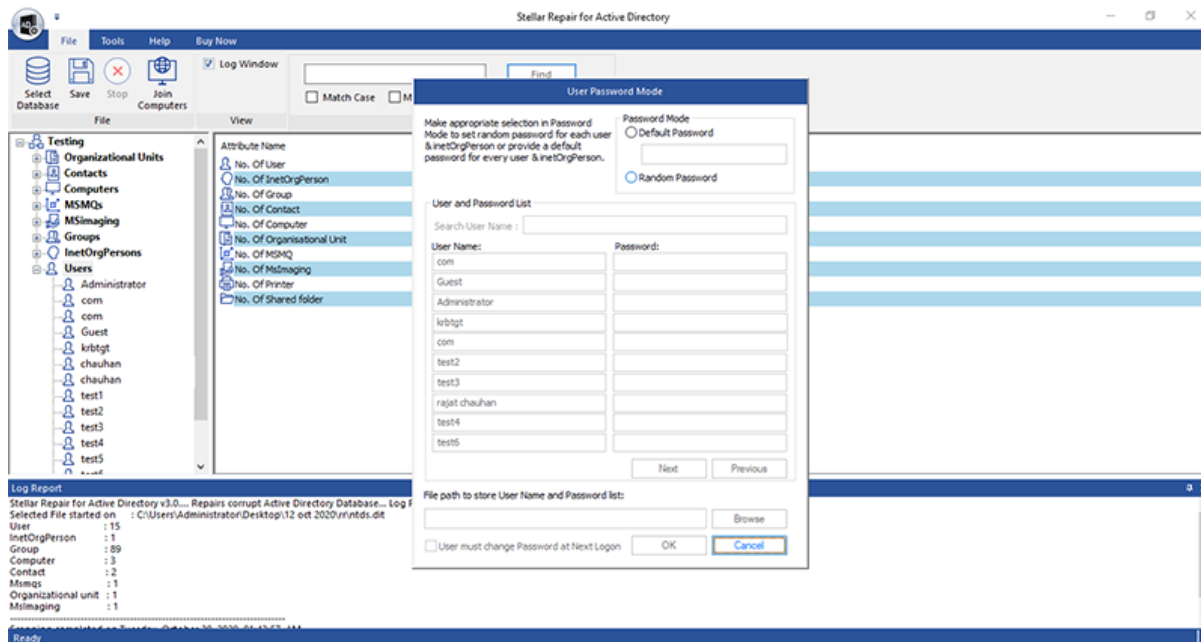


5. Select the backup file of the corrupt / damaged Active Directory file (ntds.dit file).
6. Click **Repair** to start scanning the ntds.dit file.
7. Once the scanning is complete, the software will display all the Active Directory contents in a hierarchal tree structure on the left pane.
8. You can expand the tree structure and click on the nodes (such as Organizational Unit, Contacts, Computer, MSMQs, MSimaging, Groups, InetOrgPersons, and Users) and preview them in the right pane of the software.

3.2. Repair and Save Active Directory Database

Stellar Repair for Active Directory repairs the corrupt or damaged Active Directory Database file. The software provides you a feature to set the password for the users of the Active Directory. You can also create a list of users.

To repair a corrupt / damaged AD database file, follow the steps given below:



1. Once the scanning is complete, on the left pane of the software will display all the Active Directory contents in a hierarchal tree structure.

2. Click **Save** from **File** ribbon. A **User Password Mode** dialog box opens.

3. A **User Password Mode** dialog box has a number of options, they are as follows:

i. **Password Mode** : This section provides you feature to set the password, you can either set the same default password for all the users (the **Default Password** option) or set a distinct / unique password for each of the users (**Random Password** option).

ii. **User and Password List** : This section provides you a search box that can be used to search for a specific Username from the list displaying in the **User Name** column. There are two columns in this section:

- **User Name Column** : This column provides the User Name of the Active Directory.
- **Password Column** : This column provides the password of the respective User Name according to the option you selected in the above section for the password. If you have selected **Default Password**, then this will displays the same password that are set by you in the above section for all

the Users. If you have selected **Random Password**, then you can set the unique or different password for each of the users.

You can use **Previous** and **Next** button to see the full list of the Username and Password.

iii. **Browse** : This section provides you feature to browse a location of your choice and save a copy of the User Name and Password list.

4. Check "**User must change password at Next Logon**" checkbox to force the user to change the password when they login next time.

5. Make the appropriate changes and click **OK**.

6. A **Complete** dialog box opens, displaying a message "**File Repaired Successfully**". Click **OK** to continue.

3.3. Manually Join Computers to Active Directory

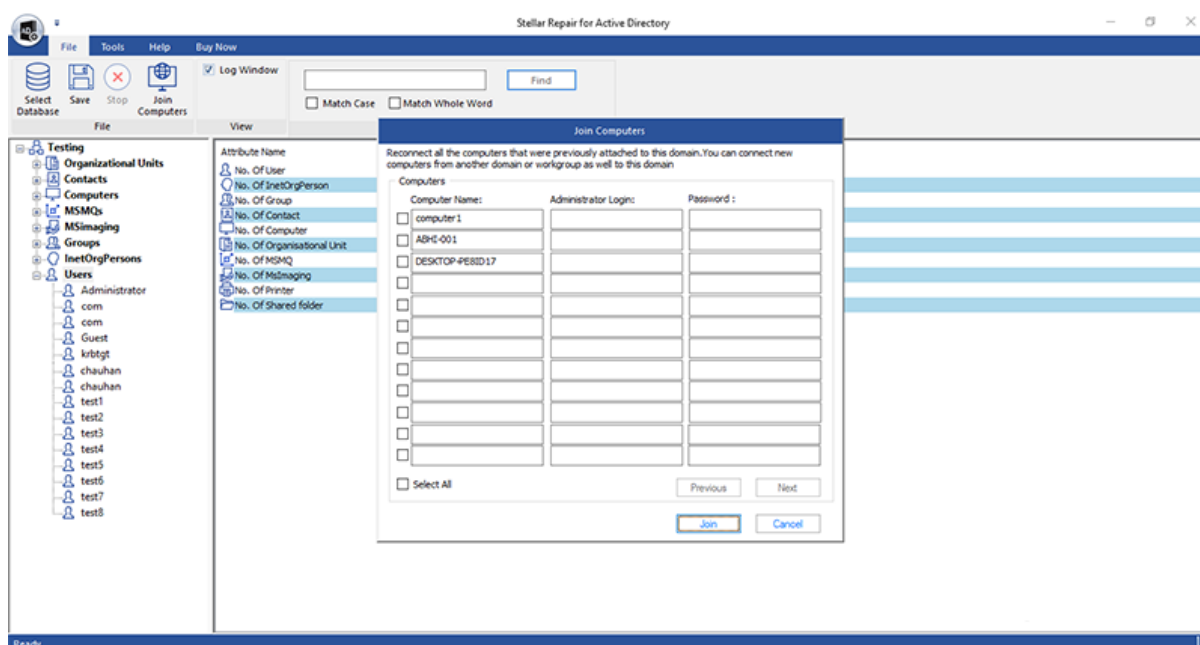
You can connect the computers that are previously attached to this domain. **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** provides you a feature to connect the new computer to this domain from another domain or any workgroup. You can maintain a list of users or computers that are attached to the same domain.

To manually join computers to Active Directory using Join Computer feature follow the steps given below:

1. Once the scanning is complete, on the left pane of the software will display all the Active Directory contents in a hierarchal tree structure.

Note: Before performing the **join computers** option, restart the target computer.

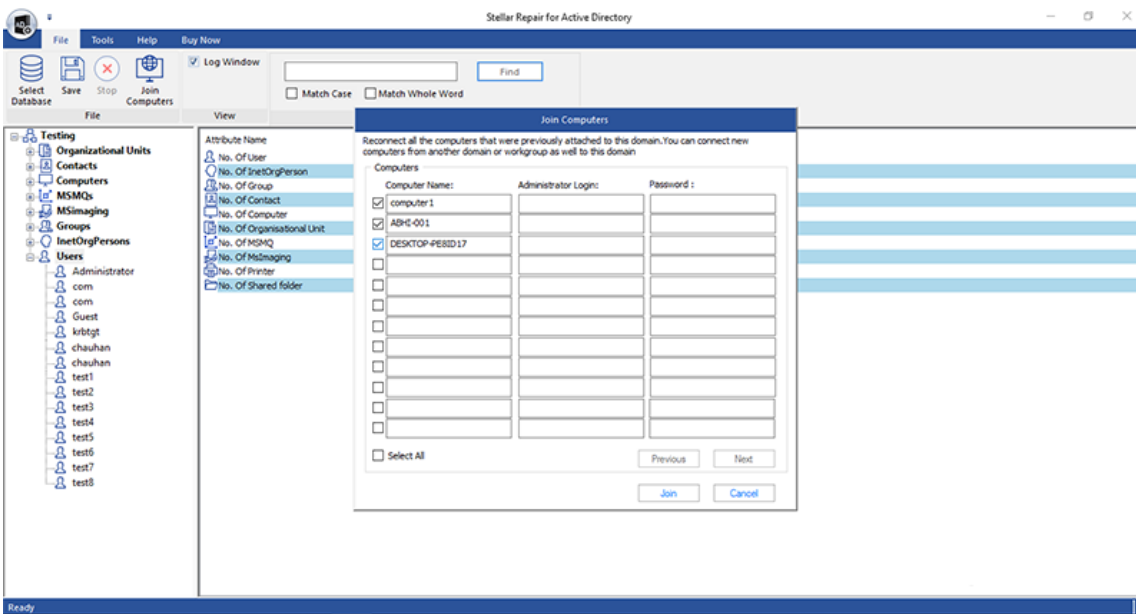
2. Click **Join Computers** from **File** ribbon.



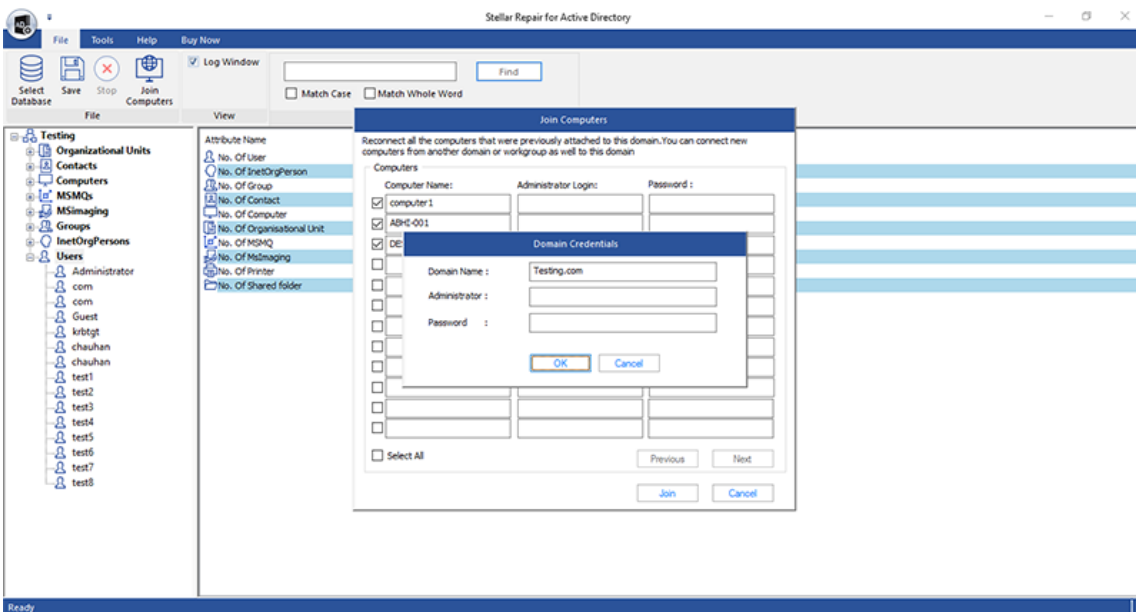
3. A **Join Computers** dialog box appears that consist of three columns as follows:

- **Computer Name Column:** This column provides the name of the target computer which you want to join with the Active Directory.
- **Administrator Name Column:** This column provides the name of the administrator of the respective target computer.
- **Password Column:** This column provides the password of the respective administrator of the target computer.

4. Select the computers using the checkboxes that you want to join with the Active Directory. You can use **Previous** and **Next** button to see the full list of the computers.



5. Click **Join**. A **Domain Credentials** dialog box opens, enter **Domain Name**, **Administrator** and **Password**.



6. Click **OK** to continue.

All the selected computers will be added to Active Directory.

Note: You must have login with the administrator rights on the target computer to join the computers.

Tip: To add all the computers, select the **Select All** checkbox and click **Join** to add them to Active Directory.

Tip: After the computer is successfully connected, restart the target computer.

3.4. Save & Clear Logs

With **Stellar Repair for Active Directory**, you can save the Log Report to analyze the repairing process at a later stage. You can view log of the process at the bottom of the user interface. If this pane is not visible, you can enable it by selecting the **Log Window** checkbox in **View** section of **File** ribbon.

To save log report:

- From **Tools** Ribbon, select **Save Log**.
- In **Save As** dialog box, select the location where you want to save the log report. Click **Save**.

To clear log report:

- From **Tools** Ribbon, select **Clear Log**.

4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What does Stellar Repair for Active Directory do?

Stellar Repair for Active Directory software repairs the damaged or corrupt Active Directory database file. After repairing, you will get the same rights and properties as they were before. You will be able to recover users, groups, computers and their properties. You will be able to recover other objects like InetOrgPerson, MsMq, Printer, Contact etc.

2. What all can I do using the demo version of Stellar Repair for Active Directory software?

You can scan and preview the contents of an Active Directory file (ntds.dit file) but cannot repair and save it.

3. How can I repair my corrupt Active Directory through Stellar Repair for Active Directory?

To know all the steps to repair the corrupt or damaged Active Directory, refer to the Working with the Software sections.

4. What are the changes that I need to do before repairing damaged Active Directory?

Before you begin repairing an Active Directory database file you first need to re-install Active Directory with the same domain name.

1. When you run **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software, a **Important Steps to Follow** screen appears.

Read the steps carefully and note down all the steps on a paper as mentioned on the screen.

2. Follow the steps given below to copy Active Directory database file ntds.dit:

- i. Attach the HDD of the corrupt server as a slave to a working computer.
- ii. Locate database 'ntds.dit' and copy it to another location. This database contains all data related to corrupt Active Directory.

3. Re-install Active Directory with same domain name.

4. Install **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** software to the server with Active Directory.

5. Copy Active Directory database file ntds.dit to the server.

5. Is it necessary to rename Active Directory in the new server with the same domain name?

Yes, its absolutely necessary to rename in order to re-install Active Directory with the same domain name.

6. Can I attach the corrupt Active Directory server hard drive as a master in a working computer?

No, you cannot. You need to attach the corrupt Active Directory server hard drive as a slave only to a working computer.

7. Can we join the computers of the same domain?

Yes, you can join the computers that are previously attached to this domain and you can even join the new computer to this domain from another domain or workgroup. To know the process, refer to the Manually Join Computers to Active Directory section.

8. Can we save process log?

Yes, **Stellar Repair for Active Directory** gives you option to save log report of the process.

To save log report:

- From **Tools** ribbon, click **Save Log**.
- In **Save As** dialog box, select the location where you want to save the log report. Click **Save**.