

# [MS-OXDISCO]: Autodiscover HTTP Service Protocol Specification

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07/15/2009	3.0	Major	Revised and edited for technical content.
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# 1 Introduction

This protocol specifies the Autodiscover HTTP Service protocol, which provides a way for **Autodiscover clients** to find **Autodiscover servers**. The Autodiscover HTTP Service protocol extends the **Domain Name System (DNS)** and directory services to make the location and settings of mail servers available to clients. This enables the clients to use the functionality specified in the Autodiscover Publishing and Lookup protocol [\[MS-OXDCLI\]](#).

## 1.1 Glossary

The following terms are defined in [\[MS-OXGLOS\]](#):

**Active Directory**  
**Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF)**  
**Autodiscover client**  
**Autodiscover server**  
**common name (CN)**  
**distinguished name (DN)**  
**domain**  
**Domain Name System (DNS)**  
**fully qualified domain name (FQDN)**  
**GUID**  
**Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)**  
**Hypertext Transfer Protocol over Secure Sockets Layer (HTTPS)**  
**LDAP server**  
**Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)**  
**port**  
**Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)**  
**Service Connection Point (SCP)**  
**Transport Layer Security (TLS)**  
**Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)**  
**XML**

The following terms are specific to this document:

**Autodiscover directory service map GUID:** The **GUID** value 67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68, which identifies **SCP** objects that identify other directory service forests that can contain **Autodiscover server** information.

**Autodiscover URI map GUID:** The GUID value 77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596, which identifies **SCP** objects that identify **Autodiscover server URIs**.

**LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF):** An Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) standard that defines how to import and export directory data between directory servers that use **LDAP** service providers. For more information, see [\[RFC2849\]](#).

**service binding information:** The **URIs** that is needed to bind to a service.

**SRV record:** A **DNS** resource record that is used to identify computers that host specific services.

**MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT:** These terms (in all caps) are used as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#). All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

## 1.2 References

### 1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com). We will assist you in finding the relevant information. Please check the archive site, <http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/E4BD6494-06AD-4aed-9823-445E921C9624>, as an additional source.

[MS-OXDSCLI] Microsoft Corporation, "[Autodiscover Publishing and Lookup Protocol Specification](#)", April 2008.

[RFC1034] Mockapetris, P., "DOMAIN NAMES – CONCEPTS AND FACILITIES", RFC 1034, November 1987, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1034.txt>

[RFC1823] Howes, T., and Smith, M., "The LDAP Application Program Interface", RFC 1823, August 1995, <ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/rfc1823.txt>

[RFC1960] Howes, T., "A String Representation of LDAP Search Filters", RFC 1960, June 1996, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1960.txt>

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

[RFC2396] Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and Masinter, L., "Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax", RFC 2396, August 1998, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt>

[RFC2616] Fielding, R., Gettys, J., Mogul, J., et al., "Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1", RFC 2616, June 1999, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt>

[RFC2782] Gulbrandsen, A., Vixie, P., and Esibov, L., "A DNS RR for specifying the location of services (DNS SRV)", RFC 2782, February 2000, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2782.txt>

[RFC2818] Rescorla, E., "HTTP Over TLS", RFC 2818, May 2000, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2818.txt>

[RFC2822] Resnick, P., Ed., "Internet Message Format", RFC 2822, April 2001, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2822.txt>

[RFC2849] Good, G., "The LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF) – Technical Specification", RFC 2849, June 2000, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2849.txt>

[RFC3986] Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and Masinter, L., "Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax", STD 66, RFC 3986, January 2005, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt>

[RFC5234] Crocker, D., Ed., and Overell, P., "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, RFC 5234, January 2008, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5234.txt>

### 1.2.2 Informative References

[MS-ADTS] Microsoft Corporation, "Active Directory Technical Specification", July 2006, <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc200343.aspx>

[MS-OXGLOS] Microsoft Corporation, "[Exchange Server Protocols Master Glossary](#)", April 2008.

[RFC4210] Adams, C., Farrell, S., Kause, T., and Mononen, T., "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate Management Protocol (CMP)", RFC 4210, September 2005, <ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/rfc4210.txt>

### 1.3 Overview

The Autodiscover HTTP Service protocol allows a managed network (**domain**) to expose Autodiscover servers to clients that are configured with an e-mail address.

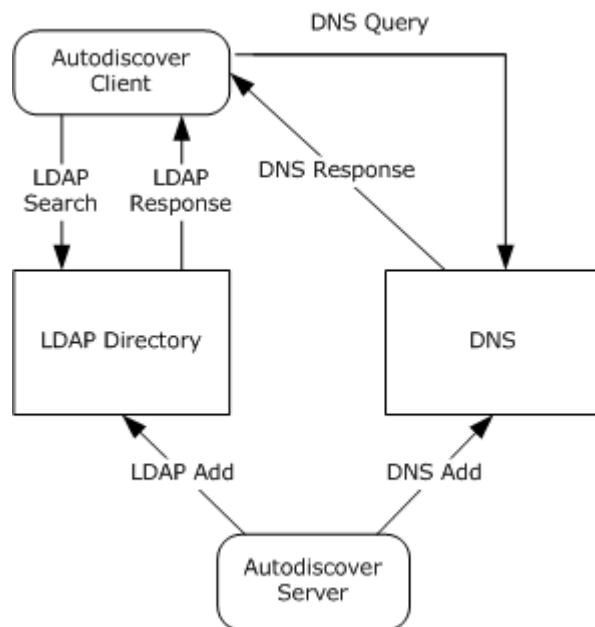
**Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs)** for Autodiscover server locations can be published by using the following methods:

- **Service Connection Point (SCP)** objects which can be queried by using the **Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)**
- Direct DNS configuration
- DNS service (**SRV**) record configuration
- **Hypertext Transfer Protocol over Secure Sockets Layer (HTTPS)** 302 redirection

### 1.4 Relationship to Other Protocols

This protocol requires an Autodiscover server and an Autodiscover client that implement the Autodiscover Publishing and Lookup protocol, as specified in [MS-OXDSCLI]. This protocol relies on HTTPS, as specified in [RFC2818], for data protection services and it relies on [RFC1034] for DNS services. It also relies on [MS-ADTS] and [RFC1823] for the SCP object and LDAP, respectively.

The following data flow diagram shows a client querying the directory and DNS for an Autodiscover server, and the server publishing its location in the directory and DNS.



**Figure 1: Autodiscover client and server interactions**

## 1.5 Prerequisites/Preconditions

The Autodiscover client has to be configured with an LDAP directory and base **distinguished name (DN)** that is well-known to the Autodiscover server administrator.

The Autodiscover server has to be configured to provide its services over **HTTP** secured with **Transport Layer Security (TLS)**, as specified in [\[RFC2818\]](#).

## 1.6 Applicability Statement

This protocol is applicable in scenarios in which an e-mail client makes an Autodiscover request to discover e-mail server settings and e-mail servers respond with their locations and settings.

## 1.7 Versioning and Capability Negotiation

None.

## 1.8 Vendor-Extensible Fields

None.

## 1.9 Standards Assignments

None.



## 2 Messages

### 2.1 Transport

For the purposes of this protocol, an Autodiscover client and an Autodiscover server do not communicate directly. Instead, the Autodiscover client communicates with common well-known data sources that the Autodiscover server administrator has preconfigured. [<1>](#)

The following transports and data sources are used:

- LDAP and LDAP directories. For more details, see [\[RFC1823\]](#).
- The DNS and DNS SRV records. For more details, see [\[RFC1034\]](#) and [\[RFC2782\]](#).
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and HTTP 302 redirection. For more details, see [\[RFC2616\]](#).

### 2.2 Message Syntax

#### 2.2.1 SCP Publication Service Objects

The Service Connection Point (SCP) allows clients to use the Autodiscover service. The SCP connects the network to the server that performs the service of locating Autodiscover servers. Clients of the Autodiscover service use the SCP Publication Service object to locate, connect to, and authenticate an instance of the service. The SCP Publication Service object contains the service binding information that includes the **FQDN** of the server.

##### 2.2.1.1 SCP Object Syntax

Using the formal syntax definition of the **LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF)**, as specified in [\[RFC2849\]](#), an SCP object can be expressed as the following.

```
DN: <distinguishedName>
Objectcategory: serviceConnectionPoint
ChangeType: add
serviceBindingInformation: <serviceBindingInformationValue>
Keywords: <KeywordsValue>
[Keywords: <KeywordsValue>]
```

That is, an SCP object MUST have a <distinguishedName>, one or more <KeywordsValue>, and one <serviceBindingInformationValue>.

<distinguishedName> is multipart name that uniquely identifies a node in a tree-structured directory database.

<KeywordsValue> is specified in section [3.1.5.1](#).

<serviceBindingInformationValue> is the URI that is needed to bind to a service.

##### 2.2.1.2 Searching for SCP Objects

The following LDAP elements and operations are used to search for an SCP object:

- The *hostname* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.1, hereafter referred as *host*. *host* is a server running LDAP. This value SHOULD be well-known to the Autodiscover client and the Autodiscover server administrator.
- The *portno* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.1, hereafter referred as *port*. *port* is the **port** of the LDAP service on the *host*. This value is commonly 389. This value SHOULD be well-known to the Autodiscover client and Autodiscover server administrator.
- The *base* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.4, hereafter referred as *base*. *base* is the distinguished name (DN) to base the search on. This value SHOULD be well-known to the Autodiscover server and the Autodiscover client.
- The *scope* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.4, hereafter referred as *scope*. *scope* is the search scope. For Autodiscover clients, the value MUST be LDAP\_SCOPE\_SUBTREE. This is a constant specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.4.
- The *attrs* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.4. This value is the list of attributes to query. For the purposes of this protocol, the list MUST contain "serviceBindingInformation", and "Keywords".
- The *filter* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.4, hereafter referred as *filter*. *filter* is an LDAP search filter, as specified in [\[RFC1960\]](#). For the purposes of this protocol, *filter* is

```
( & (objectcategory=serviceConnectionPoint) ( | (keywords=67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68) ( keywords=77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596) ) )
```

The search can be performed by using the LDAP API specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.4.

### 2.2.1.3 Creating SCP Objects

SCP objects can be created in an LDAP directory. To do so, the administrator needs the following data elements:

- *host*: This value SHOULD be well-known to the Autodiscover client and Autodiscover server administrator.
- *port*: This value is typically 389. This value SHOULD be well-known to the Autodiscover client and Autodiscover server administrator.
- The *dn* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.9. This value is a DN of the SCP object to create. This value SHOULD be well-known to the Autodiscover server administrator and the Autodiscover client.
- The *attrs* parameter specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.9. This value is the list of attributes to write. For the purposes of this protocol, the list MUST contain "Objectcategory", "serviceBindingInformation", and "Keywords". The value of "Objectcategory" MUST be "serviceConnectionPoint". For details, see sections [3.1.5.1](#) and [3.2.3.1](#).

An SCP object can be created by using the LDAP API specified in [\[RFC1823\]](#) section 4.9.

### 2.2.2 DNS SRV Queries

To query for Autodiscover servers, the Autodiscover client SHOULD use the following data elements specified by the usage rules in [\[RFC2782\]](#):

- *\_service* is "\_Autodiscover"

- `_protocol` is `"_tcp"`
- The target is supplied by the Autodiscover client.

The query produces an ordered list of hosts. If no valid entries are found, then the query will return an empty list.

### 2.2.3 HTTP 302 Redirection

The following section uses **Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF)** notation. For more details, see [\[RFC5234\]](#).

The Autodiscover client can send an HTTP GET request to retrieve the Autodiscover server URI. The request URI has the following format:

```
<RequestUri> = HTTP COLON SLASH SLASH AUTODISCOVERDOT <target> AUTODISCOVERSUFFIX

HTTP = "http"
COLON = ":"
SLASH = %2f ; forward slash or "/"
AUTODISCOVERDOT = "Autodiscover."
AUTODISCOVERSUFFIX = SLASH "Autodiscover" SLASH "Autodiscover.xml"
<target> = targetDomain ; The e-mail domain that the Autodiscover client wishes to query.
```

The above strings are not case sensitive.

The `<RequestUri>` can be processed as specified in [\[RFC2616\]](#) section 9.3. If the response is a 302 redirection (as specified in [\[RFC2616\]](#) section 10.3.3), the Autodiscover client uses the value of the redirection **URL**. Note that if the response is not a 302 redirection, then the expected response is an Autodiscover server URI.

### 2.2.4 E-mail Addresses

All e-mail addresses are assumed to be in the format specified in [\[RFC2822\]](#) section 3.4.1. That is, they follow the format `<local-part>@<domain>`.

### 2.2.5 Autodiscover Server URI Results

The result of an Autodiscover query is a list of possible Autodiscover server URIs, as specified in [\[RFC3986\]](#). These URIs are the servers that are pinged until a match is found for the autodiscovery.

## 3 Protocol Details

This protocol specifies a way for Autodiscover clients to find Autodiscover servers. The client starts with an e-mail address of the form <local-part>@<domain> and expands it to a list of URIs any of which can be Autodiscover servers.

### 3.1 Client Details

#### 3.1.1 Abstract Data Model

This section describes a conceptual model of possible data organization that an implementation maintains to participate in this protocol. The described organization is provided to facilitate the explanation of how the protocol behaves. This document does not mandate that implementations adhere to this model as long as their external behavior is consistent with that described in this document.

The main data elements required by any implementation are:

- **E-mail address:** An e-mail address of the form <local-part>@<domain>. This is the e-mail address for which the corresponding Autodiscover server URI is being located.
- **LDAP directories and SCP objects:** LDAP directories contain published server locations in SCP objects. The SCP object can be used to identify Autodiscover server URIs.
- **DNS & DNS SRV records:** DNS can contain SRV records for the Autodiscover service. The SRV records can then be used to find the Autodiscover server URI.

#### 3.1.2 Timers

None.

#### 3.1.3 Initialization

The client requires an e-mail address of the form <local-part>@<domain>.

#### 3.1.4 Higher-Layer Triggered Events

The Autodiscover publishing and lookup services are triggered by a user action, or optionally a timer.

#### 3.1.5 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules

The Autodiscover client expands the e-mail address provided during initialization into a list of URIs as specified in [\[RFC2396\]](#). Since Autodiscover server URIs can be acquired in different ways, to create a fully-populated list, the Autodiscover client SHOULD do all of the following:

- Query a well-known **LDAP server** for SCP objects, as described in section [3.1.5.1](#).
- Perform text manipulations on the domain of the email address, as described in section [3.1.5.2](#).
- Search the DNS for Autodiscover SRV records, as described in section [3.1.5.3](#).
- Perform an HTTP GET request to determine whether there are redirects to other Autodiscover servers, as described in section [3.1.5.4](#).

Note that a client can acquire the URI of an Autodiscover server without a fully-populated list of Autodiscover server URIs.

### 3.1.5.1 Query a Well-Known LDAP Server for SCP Objects

Autodiscover server locations can be published in LDAP directories via SCP objects.

To discover these servers, Autodiscover clients execute a client search as specified in section [2.2.1.2](#).

For each of the entries returned, if the **serviceBindingInformation** attribute is an LDAP URI (a text string of the form "LDAP://"<host>[:<port>] ) and the **Keywords** attribute contains a string of the form "domain="<domain>, then the client repeats the search as specified in section [2.2.1.2](#) with the new <host> and <port> values.

If the **serviceBindingInformation** attribute is an LDAP URI (a text string of the form "LDAP://"<host>[:<port>] ), but the **Keywords** attribute does not contain a string of the form "domain="<domain>, then the client repeats the search as specified in section [2.2.1.2](#) with the new <host> and <port> values after all other entries have been evaluated.

If the **serviceBindingInformation** attribute is an "http://" or "https://" URI then the client has found a URI that is possibly an Autodiscover server and the client SHOULD add this to the list of possible Autodiscover servers.

If the **Autodiscover directory service map GUID** is found in the **Keywords**, then the **serviceBindingInformation** is an LDAP URI.

If the **Autodiscover URI map GUID** is found in the **Keywords**, then the **serviceBindingInformation** is an HTTP URI.

### 3.1.5.2 Locations Found Directly From the E-mail Domain

The following two URIs MUST be added to the list of possible Autodiscover server URIs:

```
http://<Domain>/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml
https://Autodiscover.<Domain>/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml
```

If an **HTTP POST** to either of the above URIs results in an HTTP 302 redirect, then the redirect as found in the location field of the response is added to the list of possible Autodiscover server URIs. For more details, see section [2.2.3](#). For more details about Autodiscover client requests, see [\[MS-OXDSCLI\]](#) section 3.1.8.2.

### 3.1.5.3 Locations Found from SRV DNS Records

An Autodiscover client can query DNS to obtain SRV records for the Autodiscover service by using the following query. For more information, see section [2.2.2](#).

```
_autodiscover._tcp.<domain>
```

If the result is <host>, add "https://"<host>/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" to the list of possible Autodiscover URIs.

### 3.1.5.4 Locations Found by an HTTP Redirect

An Autodiscover client can also issue an HTTP **GET** method with the URI set to "http://Autodiscover.<domain>/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml".

If this URI results in an HTTP 302 redirect, prompt the user to warn them of the redirection. If the user accepts, the new location is added to the list of possible Autodiscover server URIs.

### 3.1.6 Timer Events

None.

### 3.1.7 Other Local Events

None.

## 3.2 Server Details

### 3.2.1 Abstract Data Model

This section describes a conceptual model of possible data organization that an implementation maintains to participate in this protocol. The described organization is provided to facilitate the explanation of how the protocol behaves. This document does not mandate that implementations adhere to this model as long as their external behavior is consistent with that described in this document.

Any implementation requires a published Autodiscover server URI. This enables clients to find servers by using the Autodiscover service.

### 3.2.2 Timers

None.

### 3.2.3 Initialization

Autodiscover servers do not automatically publish all their locations. Administrators can manually publish Autodiscover server locations.

#### 3.2.3.1 Locations Published in LDAP via SCP Objects with an HTTP URI

An administrator can publish an SCP object by using the following values:

```
DN:<AdministratorChosenDN>
Changetype: add
Objectcategory: serviceConnectionPoint
serviceBindingInformation: <AutodiscoverServerURI>
Keywords: "77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596"
<Extensions>

<Extensions> := NULL |
    Extension | Extensions

Extension := "Domain=" <AuthoritativeDomain> |
    "Site=" <ADSite>
```

<AuthoritativeDomain> is a domain that the Autodiscover server can provide information about.

<ADSite> is the Active Directory site, as specified in [\[MS-ADTS\]](#).

### 3.2.3.2 Locations Published in LDAP via SCP objects with an LDAP URI

If the administrator of the Autodiscover server knows that Autodiscover clients prefer a different LDAP server than the Autodiscover server, then the administrator can manually publish an SCP object in the client's preferred LDAP server. A client querying for SCP objects can then learn about the Autodiscover server's preferred LDAP server.

```
DN: <AdministratorChosenDN>
Changetype: add
Objectcategory: serviceConnectionPoint
serviceBindingInformation: <LDAPURI>
Keywords: "67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68"
<Extensions>

<Extensions> := NULL |
                Extension | Extensions

Extension := "Domain=" <AuthoritativeDomain>
```

<AuthoritativeDomain> is a domain that the Autodiscover server can provide information about.

### 3.2.3.3 Locations Published in DNS as Autodiscover.<Domain> and <Domain>

An administrator who wants to publish an Autodiscover server for <Domain> can configure DNS and **SSL** such that "https://Autodiscover.<Domain>/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" and "https://<Domain>/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" are URIs that are serviced by Autodiscover servers.

This is configured manually.

### 3.2.3.4 Locations Published in DNS By Using SRV Records

If "https://Server/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" can serve Autodiscover clients for the given <Domain>, an administrator can publish the following SRV record:

```
SRV _autodiscover._tcp.<DOMAIN> = <AutodiscoverServer>
```

This is configured manually. For details, see section [2.2.2](#).

### 3.2.3.5 Locations Published Through an HTTP GET

If "https://Server/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" can serve Autodiscover clients for <Domain>, an administrator can configure the following HTTP redirect:

"http://Autodiscover.<Domain>/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml"

to 302 redirect to

"https://Server/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml".

Non-secure HTTP URIs SHOULD NOT be used to query settings, as specified in [\[MS-OXDSCLI\]](#). They SHOULD only be used for redirections.

This is configured manually. For more details, see [\[RFC2616\]](#).

### **3.2.4 Higher-Layer Triggered Events**

None.

### **3.2.5 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules**

None.

### **3.2.6 Timer Events**

None.

### **3.2.7 Other Local Events**

None.



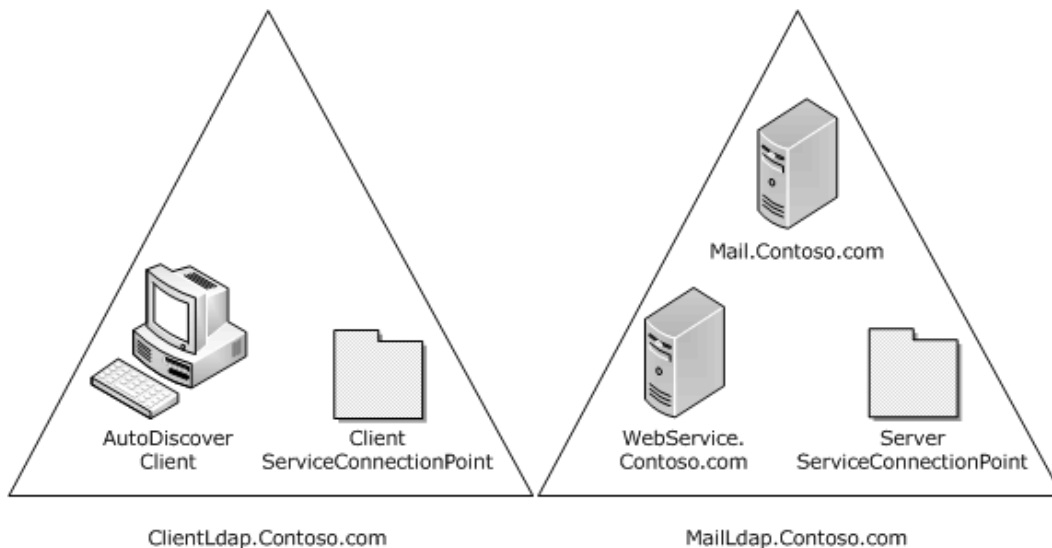
## 4 Protocol Examples

### 4.1 Publishing an Autodiscover Server Location

The following topology is used in this example:

- The DNS name of the mail server is Mail.Contoso.com.
- The DNS name of the Web service computer is WebService.Contoso.com. It has a valid SSL certificate.
- Autodiscover Web services are available at:  
https://WebService.Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml.
- The mailbox server and Web services server are configured to use MailLdap.Contoso.com as their LDAP server.
- Clients are configured to use ClientLdap.Contoso.com.

The following figure illustrates the topology.



**Figure 2: Topology of the Autodiscover client and server**

An administrator wants to publish Autodiscover services for mailboxes on Mail.Contoso.com. For various reasons, the administrator is unable to configure "https://Contoso.com/Autodiscover.Autodiscover.xml" to respond to Autodiscover requests. Instead, the administrator uses [\[RFC1034\]](#) and [\[RFC4210\]](#) to create SSL certificates that allow the Autodiscover server to HTTP 302 redirect "https://Autodiscover.Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" to "https://WebService.Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml".

Also, the administrator creates and publishes two LDAP objects to help clients find the Autodiscover server.

For MailLdap.Contoso.com, the administrator publishes the following:

```
DN: CN=WebServices,CN=Autodiscover,CN=Protocols,CN=WebServices,CN=Servers,CN=Exchange
Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT),CN=Administrative Groups,CN=Contoso,CN=Microsoft
Exchange,CN=Services,CN=Configuration,DC=Contoso,DC=com
Changetype: add
Objectcategory: serviceConnectionPoint
serviceBindingInformation: https://WebService.Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml
Keywords: "77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596"
```

On the client LDAP server, the administrator publishes the following:

```
DN: CN=mail.contoso.com,CN=Microsoft Exchange
Autodiscover,CN=Services,CN=Configuration,DC=Users,DC=Contoso,DC=com
Changetype: add
Objectcategory: serviceConnectionPoint
serviceBindingInformation: LDAP://MailLdap.Contoso.com
Keywords: "67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68"
```

## 4.2 Autodiscover Client Querying for Autodiscover Servers

This example uses the following configuration:

- A mail client is configured to use the e-mail address User@Contoso.com.
- The mail client is configured to use ClientLdap.Contoso.com as its LDAP server.
- Servers are configured as specified in section [3.2](#) of this document.

The client wants to construct a list of URIs of possible Autodiscover server locations. First the client executes the steps specified in section [3.1.5.1](#). The client searches its LDAP server on ClientLdap.Contoso.com for an SCP object that has the following **GUIDs**: 67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68 or 77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596.

The client performs the search by constructing the following URI:

```
LDAP://ClientLdap.Contoso.com
"/?cn,serviceBindingInformation,Keywords?sub?(&(objectcategory=serviceConnectionPoint)(|(keyw
ords=67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68)( keywords=77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596)))"
```

After evaluating that query, the following SCP object is returned to the client:

```
DN: CN=mail.contoso.com,CN=Microsoft Exchange
Autodiscover,CN=Services,CN=Configuration,DC=Users,DC=Contoso,DC=com
Changetype: add
Objectcategory: serviceConnectionPoint
serviceBindingInformation: LDAP://MailLdap.Contoso.com
Keywords: "67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68"
```

Seeing that the **service binding information** is provided in an LDAP URI, the Autodiscover client then proceeds to construct the following:

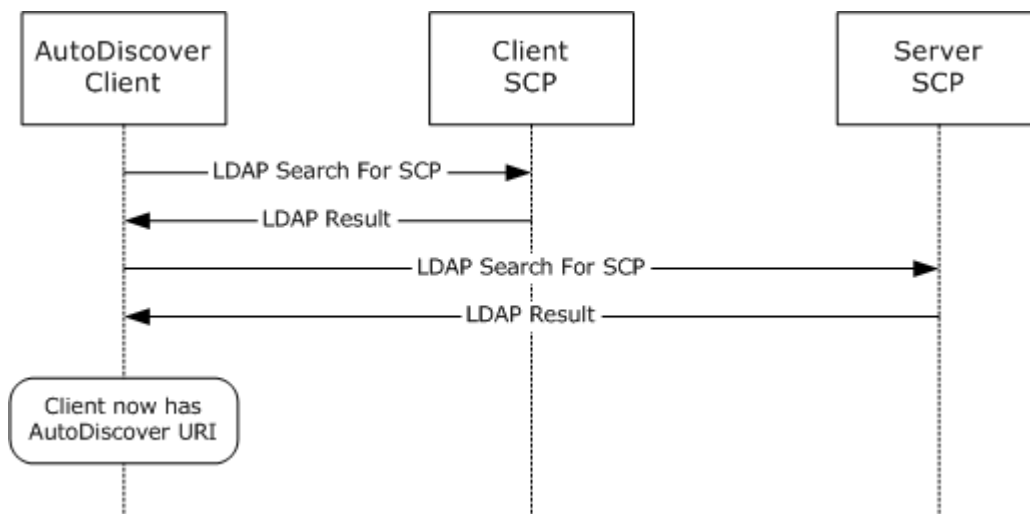
```
LDAP//MailLdap.Contoso.Com
"/?cn,serviceBindingInformation,Keywords?sub?(&(objectcategory=serviceConnectionPoint)(|(keywords=67661D7F-8FC4-4fa7-BFAC-E1D7794C1F68)(keywords=77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596)))"
```

This query returns the following object:

```
DN: CN=WebServices,CN=Autodiscover,CN=Protocols,CN=WebServices,CN=Servers,CN=Exchange
Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT),CN=Administrative Groups,CN=Contoso,CN=Microsoft
Exchange,CN=Services,CN=Configuration,DC=Contoso,DC=com
Changetype: add
Objectcategory: serviceConnectionPoint
serviceBindingInformation: https://WebService.Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml
Keywords: "77378F46-2C66-4aa9-A6A6-3E7A48B19596"
```

From this, the client adds "https://WebService.Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" to the list of possible Autodiscover Web services.

The communication is shown in the following figure.



**Figure 3: Communication required to find an Autodiscover server URI by using SCP objects**

Next, the client adds "https://Autodiscover.Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" and "https://Contoso.com/Autodiscover/Autodiscover.xml" to the list of possible e-mail addresses based on the information specified in section [3.1.5.2](#).

As specified in section [2.2.1.2](#), the client executes a DNS search for the SRV record "\_autodiscover.\_tcp.Contoso.com". No records are returned. This is expected behavior, as no records were created.

## **5 Security**

### **5.1 Security Considerations for Implementers**

There are many possible DNS spoofing attacks. For this reason, clients are strongly advised against using non-SSL URIs unless they have the consent of the user. Administrators are strongly advised to provide Autodiscover data only via HTTPS.

### **5.2 Index of Security Parameters**

None.

## 6 Appendix A: Product Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products:

- Microsoft® Office Outlook® 2003
- Microsoft® Exchange Server 2003
- Microsoft® Office Outlook® 2007
- Microsoft® Exchange Server 2007
- Microsoft® Outlook® 2010
- Microsoft® Exchange Server 2010

Exceptions, if any, are noted below. If a service pack number appears with the product version, behavior changed in that service pack. The new behavior also applies to subsequent service packs of the product unless otherwise specified. If a product edition appears with the product version, behavior is different in that product edition.

Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification prescribed using the terms SHOULD or SHOULD NOT implies product behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term MAY implies that product does not follow the prescription.

[<1> Section 2.1](#): Microsoft Windows automatically pre-configures domain-joined computers with an **Active Directory** server. Office Outlook 2007 uses this LDAP server as the well-known LDAP server. Office Outlook 2007 uses the ConfigurationNamingContext of the pre-configured Active Directory server as the well-known DN for SCP objects.

## 7 Change Tracking

This section identifies changes that were made to the [MS-OXDISCO] protocol document between the May 2010 and August 2010 releases. Changes are classified as New, Major, Minor, Editorial, or No change.

The revision class **New** means that a new document is being released.

The revision class **Major** means that the technical content in the document was significantly revised. Major changes affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of major changes are:

- A document revision that incorporates changes to interoperability requirements or functionality.
- An extensive rewrite, addition, or deletion of major portions of content.
- The removal of a document from the documentation set.
- Changes made for template compliance.

The revision class **Minor** means that the meaning of the technical content was clarified. Minor changes do not affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of minor changes are updates to clarify ambiguity at the sentence, paragraph, or table level.

The revision class **Editorial** means that the language and formatting in the technical content was changed. Editorial changes apply to grammatical, formatting, and style issues.

The revision class **No change** means that no new technical or language changes were introduced. The technical content of the document is identical to the last released version, but minor editorial and formatting changes, as well as updates to the header and footer information, and to the revision summary, may have been made.

Major and minor changes can be described further using the following change types:

- New content added.
- Content updated.
- Content removed.
- New product behavior note added.
- Product behavior note updated.
- Product behavior note removed.
- New protocol syntax added.
- Protocol syntax updated.
- Protocol syntax removed.
- New content added due to protocol revision.
- Content updated due to protocol revision.
- Content removed due to protocol revision.
- New protocol syntax added due to protocol revision.

- Protocol syntax updated due to protocol revision.
- Protocol syntax removed due to protocol revision.
- New content added for template compliance.
- Content updated for template compliance.
- Content removed for template compliance.
- Obsolete document removed.

Editorial changes are always classified with the change type "Editorially updated."

Some important terms used in the change type descriptions are defined as follows:

- **Protocol syntax** refers to data elements (such as packets, structures, enumerations, and methods) as well as interfaces.
- **Protocol revision** refers to changes made to a protocol that affect the bits that are sent over the wire.

The changes made to this document are listed in the following table. For more information, please contact [protocol@microsoft.com](mailto:protocol@microsoft.com).

Section	Tracking number (if applicable) and description	Major change (Y or N)	Change type
<a href="#">1.1 Glossary</a>	56702 Removed normative language from local glossary term definition.	N	Editorially updated.
<a href="#">1.2.1 Normative References</a>	55751 Moved [MS-OXGLOS] from Normative References section to Informative References section.	N	Content update.
<a href="#">1.2.1 Normative References</a>	56323 Removed reference for [RFC1558]. Added reference for [RFC1960].	N	Content update.
<a href="#">1.2.1 Normative References</a>	Removed reference to [RFC814].	N	Content update.
<a href="#">2.2.1.2 Searching for SCP Objects</a>	56323 Changed [RFC1558] to [RFC1960].	N	Content update.

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