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The site-link name is pretty obvious?itâ€™s what you name your site link. The site-link cost is a little less obvious. A site-link cost is a value that is assigned by the administrator to identify the speed of the connection between the two different sites, with a lower number indicating a faster connection. Normally, Windows Server 2008 defaults all site links at cost 100, and itâ€™s up to administrators to manually establish MCITP Certifications costs for the rest of the topology. Table 1.6 shows a recommended cost-link table.

TABLE 1.6 Recommended Site-Link Cost Table

Available Bandwidth (Kbps) Site-Link Cost

4096 283

2048 309

1024 340

512 378

256 425

128 486

64 567

56 586

35.4 644

19.2 798

9.6 1042

Keep in mind that site links are not limited to IP. In fact, they actually use Remote Pro- cedure Call (RPC) over IP. But for your purposes here, IP will suf?ce. Site links can also use the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP). However, SMTP is not available if you are within the same domain. Within the same domain, you are limited to RPC over IP.

If you read and did your exercises in Sybex?s MCTS Active Directory Configuration Study Guide, you are probably familiar with how to set this up. Each site link requires a schedule for replica- tion. This is because you Donâ€™t necessarily want your servers replicating traffic all over the network while you have 1,000 users trying to access a particular ?le over a WAN. It creates a lot of traffic. For this MCITP Exams, just keep in mind that schedules are a part of site links. The actual process of setting these up has already been covered.

The purpose of a site-link bridge is to function as a shortcut between two sites that are not actually linked together. In other words, if site A is linked to site B, and site B is linked to site C, site A can be linked through site C by using a site-link bridge.

If you have taken and passed exams 70-640 and 70-642, you are already quite famil- iar with this. Now you will be challenged to take what you have learned and apply it to a design environment. For instance, you may be given a scenario where you will be asked what the best solution is to connect site A to site C, as in Figure 1.14. Although it may seem like a site link would be the most logical answer, your knowledge of site-link bridges will indicate you can save some administrative overhead by using a bridge.

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