Where is Exaquantum Authentication performed?

Exaquantum requires four specific user groups that are used to control access to specific roles.
These standard Exaquantum groups are created locally on the Exaquantum Server during installation. Users wishing to have access to the various features of Exaquantum must be members of the relevant groups. In the case where the Exaquantum Server is part of a Windows Domain user accounts will normally be added to global groups for ease of administration. These global groups are added to the matching local groups on the Exaquantum server.
It is also possible to add individual domain users directly to the local groups.
If Exaquantum is not part of a domain users must be created locally on the Exaquantum Server with the same username and password as that used to log into any client. These local users would then be added to the local groups.
To access Exaquantum you must be authenticated.

Explorer Client - Single Server Authentication
In this case there is only one server and it is this server which performs the authentication based on a user's membership of the various groups. This will involve a request to the domain controller if global groups are involved.

Explorer Client - Multi-Server Authentication
In a multi-server environment authentication is performed by the first Exaquantum Server that the client accesses. This server is referred to as the Primary Server and can be configured on a per user basis. The default Primary Server, configured during installation, is used unless a server is configured specifically for the logged on user via the Server Manager tool.
It is also possible to configure a Secondary Server which will be used if the Primary Server is unavailable. In this case authentication will be performed by the Secondary Server and therefore the users must be configured into the Exaquantum groups on this server as well.
Note: Once you change the server using the Server Manager tool you will be authenticated by the new server and will need to be a member of the relevant groups on this new server.

Administration Client Authentication
Unlike Explorer and the Excel add-in the Administration Tools can only manage one server at a time and authentication will be performed by that server. This server is referred to as the Administration Tools Server. By default the Administration Tools Server is the same as the Primary Exaquantum Server configured during the installation. This can be changed on a per user basis provided the user has Exaquantum Administration rights on the current Administration Tools Server.

Web Client Authentication
The server which will perform the authentication of a Web Client is that specified in the URL used to access the Exaquantum/Web site.
An Exaquantum/Explorer and Administration Client can also access data using Exaquantum/Web. In this case, Web client authentication takes place on the Web Server as above and Exaquantum/Explorer and Administration Client authentication will take place on the Data Server. Therefore the client accounts must be members of the local groups on both the Web Server and the Data Server. It is possible to have a combined Web and Data server in which case there will be only one set of groups that authenticates both types of client access. When the Web Server and Data Server are physically separate it is possible to control access to Exaquantum/Explorer and Exaquantum/Web differently for different users.

Exaquantum Role Based Name Spaces (RBNS) issues
Exaquantum RBNS provides transparent access to more than one server as well as providing customised views and enhanced security. Access to RBNS is controlled by Windows user groups in much the same way as normal client access. An RBNS can use a new, specifically created group or an existing predefined group and these groups can exist locally to the server or globally on a domain.
As Web Clients and Explorer Clients both use RBNS the location of the groups affects the way in which they are used. Any local groups used by both types of clients must exist on both the Data and the Web server otherwise different views of the data will be seen.
Aside from authentication, there is an administration issue in the following specific case. If RBNS is to be used only by Web clients and is based on local groups resident on a separate Web Server. In this case you will not be able to use the Browse (...) buttons on the RBNS Builder dialogs when using the Administration Tools on the Exaquantum Server since the groups do not exist on the Data Sever. You can however still enter the group name manually. Any attempt to access data using Exaquantum/Explorer or the Excel Add-in will result in the default intrinsic name space being used.