

The Value of Virtual

Facts

- No additional data store required
- Can be a searchable LDAP representation of user data housed in a relational database
- Leverages enterprise directory infrastructures created by meta-directory and provisioning solutions
- Brokers requests from applications that need access to ID info
- Ultimately rely on the original data source for identity information.
- Enables Context-Based Identity (!)

Functionality / Performance

- No Synch Delays (Daily, Hourly, Minutes) - Real time data
- Accommodates application-specific attributes 'without schema changes to enterprise directories
- Central point for control and audit/attest of what directory attributes are accessed by specific applications and users - and what access is enabled for users.
- Enables directory service access to cross political and corporate boundaries (maintained ownership / restricted access)
- Multiple organizations share common data while original ownership is maintained
- Enables integration of applications with different directory designs and implementations - no common schema required
- Handles search requests for millions of database entries and thousands of LDAP requests per second.

Increased Security

- Serves as a Directory Firewall preventing direct access to the source data
- Original data owners maintain FULL ownership
- No additional data store / point of attack
- No comprehensive store of all public and private ID info
- Wallet full of IDs concept -- Applications are presented only data that is relevant for the application, creating application-specific views of users, groups, and policies that may even exist in different places
- Only specific, authorized data is presented to a given query requester
- Enhances security by providing new security domain contexts
- Provides features to ensure security and integrity of proxied data

Operational Efficiency

- Reduced data ownership concerns (corporate politics and delegation issues)
 - Easy to make fault-tolerant, load-balanced.
 - Easy access to multiple heterogeneous directory repositories - no common platform required
 - Enable traditional directory servers to grow to larger scales by solving replication, database

size, and routing issues.

- Reliable and predictable directory services performance and availability

Cost

- No additional management costs related to duplicate information storage
- Reduced Hardware & Software Infrastructure (provisioning sw, etc.)
- Quick deployment
- Provides a lowTCO solution that is easy to deploy, maintain, and run
- Lower licensing costs over products like metadirectories that are based primarily on synchronizing data from many sources into a central authority

The Value of META

- Improves data quality and minimize the effort to maintain duplicate information in multiple repositories.
- Create copies of directory data, resulting in a usually costly infrastructure of replication and synchronization procedures to ensure that data is current.
- Flexibility and Power in Data Transformation
- Central Enterprise ID store (reduced management and simplified delegation)
- Enterprise Directory allows replication to remote global locations
- Enables synch to existing app data stores (don't need to modify apps to point to new virtual store)
- Tight integration with infrastructure (Sun/MS products)
- Virtual Directories and other Identity Management products NEED clean data repositories with up-to-date information
- Access to ANY data store - may be more flexible than virtual (?)
- Ability to email alerts / drop log files, etc. during update cycle - Very extensible
- Event-driven or schedule-driven action could enable/disable accounts or perform other actions without querying
- Provides redundant data storage for increased data protection
- If the goal is enterprise directory without the need for query-based functionality, Meta is the solution
- Strong toolset for data cleansing
- a Strong toolset for data migration efforts