

Next Generation Directory-Based User Management for Cloud Infrastructure

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Introductions

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“I had to keep guessing at the channel;
I had to discern, mostly by inspiration,
the signs of hidden banks;
I watched for sunken stones;
When you have to attend to things of that sort,
to the mere incidents of the surface,
the reality—the reality, I tell you—fades.
The inner truth is hidden.”

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*



Session Objective

Uncover a hidden navigation channel for users and machines through ‘the cloud’.

Session Agenda

- History
- Building Blocks
- Security Model
- Solution
- Use Cases
- Demo
- Questions

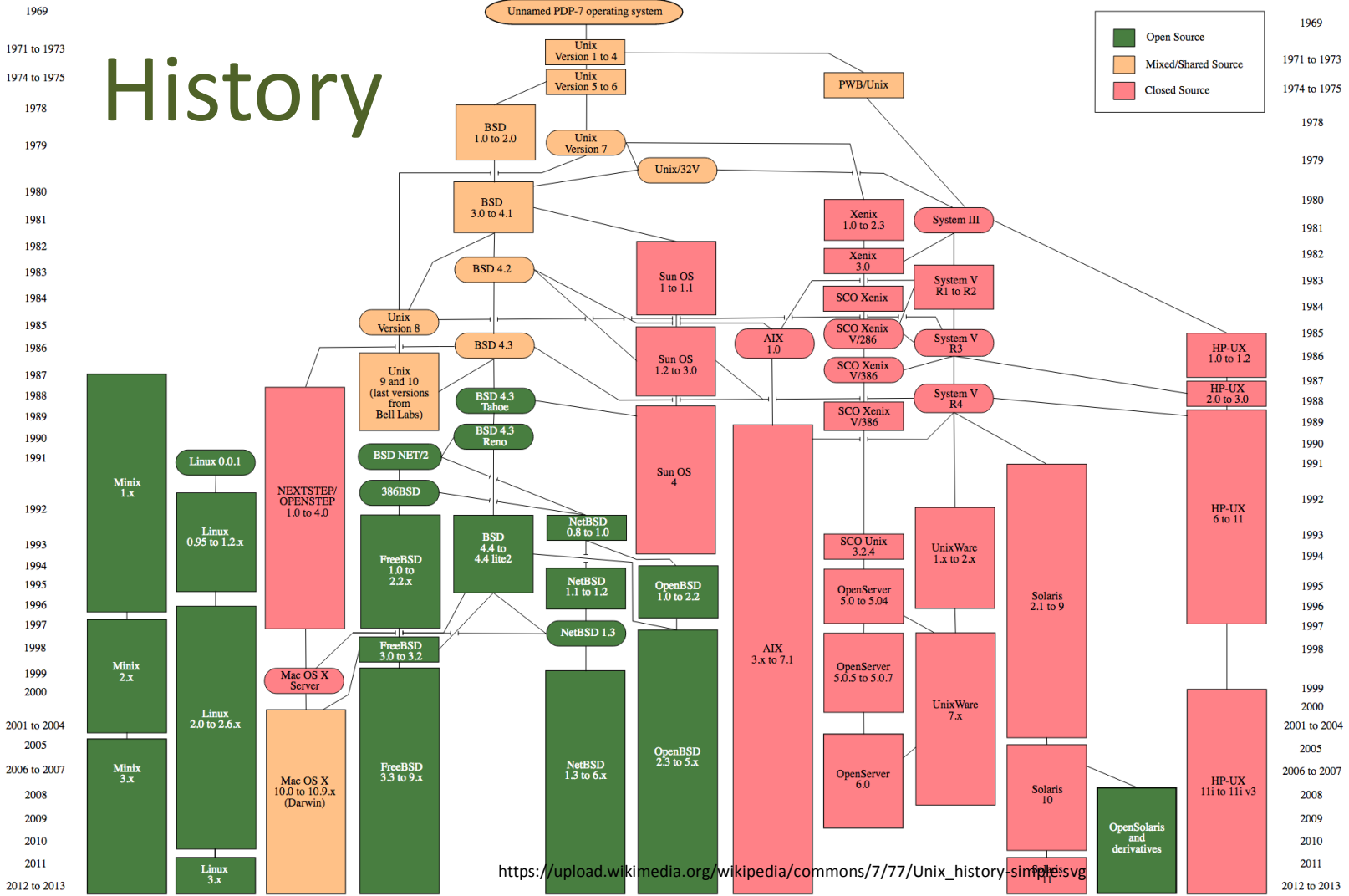


Image from: [HTTP://EVENTS.LINUXFOUNDATION.ORG/EVENTS/APACHECON-NORTH-AMERICA](http://EVENTS.LINUXFOUNDATION.ORG/EVENTS/APACHECON-NORTH-AMERICA)

History

Knowing the path forward necessarily means we understand where we've been.

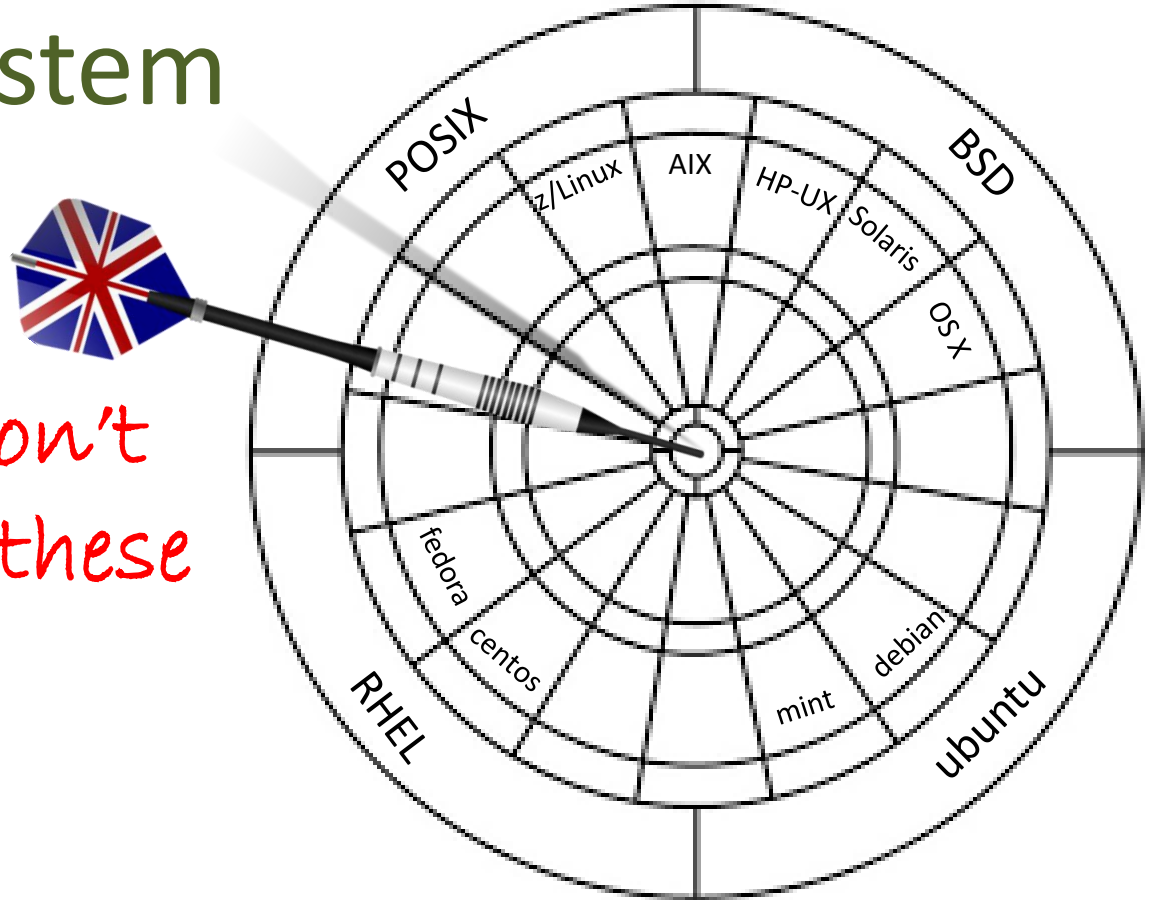
History



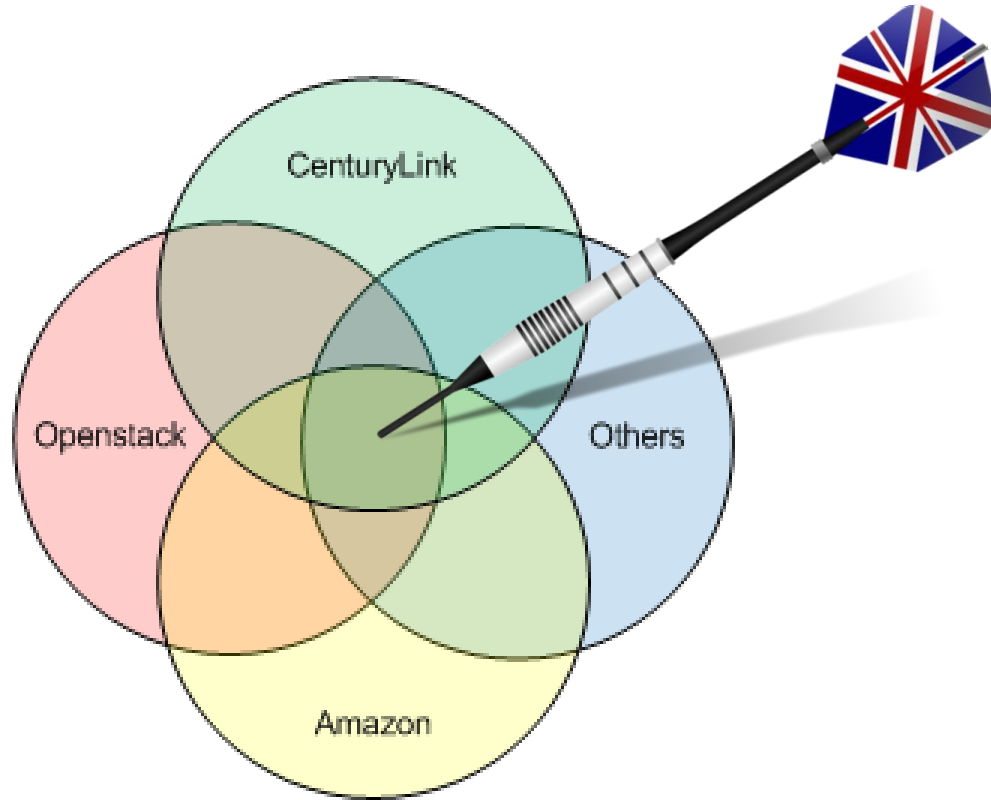
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/77/Unix_history_simple.svg

Operating System

A new wheel won't work on all of these

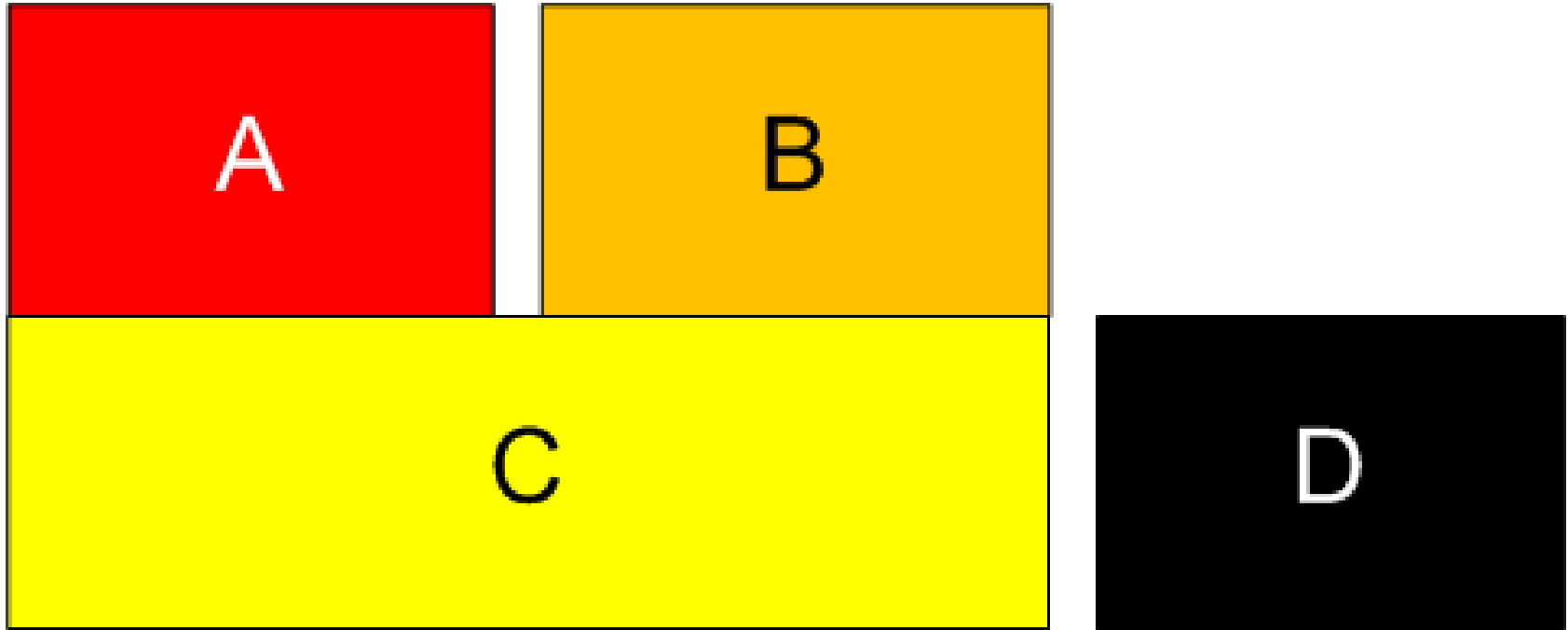


Cloud Infrastructure



*Nor across
all of these*

Building Blocks



Basic Building Blocks

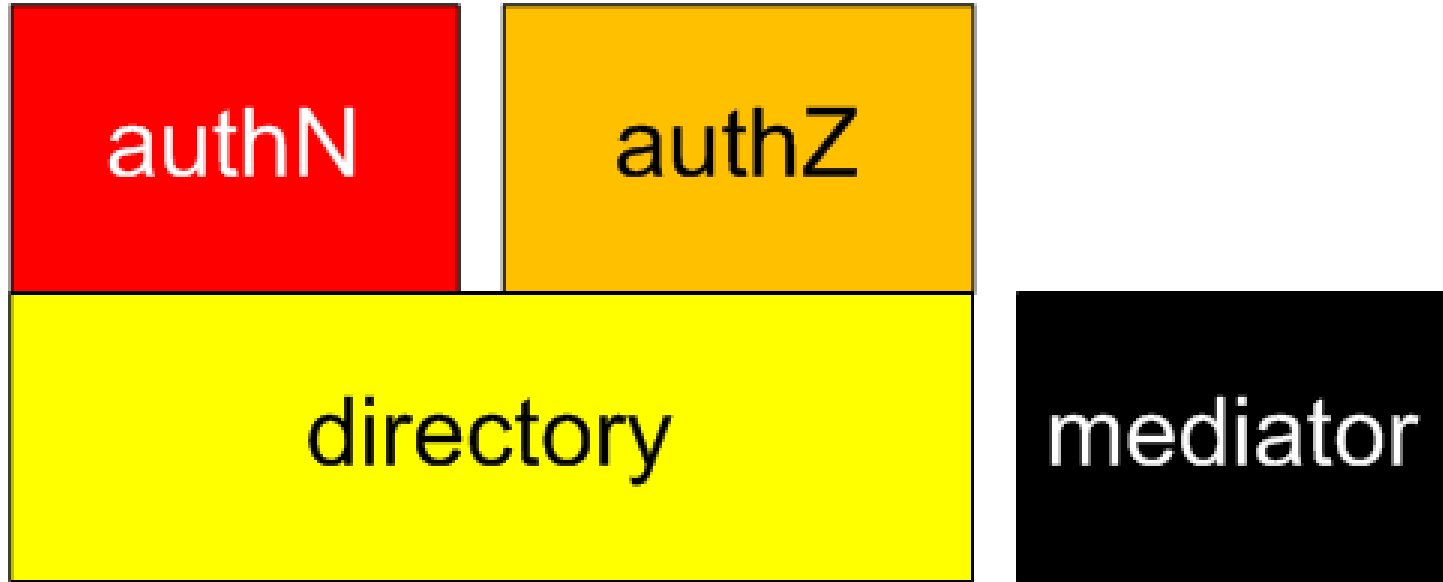
1. POSIX security controls
2. Directory services

Best practices

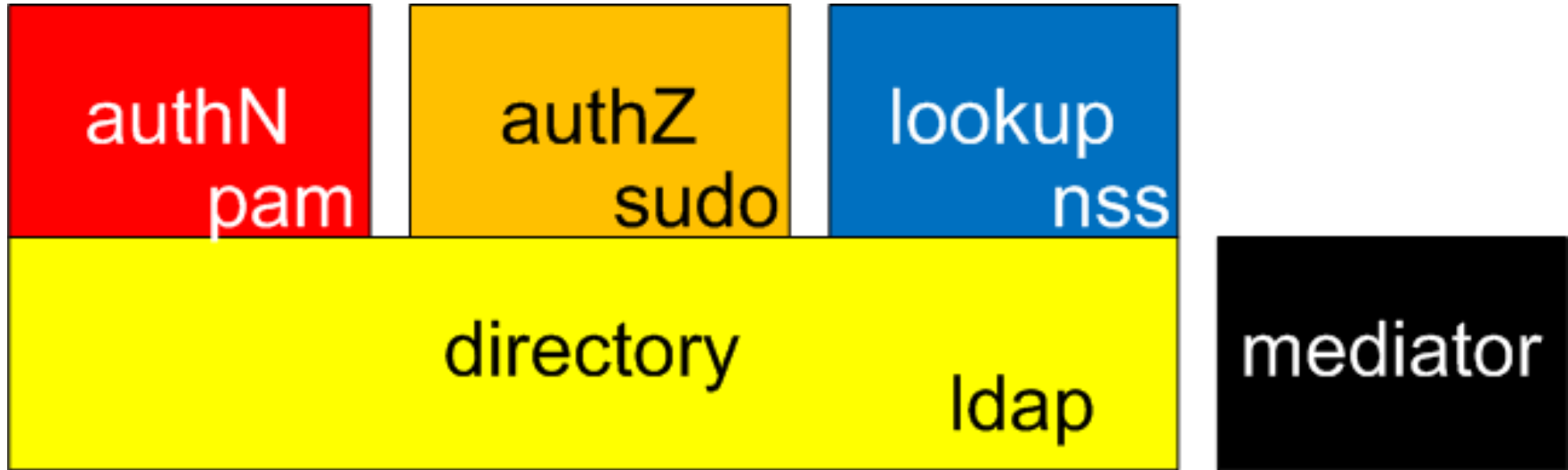
Advanced Building Blocks

3. Mediation *relatively new practice*

Building Blocks Conceptual



Building Blocks Actual



Building Blocks - AuthN

pam

Pluggable authentication module

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **pluggable authentication module (PAM)** is a mechanism to integrate multiple low-level [authentication](#) schemes into a high-level [application programming interface \(API\)](#). It allows programs that rely on authentication to be written independently of the underlying authentication scheme. PAM was first proposed by [Sun Microsystems](#) in an [Open Software Foundation Request for Comments \(RFC\) 86.0](#) dated October 1995. It was adopted as the authentication framework of the [Common Desktop Environment](#). As a stand-alone [open-source](#) infrastructure, PAM first appeared in [Red Hat Linux 3.0.4](#) in August 1996. PAM is currently supported in the [AIX operating system](#), [DragonFly BSD](#), [FreeBSD](#), [HP-UX](#), [Linux](#), [Mac OS X](#), [NetBSD](#) and [Solaris](#).

Pluggable Authentication Module



- Authentication
- Coarse-grained Authorization

just an authN service

Building Blocks - AuthZ

sudo

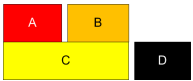
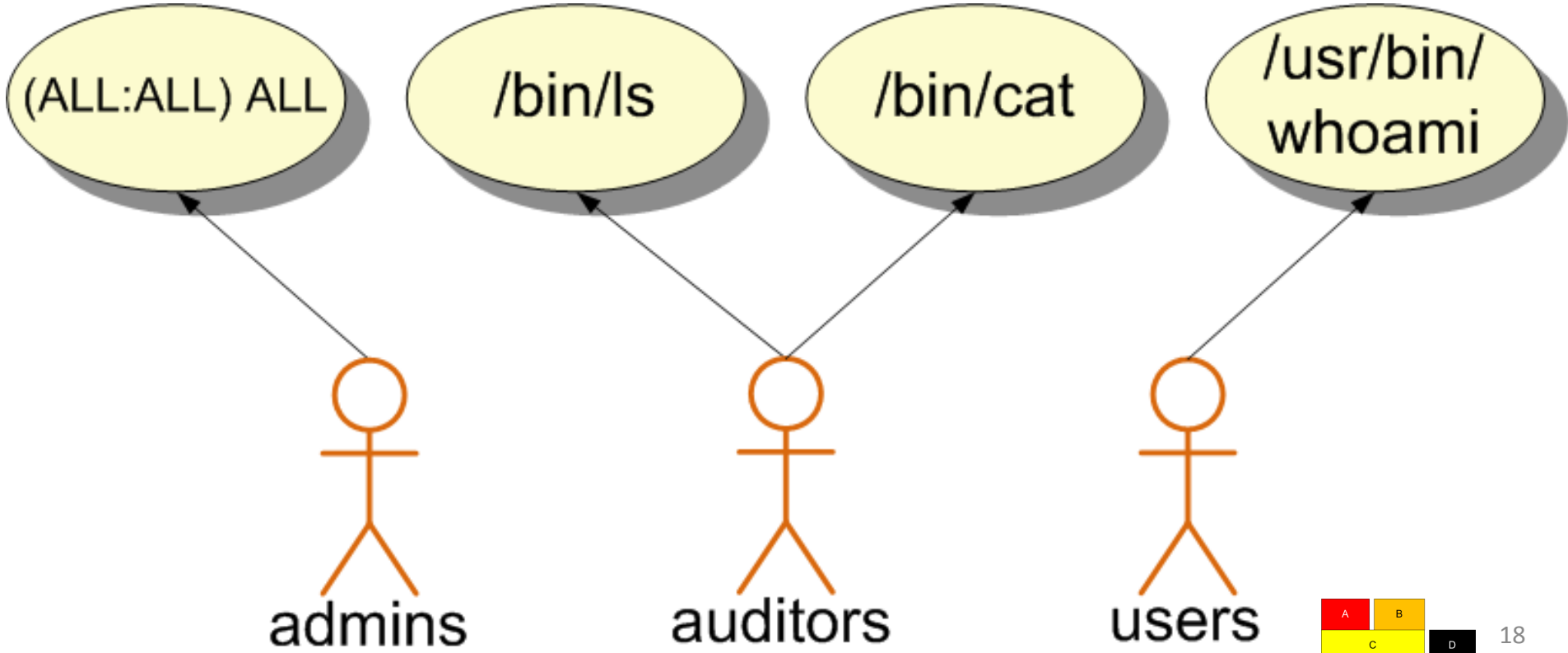
sudo

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

sudo (/ˈsuːduː/^[2] or /ˈsuːdoʊ/^[2]^[3]) is a **program** for **Unix-like computer operating systems** that allows users to run programs with the security privileges of another user, by default the **superuser**.^[4] It originally stood for "superuser do"^[5] as the older versions of sudo were designed to run commands only as the superuser. However, the later versions added support for running commands not only as the superuser but also as other (restricted) users, and thus it is also commonly expanded as "substitute user do".^[6]^[7] Although the latter case reflects its current functionality more accurately, sudo is still often called "superuser do" since it is so **often used for administrative tasks**.

sudo

just an authZ service



Building Blocks – Reporting

nss

Name Service Switch

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Name Service Switch (NSS)** is a facility in **Unix-like operating systems** that provides a variety of sources for common configuration databases and name resolution mechanisms. These sources include local operating system files (such as `/etc/passwd`, `/etc/group`, and `/etc/hosts`), the **Domain Name System (DNS)**, the **Network Information Service (NIS)**, and **LDAP**.

Name Service Switch

nss

- Used by unix processes to lookup user and group info

just a lookup service

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

ldap

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Lightweight Directory Access Protocol** (**LDAP**; /ˈɛldæp/) is an open, vendor-neutral, industry standard [application protocol](#) for accessing and maintaining distributed directory information services over an [Internet Protocol](#) (IP) network.^[1] [Directory services](#) play an important role in developing intranet and Internet applications by allowing the sharing of information about users, systems, networks, services, and applications throughout the network.^[2] As examples, directory services may provide any organized set of records, often with a hierarchical structure, such as a corporate [email](#) directory. Similarly, a [telephone directory](#) is a list of subscribers with an address and a phone number.

LDAP is specified in a series of [Internet Engineering Task Force](#) (IETF) Standard Track publications called [Request for Comments](#) (RFCs), using the description language [ASN.1](#). The latest specification is Version 3, published as [RFC 4511](#) [↗](#).



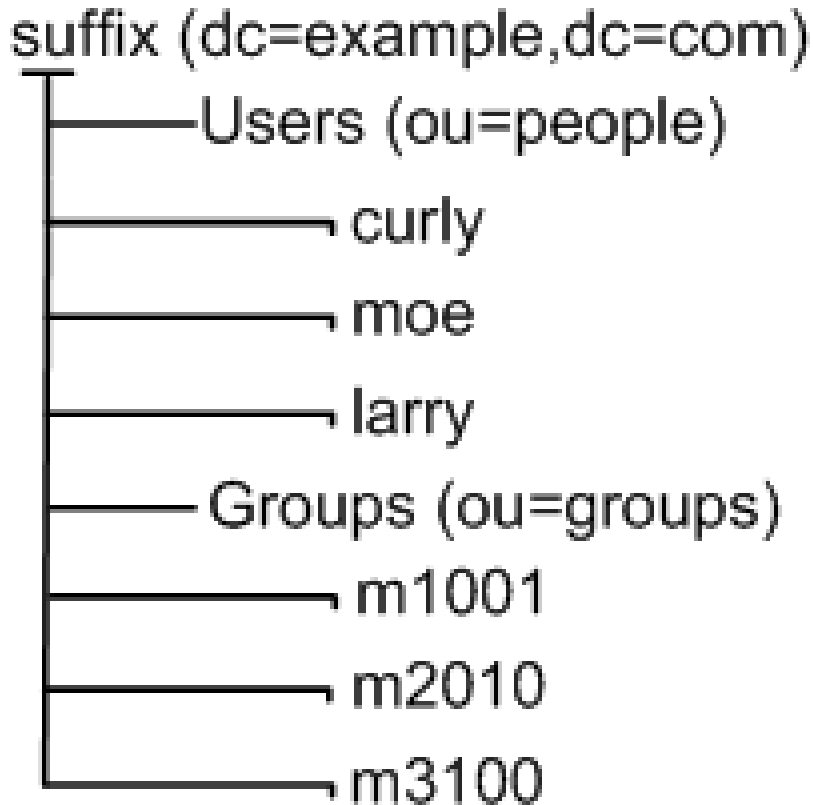
Building Blocks - LDAP

ldap

Just a

System of record

- Users
- Passwords
- Groups



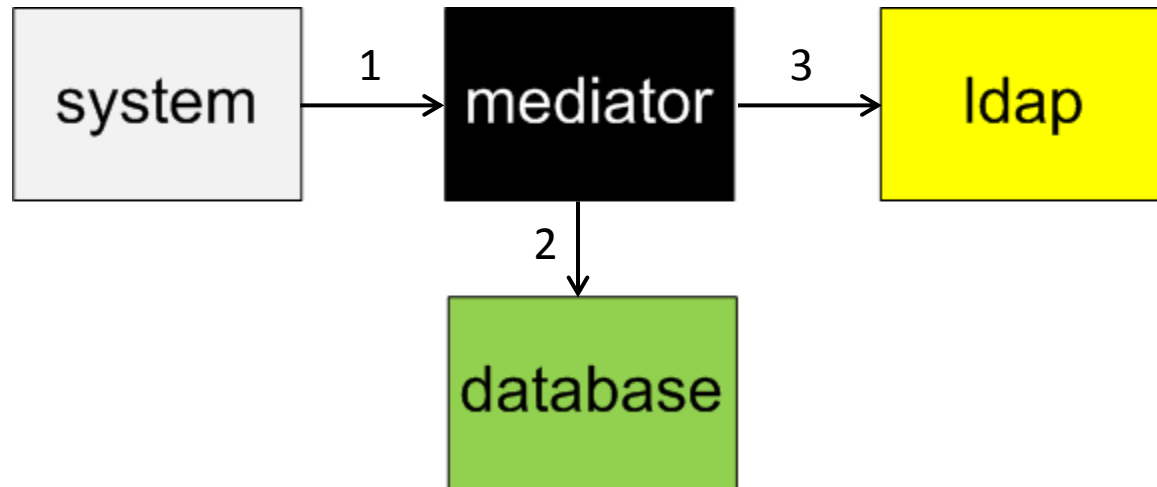
Building Blocks - Mediator

mediator

- Keeps things in synch between the machines and LDAP as things change.

Mediator

1. Machine added to network, notifies mediator
2. Based on policies stored in DB
3. Updates Idap accordingly



Security Model



Three Kinds of Security Checks

PAM

1. Authentication with LDAP
2. Coarse-grained authZ - memberOf target machine
 - (i.e. LDAP group name == hostname)

sudo

3. Medium-grained authZ. memberOf at least one:
 - Admin - root access
 - User - typical user access
 - Auditor - read-only access to entire machine.

Three Types of Control Groups

- mediator* 1. Machine Sets
- PAM* 2. Machines
- sudo* 3. Security Roles

1. Machine Sets

m1set

m1001

m1002

m1003

...

m2set

m2010

m2020

m2030

...

m3set

m3100

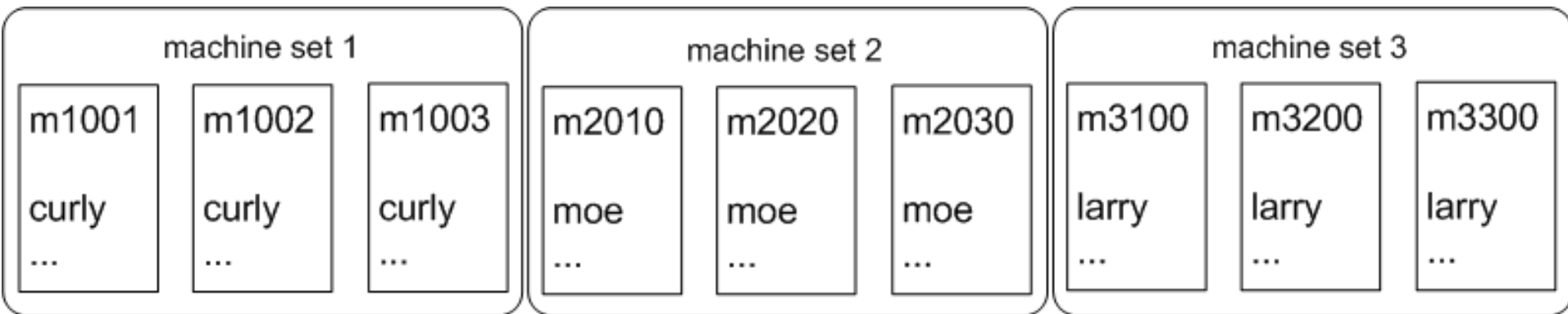
m3200

m3300

...

*used by
mediator to
compute policies*

2. Machines



used by PAM

3. Security Roles



used by sudo

Policy Combiner

User, role and machine set

m1set

m1001
m1002
m1003
...



Curly

admin

m2set

m2010
m2020
m2030
...



Moe

auditor

m3set

m3100
m3200
m3300
...

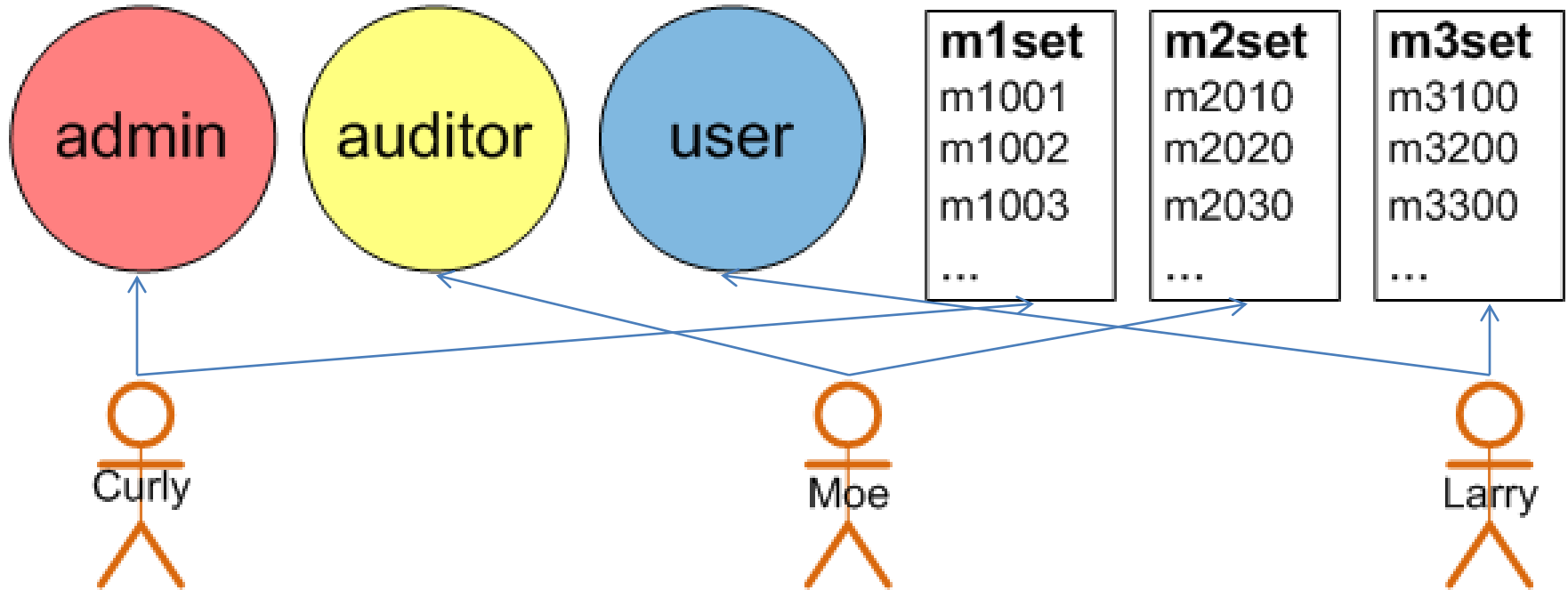


Larry

user

The mediator can do this

Pick Two



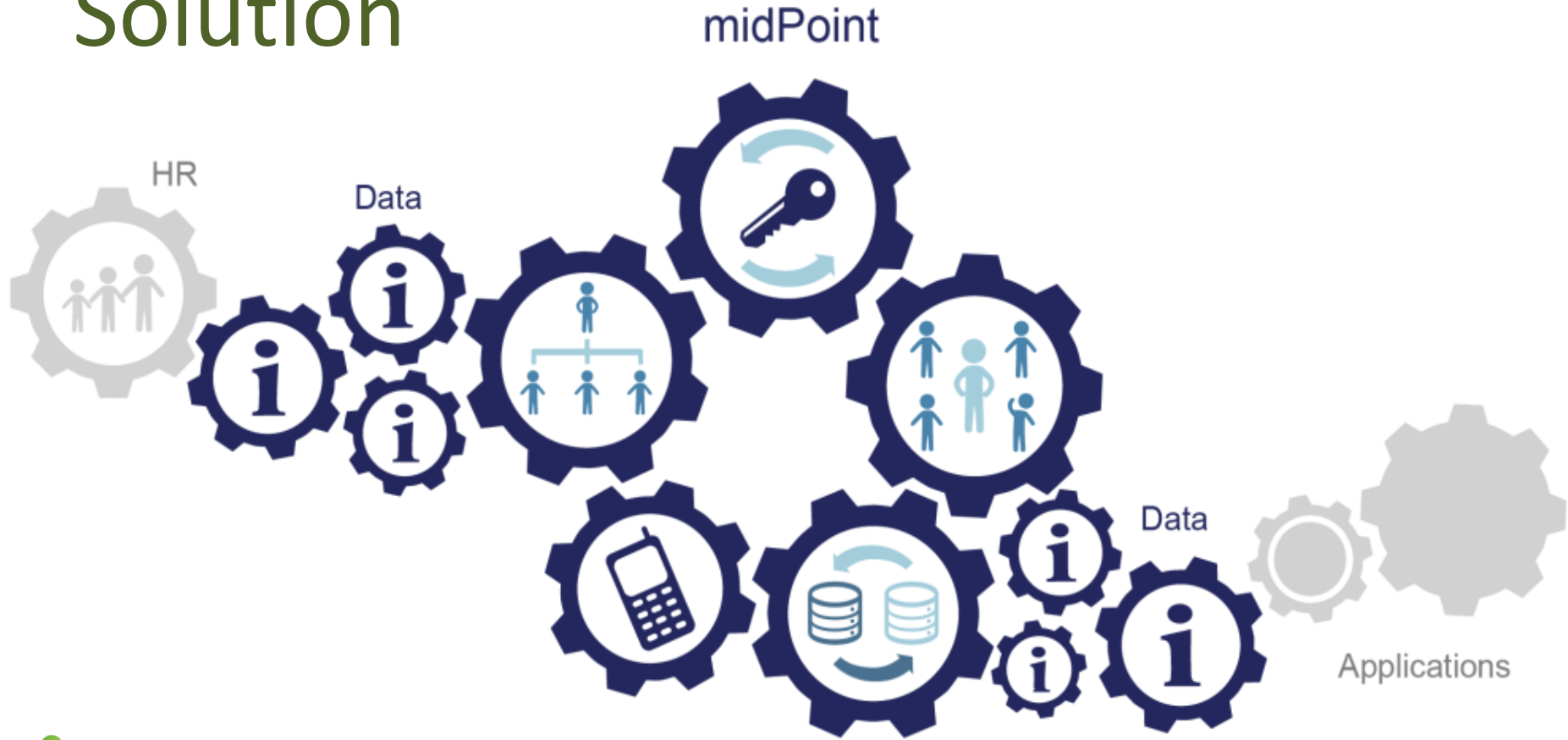
Solution

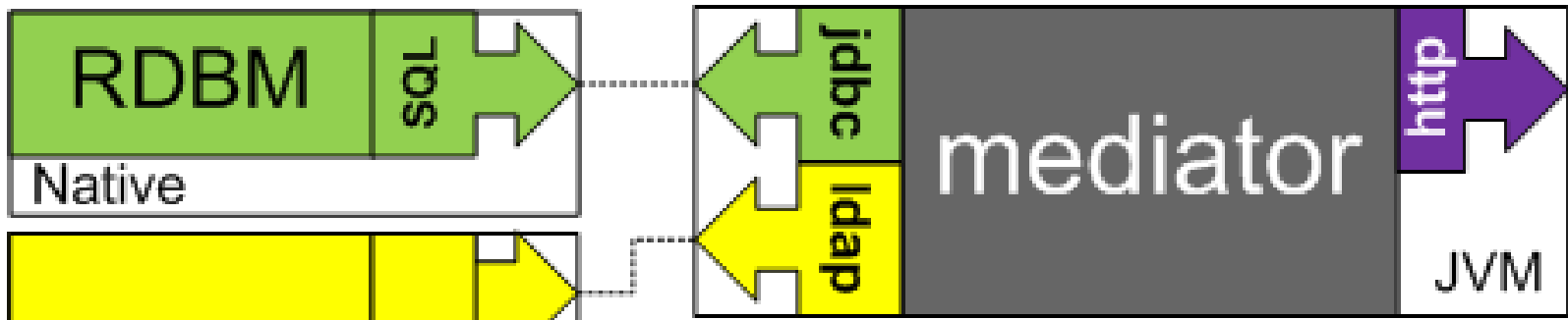
- How to manage users, machines and their access rights in the most flexible and dynamic way as possible?
- Chef? Puppet? Ansible?
- IaaS?
- Identity management?

Solution

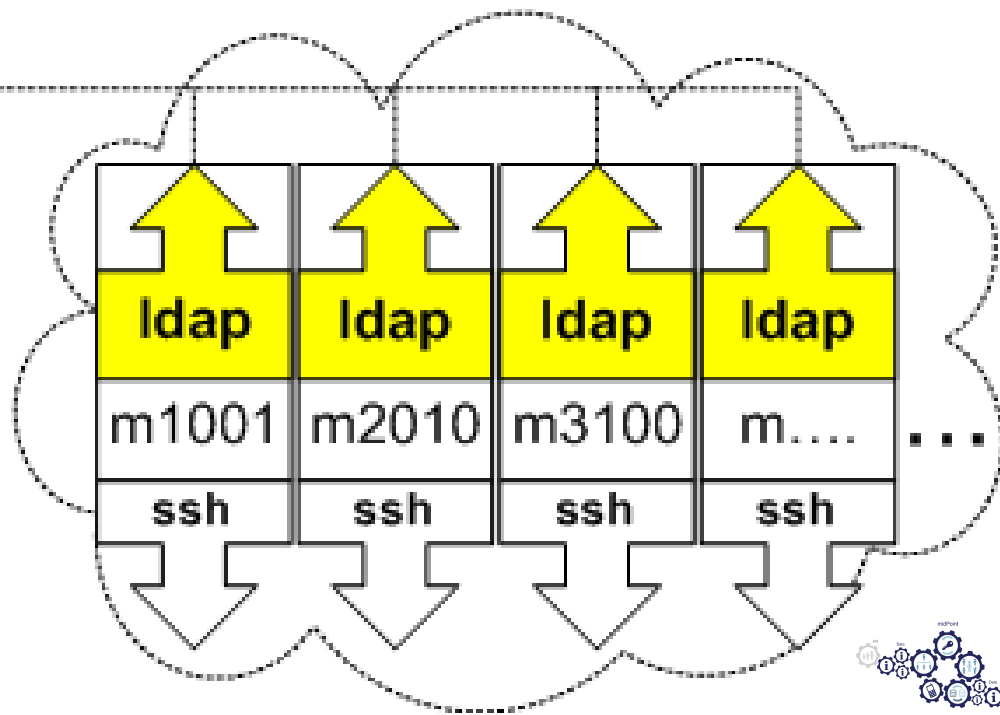
- Blueprints for machines
 - Start new machine, set up new machine,...
- Identity management product for managing
 - users,
 - security and access groups for machines,
 - access rights for users

Solution





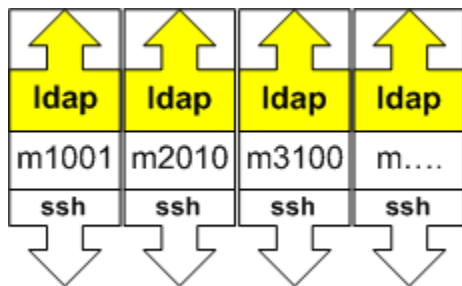
Target System Architecture



Client-side Solution

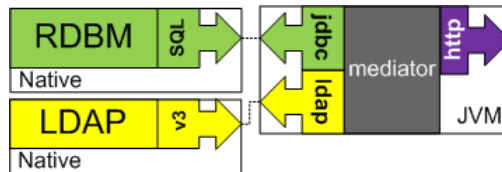
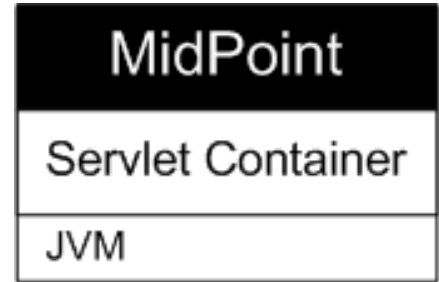
Script during machine instantiation:

1. Configures pam, sudo & nss to LDAP
2. Call mediator to add LDAP machine group
3. Call mediator to recompute LDAP groups

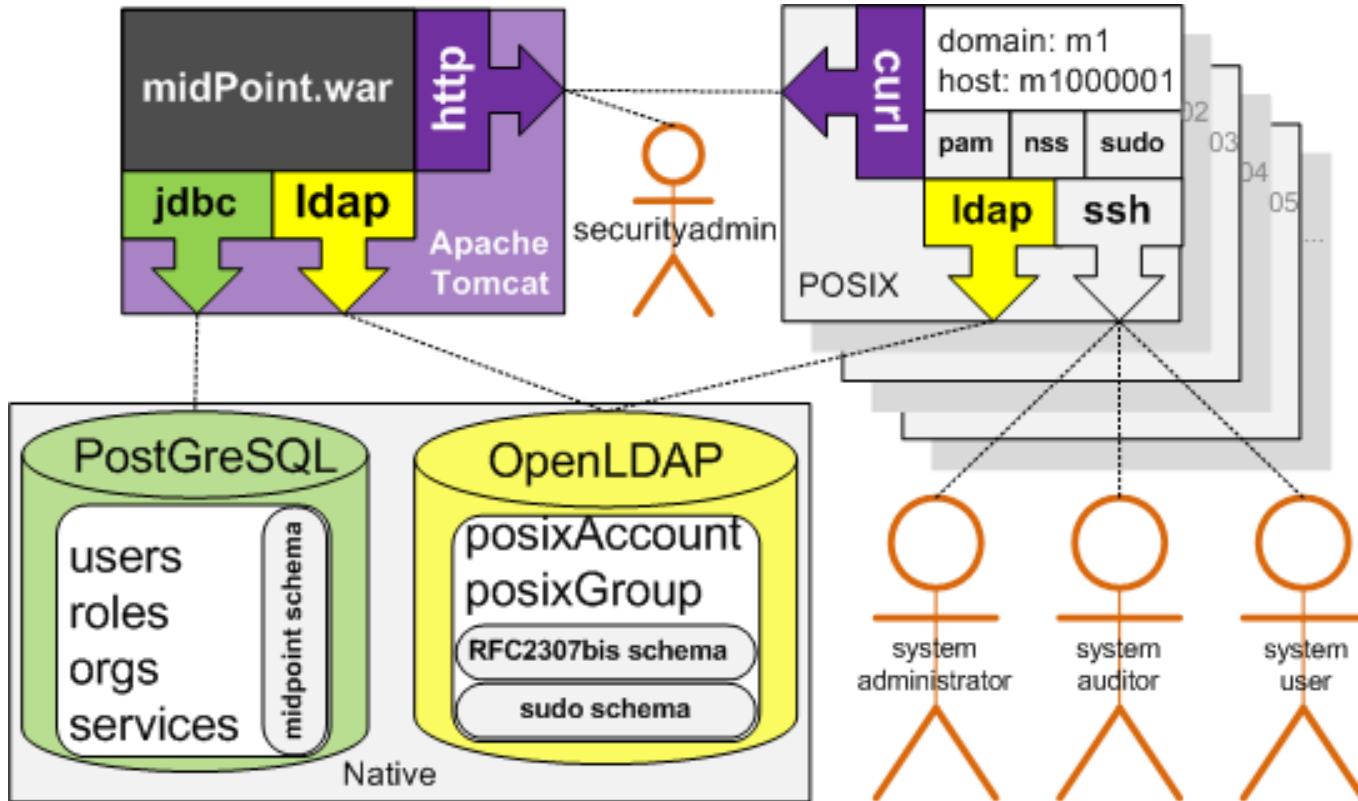


Server-side Solution

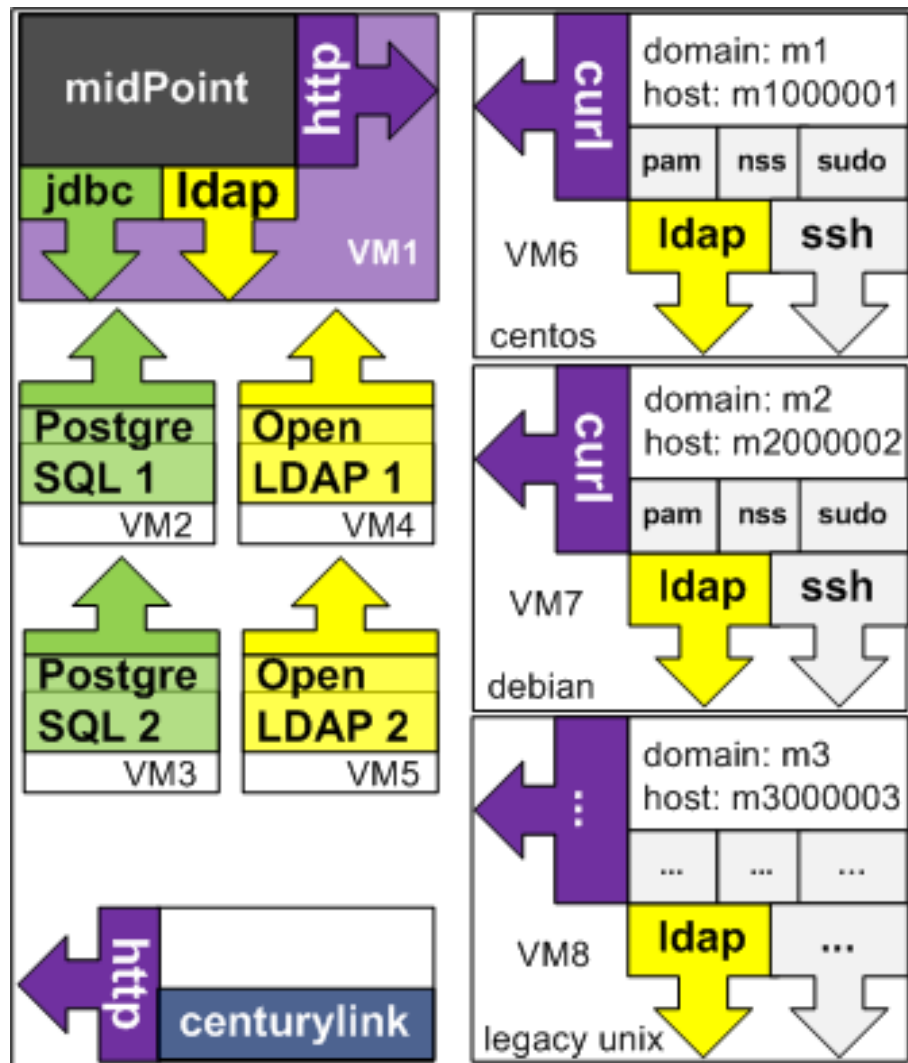
1. MidPoint - mediator
 - delegated admin, approvals, audit
 - html & http admin services
2. PostgreSQL – master database
 - users, roles, orgs, svcs
3. OpenLDAP – security database
 - users, groups
 - posixAccount, posixGroup



High-level Solution Design



Detail Design



Data Models

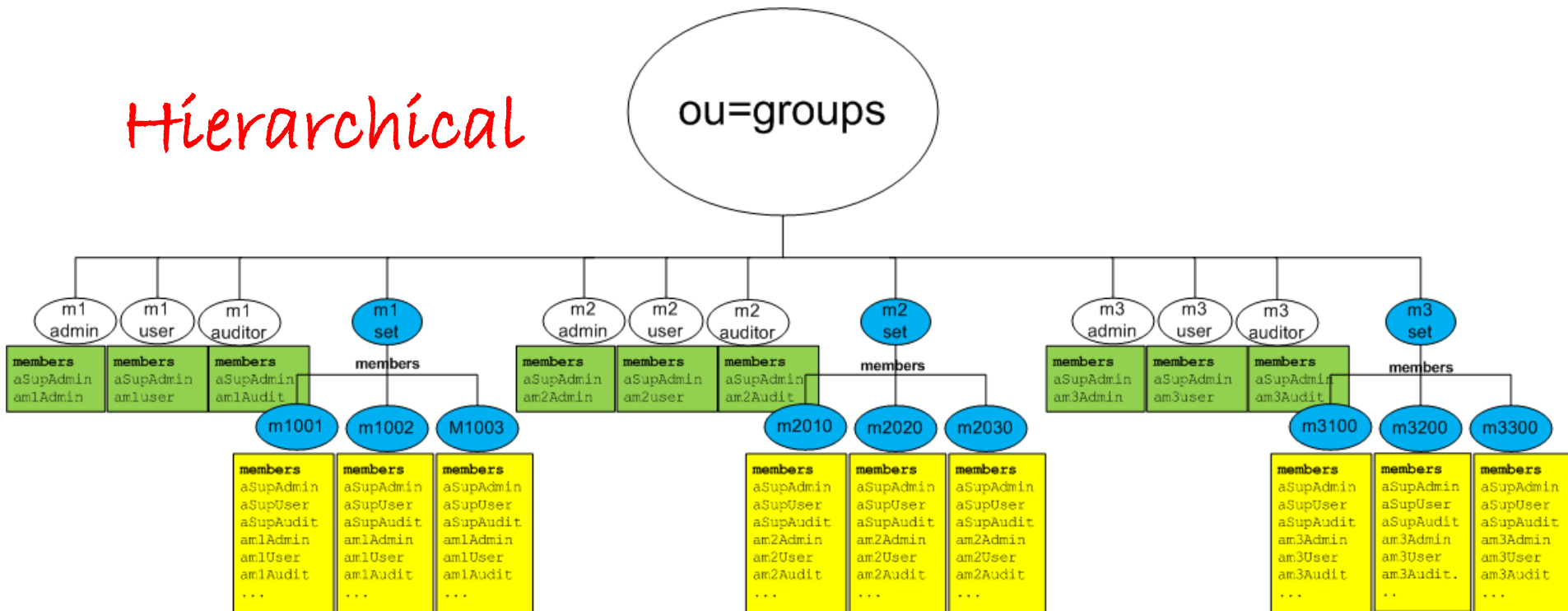
LDAP Data Model

Standard object schemas:

1. RFC2307bis
 - posixAccount
 - posixGroup
2. SudoRole

LDAP Data Model

Hierarchical



Use RFC2307bis LDAP Schema

```
( 1.3.6.1.1.1.2.0 NAME 'posixAccount' SUP top AUXILIARY
  DESC 'Abstraction of an account with POSIX attributes'
  MUST ( cn $ uid $ uidNumber $ gidNumber $ homeDirectory )
  MAY ( authPassword $ userPassword $ loginShell $ gecos $
    description ) )
```

```
( 1.3.6.1.1.1.2.2 NAME 'posixGroup' SUP top AUXILIARY
  DESC 'Abstraction of a group of accounts'
  MUST gidNumber
  MAY ( authPassword $ userPassword $ memberUid $
    description ) )
```

Machine Set M1

dn: cn=m1set, ou=Groups, ...

description: Machine Set 1

member: cn=m1001, ...

member: cn=m1002, ...

member: cn=m1003, ...

Machine M1001

```
dn: cn=m1001, ou=Groups, ...  
objectClass: posixGroup  
description: Machine Group M1001  
member: uid=curly, ou=People, ...  
member: uid=frank, ou=People, ...  
member: uid=marla, ou=People, ...
```

Security Role M1Admin

```
dn: cn=m1admin, ou=Groups, ...
objectClass: posixGroup
description: Admin Machine Set 1
cn: m1admin
member: uid=curly,ou=People,...
member: uid=frank,ou=People,...
member: uid=marla,ou=People,...
```

sudo LDAP Schema

```
objectclass ( 1.3.6.1.4.1.15953.9.2.1
  NAME 'sudoRole' SUP top STRUCTURAL
  DESC 'Sudoer Entries'
  MUST ( cn )
  MAY ( sudoUser $ sudoHost $ sudoCommand
    $ sudoRunAs $ sudoRunAsUser
    $ sudoRunAsGroup $ sudoOption
    $ sudoNotBefore $ sudoNotAfter
    $ sudoOrder $ description )
```

)

sudo M1Admin

```
dn: cn=admin access to  
    m1,ou=sudo,dc=example,dc=com  
objectClass: sudoRole  
cn: admin access to m1  
sudoUser: %m1admin  
sudoHost: m1001  
sudoHost: m1002  
sudoHost: m1003  
sudoHost: m1004
```

Provisioning Overview

- Why use IDM when it only complicates monitoring, req's additional resources, upgrades, etc...
- How to adapt to the elastic cloud environment
- Chef, Puppet, Ansible – not enough

Basic Provisioning

1. Adding a new User synchs downstream
2. Adding a new Machine happens automatically
3. Scoping a Role to a Domain

Advanced Provisioning

- Security reports

Advanced Provisioning

- Security reports
- Governance and compliance

Advanced Provisioning

- Security reports
- Governance and compliance
- Temporal assignments

Advanced Provisioning

- Security reports
- Governance and compliance
- Temporal assignments
- Auditing

Advanced Provisioning

- Security reports
- Governance and compliance
- Temporal assignments
- Auditing
- Additional systems

More Advanced Provisioning

- How do you know which permissions the user has?

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- Which of these permissions are obsolete and should be denied?

More Advanced Provisioning

- How do you know which permissions the user has?
- Which of these permissions are obsolete and should be denied?
- Who and why were these permissions assigned to the user?

And Still More

- Additional target systems, applications, monitoring

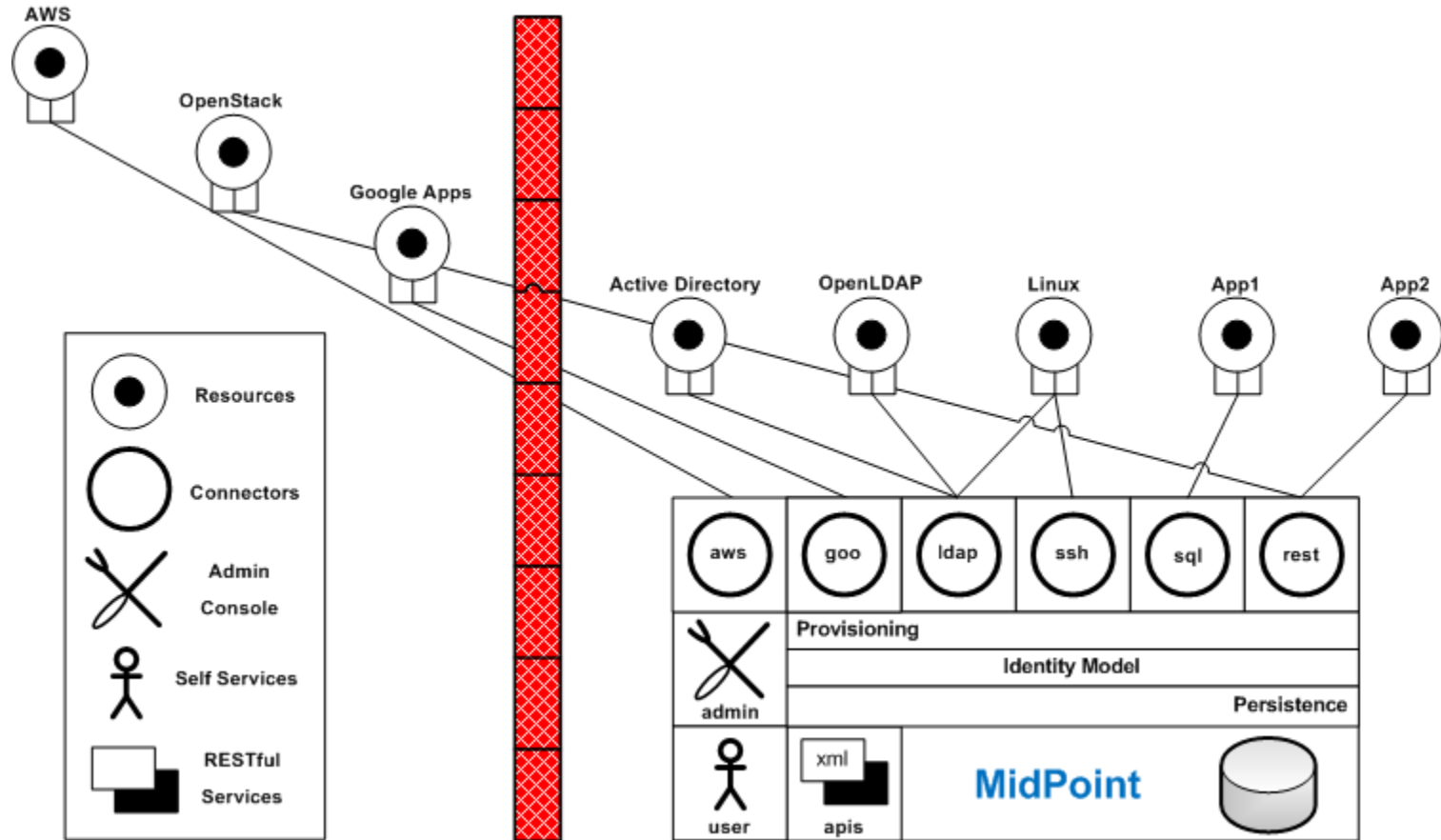
And Still More

- Additional target systems, applications, monitoring
- Handling changes made outside mediator

And Still More

- Additional target systems, applications, monitoring
- Handling changes made outside mediator
- Network crashes, ...

Midpoint (mediator)



Use Cases

Manage a large cluster of machines for a technology company with 100 employees and 100,000 customers.

Overview

- Using Debian and Redhat systems
- Deploys into the cloud
- Maintain strict control

Demo User to Role to Machine

<----- Set 1 -----> <----- Set 2 -----> <----- Set 3 ----->

| User-Role-Machine | m1001 | m1002 | m1003 | m2010 | m2020 | m2030 | m3100 | m3200 | m3300 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Curly | Admin | Admin | Admin | | | | | | |
| Moe | | | | Auditor | Auditor | Auditor | | | |
| Larry | | | | | | | User | User | User |

Demo Intro

- Create new machine
- Nothing up my sleeve



Use Case 1

Create a New Machine

- Assigns Users to Machine and Security Groups
- Log onto new machine



Curly

Use Case 2

Assign User to Role

- Add to Security Role
- Add to Machine Groups
- Delegated Admin
- Self service



Moe

Use Case 3

Deassign User Role

- Remove User from Machine and Security Groups



Larry

Use Case 4

Remove a Machine

- Deletes the Machine Group from LDAP

Use Case N

- Approvals
- Temporal based assignments
- Audit trail

Wrap-up

- Built on Open Source Solutions
- Cookbooks published soon
- There is no security without identity management. -- Radovan Semancik

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