

When to Synchronize, Virtualize and Federate data in the Enterprise

When to Synchronize Data:

- To provide the automated provisioning and de-provisioning of users from HR to AD, Exchange and other disparate systems.
- For automated hire/fire scenarios and workflow data updates.
- To maintain/update attributes from HR (i.e. name changes, title, phone) to other systems.

When to Duplicate Data:

- To create user accounts on disparate systems such as AD, UNIX, Mainframe, etc.
- For legacy applications that are not LDAP enabled and require a copy of data.
- When direct access to systems is not physically available or feasible.
- ✚ **NOTE:** Duplicate identities **ONLY** when absolutely required. The greater the number of identities/directories, the greater the *Total Cost of Ownership*.
- ✚ **If an identity exists in a given platform (i.e. LDAP/Active Directory) there should be no need to create another copy of this identity. – Join/connect to it directly.**

When to Federate Data:

- When working across security boundaries such as with business partners or other external entities for authentication/authorization.

When to Virtualize Data:

- When access is needed in real-time (latency of synchronization is not acceptable)
- To provide a real-time proxy authentication to multiple systems
- For data translations/transformations; a virtual directory is a black box between physical storage and the applications
- When the volume of data becomes too large to synchronize
- For data leakage prevention (DLP) by only providing the data an application requires
- To reduce the number of passwords that need to be synchronized/maintained
- To increase the performance of Active Directory
- To increase the performance of applications that leverage Active Directory
- To increase security on the data within Active Directory (or other data systems)
- To provide auditing and compliance across all applications, without modifying the applications.
- To provide an abstraction layer to the back end data stores
- To increase the reach of new technologies such as Geneva (extends claims beyond AD and SQL)
- To enable LDAP only applications to become “claims aware” (Geneva)
- When legacy LDAP enabled applications can only connect to a single LDAP
- When applications only support a particular LDAP directory

- **LDAP Proxy Server to Active Directory:** A primary benefit of an HTTP proxy server is that it increases security for web applications. *The Virtual Identity Server provides this same benefit for Active Directory and other data repositories.*
- **Views to Active Directory:** Database views provide multiple “views” of the same physical database structure. This provides flexibility for applications who may need to see the same data in a different format. *The Virtual Identity Server provides this same benefit for Active Directory and other data repositories.*
- **Data Leakage Prevention:** Leveraging views, applications receive only the data they need. No more, no less.
- **Firewall to Active Directory:** VIS can provide monitoring and auditing of activity that is happening via LDAP. It can also be used to analyze LDAP enabled applications for performance and efficiency.
- **Real-time Merging of Data:** VIS can provide a merged, real-time view of data across multiple backend systems. Multiple domains and/or forests can be merged without forest trusts.
- **Real-time Joining of Data:** VIS can combine data on like objects from across multiple backend systems. For example, a user in Active Directory may have other attributes about him/her in another system (i.e. SQL) that do not exist in Active Directory. In this case, the user attributes can be merged “virtually” and appear as a single entity to the LDAP application. This eliminates the need to extend the Active Directory schema and synchronize data for the sole purpose of applications.

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Virtual Identity Server

“...The .NET Virtual Directory...”

VIS installs in under 5 minutes