# Precisely Why Organizations Must Use a Virtual Directory by John Ozoa

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A virtual directory is a Technology that allows for user identities from different sources to be centralized and then presented back to calling applications as logical view instead of viewing it separately from multiple identity stores. What makes virtual directory very flexible and portable is its lightweight nature, allowing the data to be consumed by humans in the form of search as well as technologies such as internet services.

A virtual directory is typically constructed using LDAP protocol. The common sources of data that will be obtained by a virtual directory are relational databases, LDAP and internet services. While the typical virtual directories are consist of entitlement and user infomration, they can be extended to have extra user information which includes the history of owned products.

There are lots of advantages that it can give to your virtual directory server. Because of these positive aspects, many organizations are employing it in their own website aside from its efficiency when it comes to accessing information from different sources. The choice and flexibility in integration level by data model or proxy and correlation. It also guarantee levels of performance indepdent from back end systems performance though synchronization technology and advanced caching.

It also has the capacity to leverage any existing investment in authoritative stores of data. It eliminates the demand to make a master enterprise schema because of the delivery of views that are application specific of identity data. It is also effective of allowing a single and consolidated view of identity Data without the regulations that govern identity Data being violated.

Another benefit is the establishmentof identity firewall or LDAP proxy that prevents the denial of service attacks on the main sources of data and offers security on having access to Data that are strictly confidential. Modifcations which will be made in the authoritative sources reflect towards the virtual directory in real time. Lastly, it can guarantee flexibility and scalability to meet current as well as future integration needs. There are lots of virtual directory providers you can find nowadays and the choice you are making could properly depend on the functions they have and the simple use to present.

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