The Important Functions of LDAP Proxy by John Ozoa

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LDAP proxy mainly supports name space handling and accordingly dispatches requests, enforcing fine grain access to control and at the same time secure sources of information from denial of service attacks. It features persistent cache and in memory cache along with failover functions and load balancing. An LDAP proxy comes with a modular and extensible plugin architecture that relies on a transformation engine, virtually allowing any type of transformation and manipulate of data and the creation of new connectors.

Many organizations are using these solutions for many reasons. These are organizations that work an LDAP repository which is partially public, on the intranet side wherein the requests of LDAP client are limited, they can bypass the LDAP firewall, on the internet side, the users must access the repository from the LDAP browser and their right to access will depend on the credential which is being supplied by the end users.

In this case, the LDAP proxy will enforce control on filtering as well as access similar to the way the reverse HTTP proxy would do in the world of internet. The LDAP proxy will require your client to show the X509 certificate and according to the content, several rules will apply. In order that it will offload the LDAP back ends from the task, making them much more secure by filtering any unwanted requests.

Furthermore, managing the rules of the access control on the back end of the LDAP while possible would have been less flexible because the rules of the LDAP access control do not have standard specifications, which makes it difficult for them to navigate from one directory vendor to another.

An LDAP proxy is used by organizations at the same time to deploy in an intranet for some factors. The fist one is to hide the complexity of data repositories. This way, the applications see only the LDAP proxy and they need only to talk LDAP. Another reason is to ease the organization and migrations changes. The schemas of LDAP sometimes change and the information system and organizations merge needs reshaping. Changing every application to take the requirements into consideration would demand plenty of planning and work.

At this point, the LDAP proxy will act as a dispatch and transformation engine in your VDS that will hide from the applications the changes in data organization all over the repositories making them almost seamless.

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