

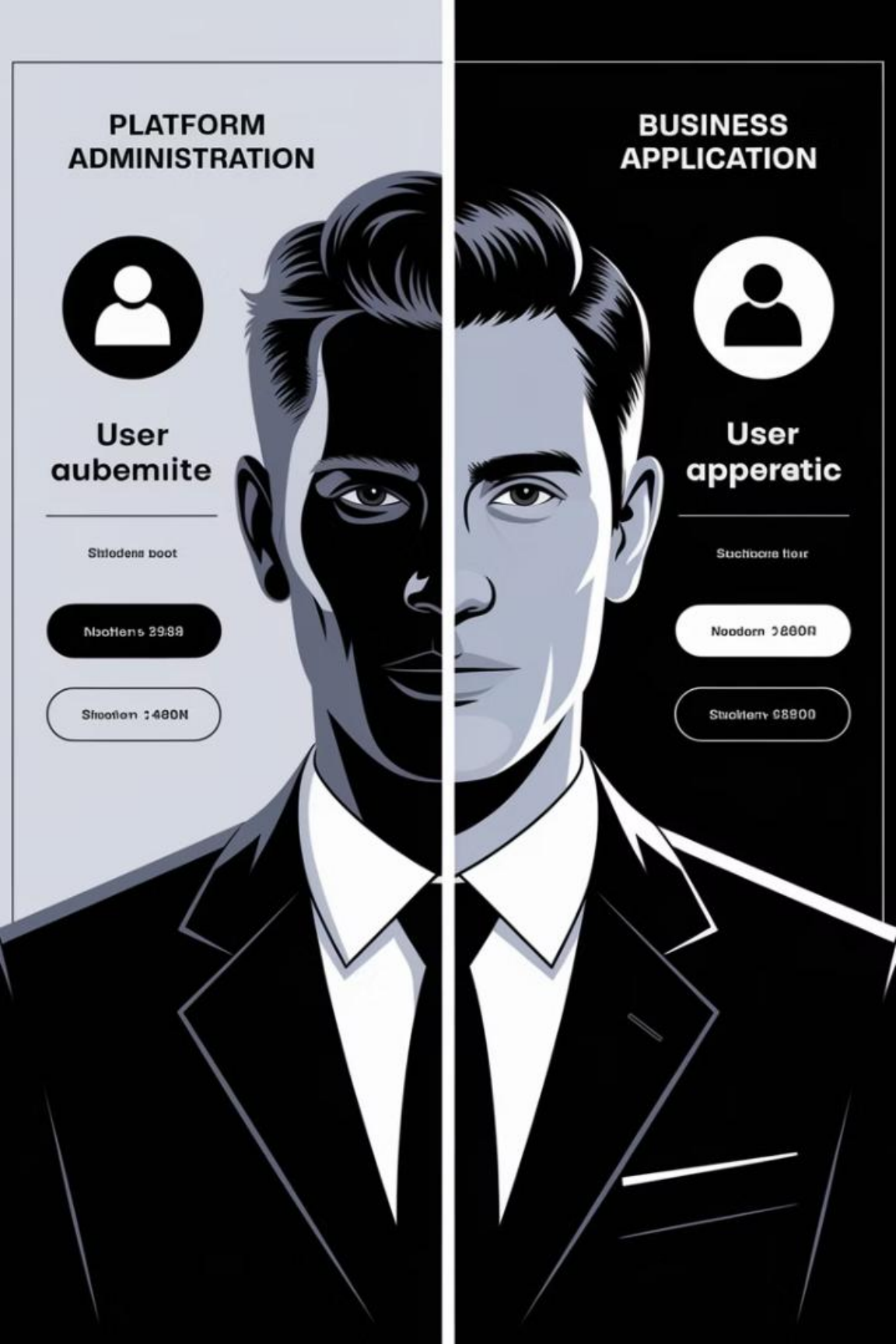


Types of Identity Providers in SAP BTP

We'll examine how these identity providers serve different user groups and explore the key characteristics that distinguish them from one another. By the end of this presentation, you'll have a clear understanding of how identity management works in SAP BTP.



por **Mayko Silva**



Main Types of Identity Providers

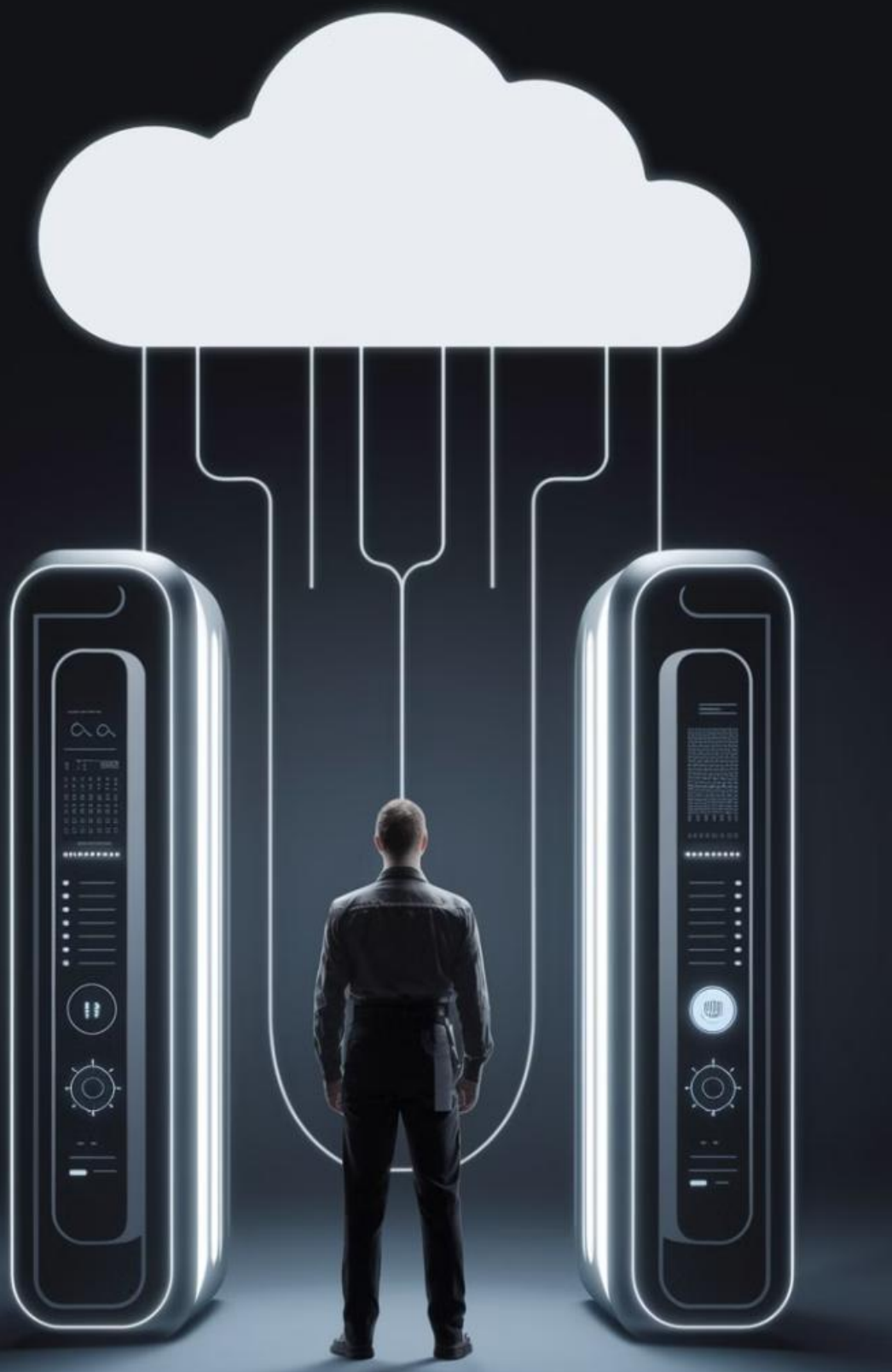
Platform Identity Providers

These identity providers manage authentication for administrative and development users who need access to the SAP BTP platform itself. They control access to the subaccount and related management functions.

Application Identity Providers

These identity providers authenticate end users who access applications running on SAP BTP. They manage the larger population of business users who interact with your deployed applications.

Understanding the distinction between these two types is crucial for implementing proper security governance and user management in your SAP BTP environment.



Platform Identity Providers - Overview

1

The Gatekeeper Role

Platform identity providers function as the gatekeepers for your SAP BTP administration, controlling who can access and manage your subaccount resources.

2

Administrative Access

They provide the user base specifically for accessing and managing the subaccount itself, including configuration, deployment, and monitoring activities.

3

Limited User Population

The user population managed by platform identity providers is typically smaller, consisting primarily of IT administrators, developers, and platform operators.



Platform Identity Provider Characteristics



Subaccount Access

Provides the user base specifically for accessing the subaccount and its administrative functions within SAP BTP.



Tool Integration

Used for authentication in the SAP BTP cockpit, various development tools, and command line interfaces used for platform management.



Default Configuration

By default, the SAP ID service is used as the platform identity provider when setting up a new subaccount.



Platform Identity Provider Characteristics (continued)

1

Default: SAP ID Service

Initially, subaccounts are configured to use the SAP ID service as the platform identity provider, which is suitable for getting started quickly.

2

Optional: Identity Authentication

Optionally, you can configure an Identity Authentication tenant, which leverages the Identity Authentication service for more advanced identity management capabilities.

3

User Population

The users managed in the platform identity provider are typically administration and development users who need privileged access to the platform.

Application Identity Providers - Overview

Larger User Base

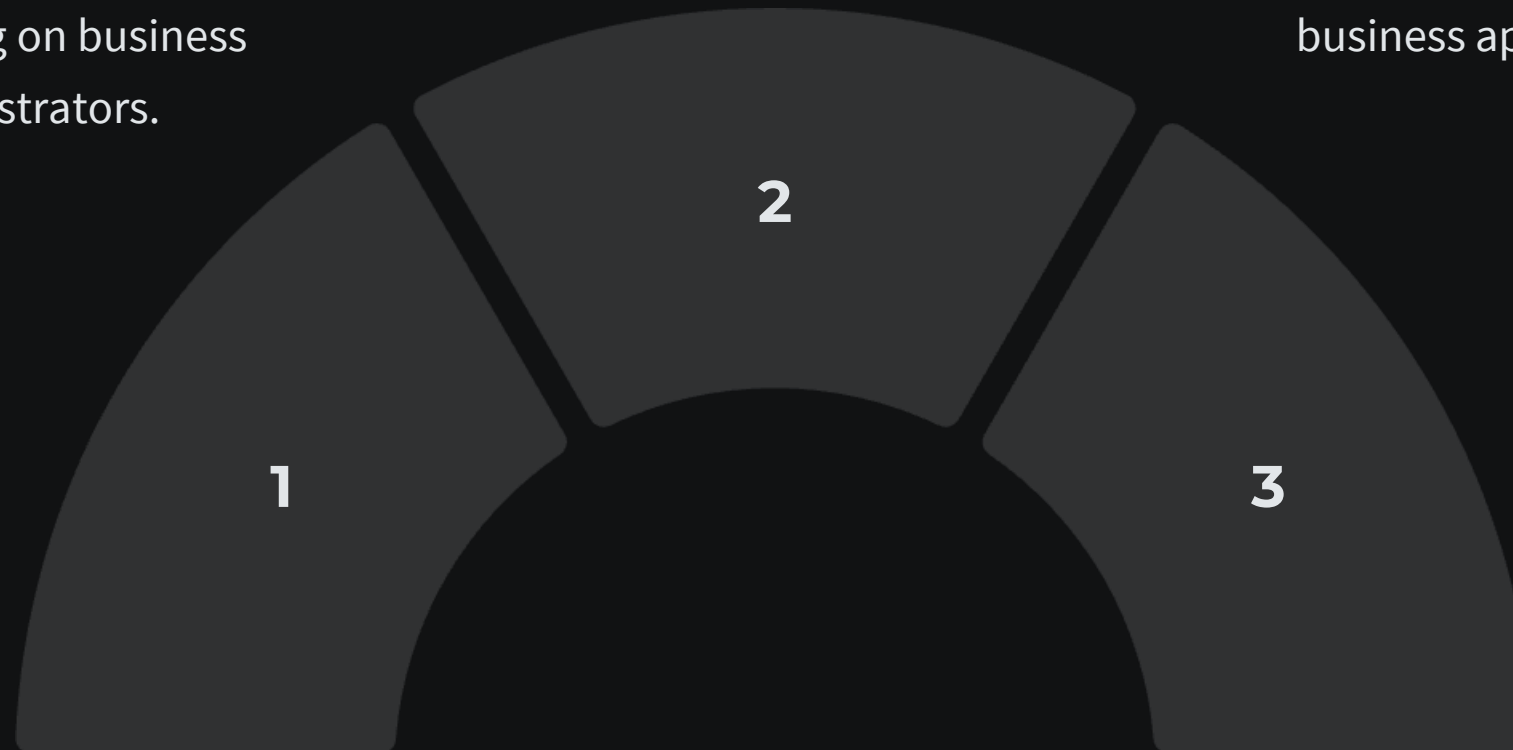
They typically manage a much larger population of users compared to platform identity providers, often including all employees or customers.

Business Application Focus

These providers are specifically designed to support the authentication needs of business applications rather than platform administration.

End User Authentication

Application identity providers authenticate the users or consumers of applications running on SAP BTP, focusing on business users rather than administrators.



Application Identity Provider Characteristics

Application Access

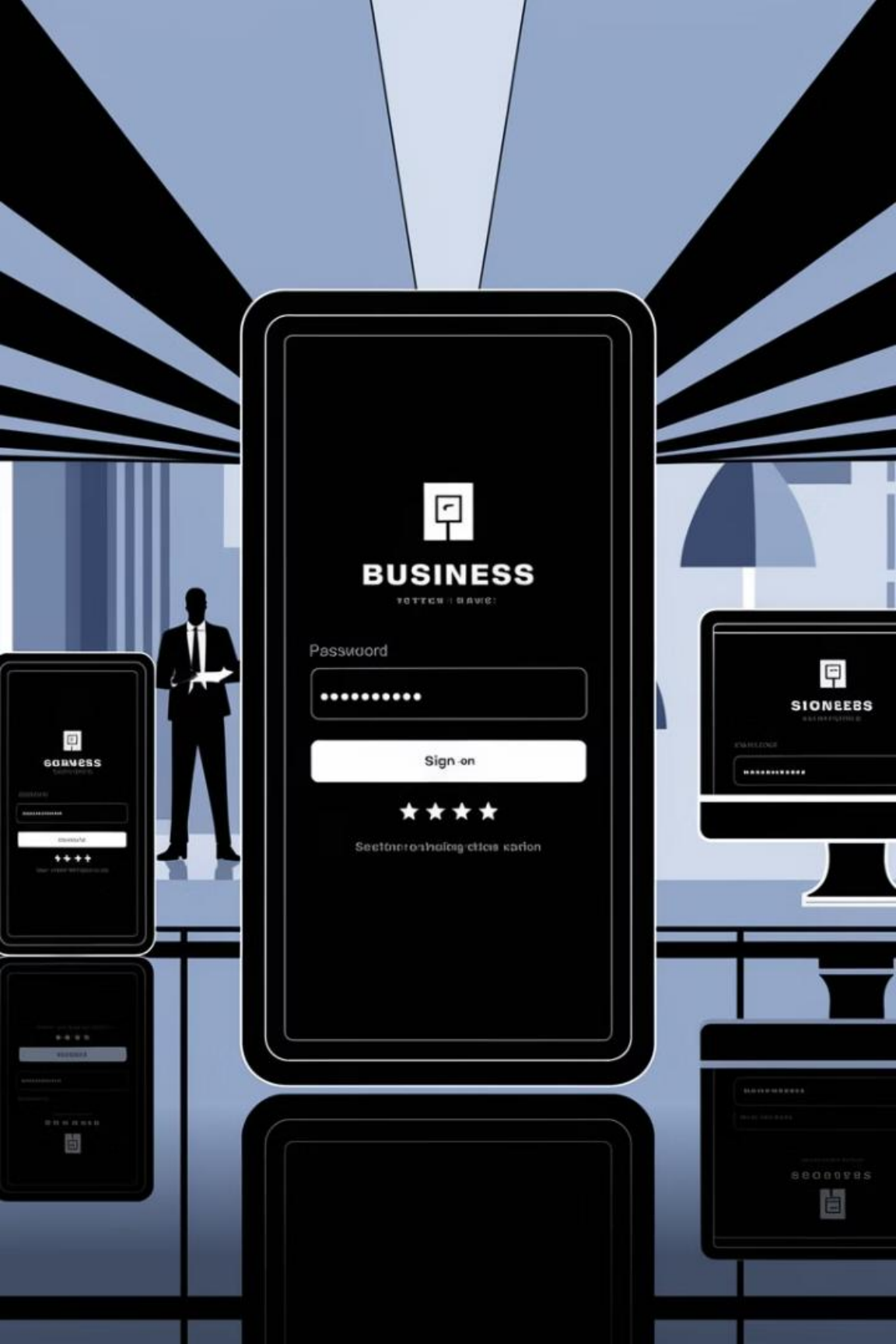
Provides the user base specifically for accessing applications deployed in a subaccount of SAP BTP, focusing on business functionality.

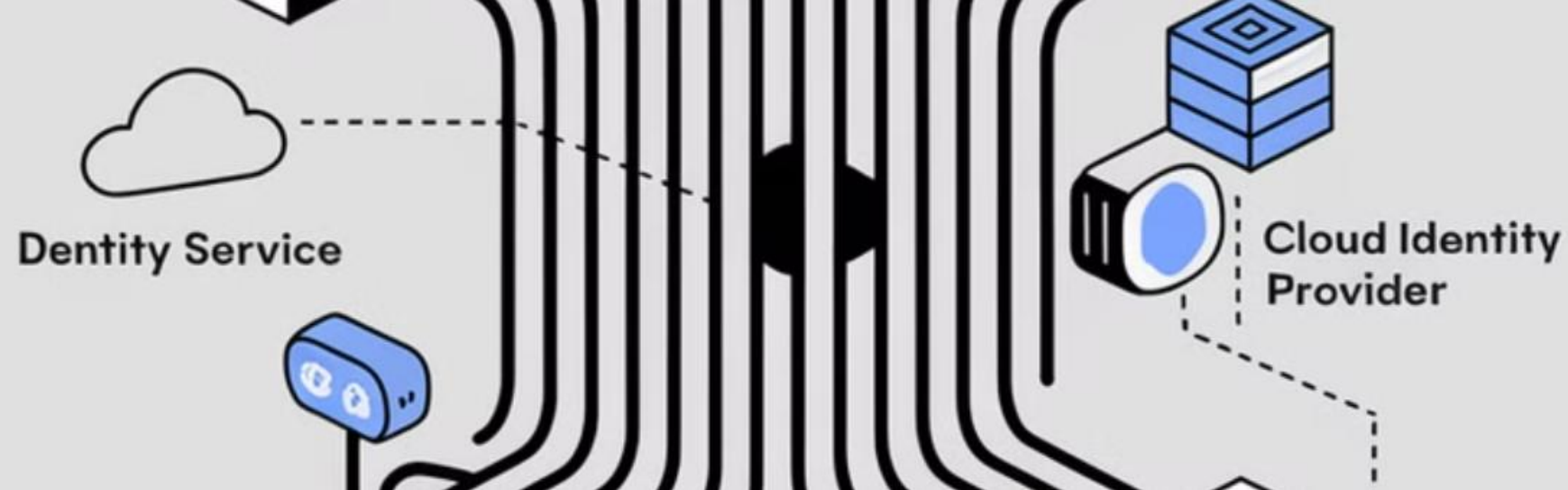
Interface Integration

Used for authentication when accessing user interfaces, user tools, and for secure application-to-application communication scenarios.

Default Configuration

By default, the SAP ID service is used as the application identity provider, similar to the platform identity provider setup.





Application Identity Provider Characteristics (continued)

1

Default Option

SAP ID service is the default application identity provider when setting up a new subaccount in SAP BTP.

2

Additional Options

Unlike platform identity providers, you can optionally use the Identity Authentication tenant OR integrate with a third-party corporate identity provider.

3

User Population

The users managed with the application identity provider are typically end users of your business applications, representing a larger user base.

Real-World Implementation Insights

Corporate Identity Integration

In most enterprise scenarios, companies prefer to leverage their existing corporate identity provider for application users. This approach simplifies the user experience by allowing employees to use their familiar corporate credentials.

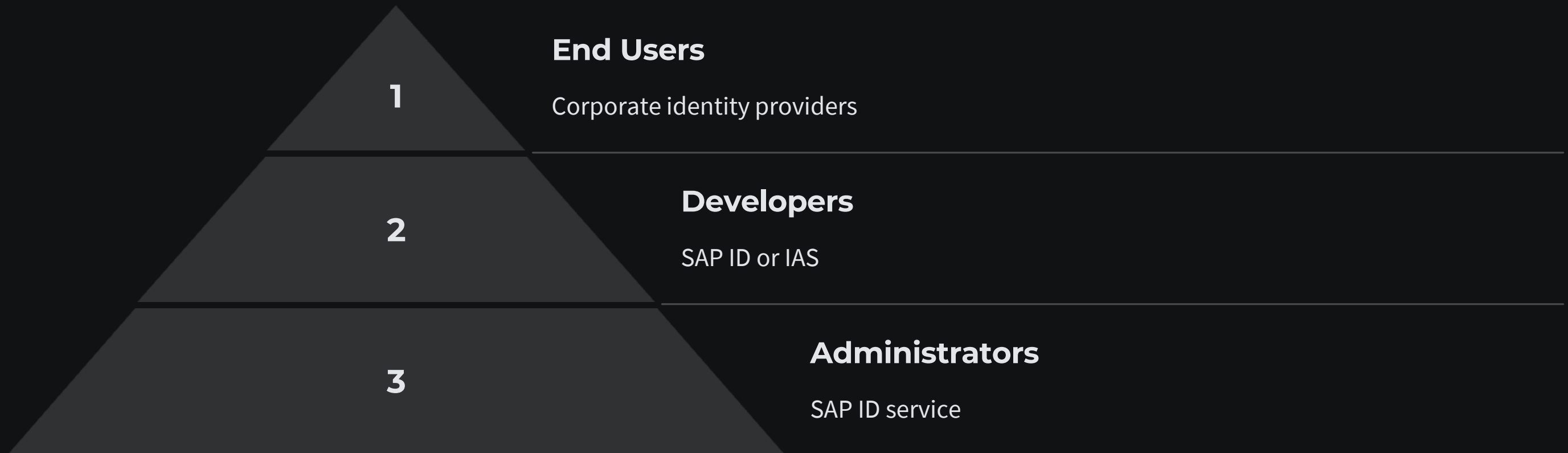
Single Sign-On Benefits

Integrating with corporate identity providers enables single sign-on capabilities, reducing the need for users to remember multiple sets of credentials for different applications within the organization.

Streamlined User Management

Using existing identity providers simplifies user lifecycle management, as user provisioning and deprovisioning can be handled through established corporate processes.

Admin vs. End User Authentication Approaches



For administrative and development users, many organizations prefer using SAP's provided identity services, either the SAP ID service or the Identity Authentication service. These specialized users are typically fewer in number and have specific platform access requirements.

This separation of authentication mechanisms allows organizations to maintain tighter control over administrative access while providing a seamless experience for end users through corporate identity integration.

Important Considerations

1

Platform Provider Limitations

Limited to SAP ID or IAS

2

Application Provider Flexibility

Supports custom providers

3

Strategic Planning Required

Choose providers carefully

When implementing identity management in SAP BTP, it's crucial to understand that platform identity providers offer limited options - you can use either the SAP ID service or the Identity Authentication service.

In contrast, application identity providers offer greater flexibility, including the option to integrate with custom corporate identity providers. This difference requires careful planning when designing your overall identity management strategy.

The image shows two digital screens in a modern office setting. The screen on the left has a dark blue background with the text 'Platform Identity Management' in white. The screen on the right has a light blue background with the text 'Application Identity' in dark blue. A green plant is visible in the background between the two screens.

Platform Identity
Management

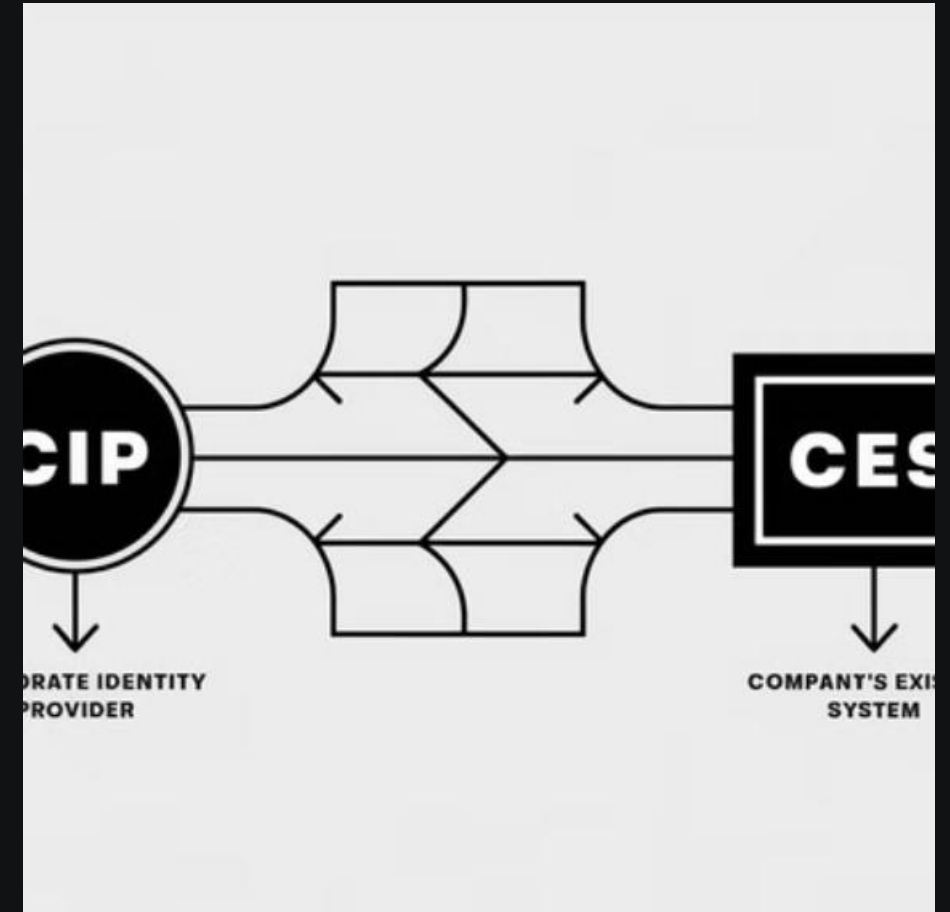
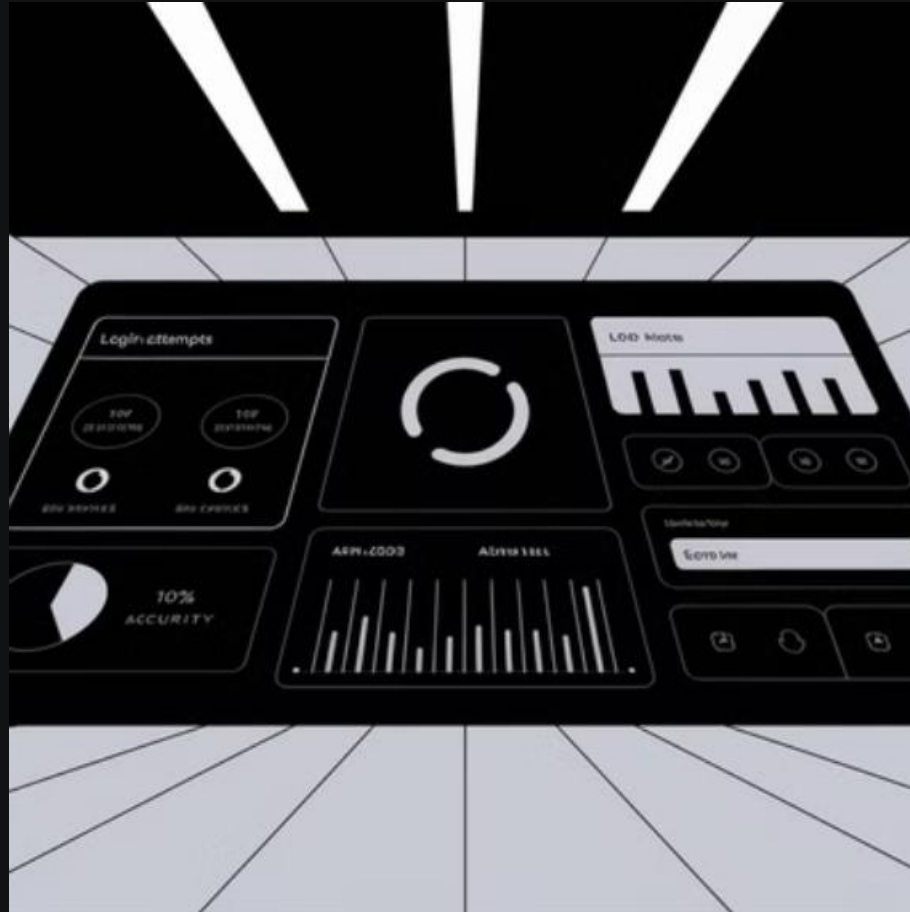
Application
Identity

Summary - Key Differences

Aspect	Platform Identity Providers	Application Identity Providers
User Type	Administrative and development users	End users of applications
Available Options	SAP ID service or Identity Authentication	SAP ID, Identity Authentication, or custom providers
Default Configuration	SAP ID service	SAP ID service
User Population Size	Smaller (administrators, developers)	Larger (all business users)

Understanding these key differences helps in planning your identity management strategy for SAP BTP implementations, ensuring appropriate security controls while maintaining user experience.

Next Steps



In our next lesson, we'll examine the supported identity provider options in more detail. We'll explore the SAP ID service, which serves as the default identity provider for both platform and application authentication scenarios.

We'll also dive deeper into the Identity Authentication service, understanding its advanced capabilities and configuration options. Finally, we'll investigate how to integrate custom identity providers for application authentication, including best practices and common challenges.

This deeper exploration will provide you with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about identity provider selection for your SAP BTP implementation.