

## 8.1 Concepts

Such a directory is typically a hierarchical database containing entities called records with attributes. Typically, a hierarchical database identifies its entities by both location in the hierarchy and unique feature in that hierarchical grouping. Examples of this structure are MS Windows' registry and OSX's Netinfo directory. One feature provided by Apple's Directory Services to developer are pseudo-nodes, and many of these can be used. Pseudo-nodes are allowed to query for authentication information, users, groups, and aliases. Writing is a privileged activity which requires authentication as that privileged entity.

Data structures with Open Directory and Directory Services are as follows:

- type names start with the prefix “t”
- field names start with the prefix “f”
- function names start with the prefix “ds”
- List like structures are indexed starting at one.