

LDAP Access Using JNDI

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What is JNDI?

- JNDI stands for Java Naming and Directory Interface
- JNDI is not limited to accessing LDAP data stores:
 - CORBA name services
 - RMI registry
 - Filesystem items
 - ...anything for which a service provider interface is written



What is LDAP?

- LDAP stands for Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
- LDAP is the protocol, but is often used to include the datastore.
- It is "lightweight" compared to X.500 directory services
- LDAP was born at the University of Michigan in 1992



Presentation Roadmap

- LDAP
 - Directory services What they are well-suited and not well-suited for
 - LDAP internal structures schemas, ASN.1, types
 - LDIF export/import
- JNDI
 - Accessing LDAP
 - Storing objects in LDAP





What are Directories?

- Directories are data stores that categorize and describe resources that people want access to. Offline directories include:
 - Phone books
 - Library card catalog
 - "TV Guide"
 - etc.



What are Directories? (cont.)

- Online directories have similar characteristics:
 - Tend to be hierarchical in organization.
 - Heavily read-oriented compared to write-oriented.
- Improvements over offline directories:
 - Dynamic
 - Powerful search capabilities





Differences with RDBMS

- Directories are specialized databases. The backing store can be relational. However, they differ:
 - Huge read over write ratio
 - Typically more easily extended
 - Typically more distributed
 - Typically more replication
- Not all databases should be LDAP-accessible datastores



Terminology

- DIT Directory Information Tree
 - LDAP is a hierarchical datastore with nodes in a tree. The logical DIT may span multiple systems within a network, just as a single logical filesystem in Unix may span multiple system with NFS.
- DN Distinguished Name
 - The fully-qualified name. Names in LDAP are reversed from filesystem names in that the most granular name is first, not last.



Distinguished Name

In a filesystem:

/usr/local/bin/bash

The root of the tree is listed first and the leaf node is listed last.

A DN in LDAP:

The root of the tree is listed last.



Terminology

- RDN Relative Distinguished Name
 - Partially-qualifed name relative to a node in the DIT
 - Same concept as a relative name in a filesystem
- Schema
 - Describes the content that can be contained in a entry (aka "node") in the DIT
 - How the data should be treated during search (e.g. collating sequences, binary vs. character, case-sensitive, etc.)



Entry Contents

- An "entry" is a node in the Directory Information Tree (DIT).
- An entry is composed of name/value pairs called "attributes".
- Any entry can be a leaf node or a container unlike a filesystem which distinguishes containers (i.e. directories) from leaf nodes (i.e. files)



Entry Contents (cont.)

- An entry is defined by its "object class", which defines the allowable attributes within that entry.
- The object class is defined as an entry in the schema.
- You should be confused by now. Some examples...



Distinguished Name Example

- DN:
 - uid=glm@hilbertinc.com, ou=Employees, dc=hilbertinc, dc=com
- In tree form:

```
dc=hilbertinc,dc=com
  ou=Employees
  uid=glm@hilbertinc.com
```

Note that the DN is reversed from filesystem naming, but consistent with other naming schemes such as DNS.



Attributes Example

Set of name/value pairs as follows:

```
dn: uid=glm@hilbertinc.com, ou=Employees, dc=hilbertinc, dc=com
objectClass: inetOrgPerson
cn: Gary Murphy
givenName: Gary
sn: Murphy
uid: glm@hilbertinc.com
telephoneNumber: 913-780-5051
facsimileTelephoneNumber: 913-829-2450
street: 13632 S. Sycamore Dr.
postalAddress: 13632 S. Sycamore Dr.$Olathe, KS$66062
postalCode: 66062
homePhone: 913-780-5051
homePostalAddress: 13632 S. Sycamore Dr.$Olathe, KS$66062
initials: glm
mail: glm@hilbertinc.com
```





Objectclass Example

- The objectclass attribute names the schema entry, which defines the valid attributes and the attribute types.
- The object class in the example is inetOrgPerson
- The schema entry for inetOrgPerson follows...



inetOrgPerson

```
objectclass (2.16.840.1.113730.3.2.2
  NAME 'inetOrgPerson'
    DESC 'RFC2798: Internet Organizational Person'
  SUP organizational Person
  STRUCTURAL
    MAY (
         audio $ businessCategory $ carLicense $ departmentNumber $
         displayName $ employeeNumber $ employeeType $ givenName $
         homePhone $ homePostalAddress $ initials $ jpegPhoto $
         labeledURI $ mail $ manager $ mobile $ o $ pager $
         photo $ roomNumber $ secretary $ uid $ userCertificate $
         x500uniqueIdentifier $ preferredLanguage $
         userSMIMECertificate $ userPKCS12 )
```

inetOrgPerson – Object ID

```
(2.16.840.1.113730.3.2.2
objectclass
  NAME 'inetOrgPerson'
    DESC 'RFC2798: Internet Organizational Person'
  SUP organizational Person
  STRUCTURAL
    MAY (
         audio $ businessCategory $ carLicense $ departmentNumber $
         displayName $ employeeNumber $ employeeType $ givenName $
         homePhone $ homePostalAddress $ initials $ jpegPhoto $
         labeledURI $ mail $ manager $ mobile $ o $ pager $
         photo $ roomNumber $ secretary $ uid $ userCertificate $
         x500uniqueIdentifier $ preferredLanguage $
         userSMIMECertificate $ userPKCS12 )
```



Object ID Registration

- Object Ids are assigned by IANA and should be globally unique.
- Free and easy to get an enterprise number
- http://www.iana.org/cgi-bin/enterprise.pl
- This is the same application for MIB/SNMP numbers, so don't let that confuse you.
- All will start with: 1.3.6.1.4.1
- Hilbert Computing, Inc. is 11993. Don't use mine!

inetOrgPerson – MAY & MUST

```
objectclass (2.16.840.1.113730.3.2.2

NAME 'inetOrgPerson'

DESC 'RFC2798: Internet Organizational Person'

SUP organizationalPerson

STRUCTURAL

MAY (

audio $ businessCategory $ carLicense $ departmentNumber $ displayName $ employeeNumber $ employeeType $ givenName $ homePhone $ homePostalAddress $ initials $ jpegPhoto $ labeledURI $ mail $ manager $ mobile $ o $ pager $ photo $ roomNumber $ secretary $ uid $ userCertificate $ x500uniqueIdentifier $ preferredLanguage $ userSMIMECertificate $ userPKCS12 )

)
```



inetOrgPerson – Inheritance

```
(2.16.840.1.113730.3.2.2
objectclass
  NAME 'inetOrgPerson'
    DESC 'RFC2798: Internet Organizational Person'
  SUP organizationalPerson
  STRUCTURAL
    MAY (
         audio $ businessCategory $ carLicense $ departmentNumber $
         displayName $ employeeNumber $ employeeType $ givenName $
         homePhone $ homePostalAddress $ initials $ jpegPhoto $
         labeledURI $ mail $ manager $ mobile $ o $ pager $
         photo $ roomNumber $ secretary $ uid $ userCertificate $
         x500uniqueIdentifier $ preferredLanguage $
         userSMIMECertificate $ userPKCS12 )
```

inetOrgPerson - Inheritance

The inetOrgPerson objectclass has an inheritance hierarchy. Inheritance similar to OO class hierarchies:

```
person
organizationalPerson
inetOrgPerson
```

- All MAY and MUST attributes are inherited
- The root class is "top" which is analygous to java.lang.Object
- LDAP supports multiple inheritance



Attribute Schema Entries

- Each objectclass has a schema that defines the attributes that are allowed.
- In addition, each attribute has a schema that describes information about the attribute including its inheritance hierarchy
- One of the attributes of the inetOrgPerson objectclass that was inherited from "person" was the "cn" (common name) attribute. Let's look at the attribute schema for the "cn" attribute.



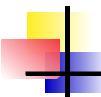
The 'cn' attribute

- CommonName attributetype (2.5.4.3 NAME ('cn' 'commonName') SUP name)Common
- name The parent of Common Name attributetype (2.5.4.41 NAME 'name' EQUALITY caseIgnoreMatch SUBSTR caseIgnoreSubstringsMatch SYNTAX 1.3.6.1.4.1.1466.115.121.1.15{32768})
- The "SYNTAX" defines the elementary datatypes. These are typically hardcoded within a LDAP implementation and include things like "Binary", "Printable String". The {32768} is a length.

LDAP Review

- LDAP is a hierarchical datastore of entries.
- Each entry has a set of attributes which are name/value pairs according to its objectclass.
- Each objectclass is defined in a schema entry
- Each attribute within each objectclass has a schema entry that defines its metadata, such as type and matching rules
- Each attribute has an inheritance hierarchy





LDAP Questions







Accessing LDAP in Java

- There are (at least) two class libraries for accessing LDAP from Java programs:
 - Netscape Java LDAP SDK specific to LDAP. Open source, royalty-free.
 - Java Naming and Directory Interface (JNDI) A generic naming interface that contains an LDAP service provider interface.
- This talk discusses only JNDI.



JNDI Overview

- Java Naming and Directory Interface (JNDI) consists of two architectural components:
 - An object model that serves as the API
 - Service Provider Interface (SPI)
 - LDAP
 - CORBA Common Object Services (COS) name service
 - RMI Registry
 - DNS
 - ... others available via http://java.sun.com/products/jndi/ or from vendors



_JNDI within JDK Releases

- v1.1 Standard extension
- v1.2 Standard extension
- v1.3 Included with: LDAP, CORBA COS Naming, RMI
- □ v1.4 Added DNS
- via download: NIS, filesystem, DSML (Directory Services Markup Language)



Key JNDI Interface Overview

- Context core interface to traverse, searching, etc., objects in the directory
- Name Abstraction over the namespace of the directory
- Bindings Name-to-object relationship within the directory. The "object" is often a Context object.
- Reference Contains information on how to construct a copy of the object in the LDAP store



Context

- A Context is the programming interface for an element in the LDAP.
- A DirContext extends Context to enable access to the Attribute objects within a Context
- An InitialContext is the logical root of the DIT, not necessarily the real root.





Accessing InitialContext

```
protected synchronized void connect(String url)
   throws Exception {
   Hashtable env = new Hashtable();
   env. put (Context. I NI TI AL_CONTEXT_FACTORY,
         com. sun. j ndi . l dap. LdapCtxFactory");
   env. put (Context. PROVI DER_URL,
        "l dap: //l ocal host: 38\overline{9}/dc=hi l berti nc, dc=com");
   env. put (Context. SECURI TY_PRI NCI PAL, "...");
   env. put (Context. SECURI TY CREDENTI ALS. "..."):
   DirContext context:
   try {
      context = new Initial DirContext(env);
      setInitialContext(context);
   catch (NamingException original) {
   return;
```





Accessing Attributes

- Attributes are the name/value pairs associated with a particular context.
- The collection of attributes are accessed via the Attributes interface
- A single attribute is modeled using the Attribute interface.





Accessing Attributes

```
// Selective subset of attributes
String[] passwordAttribute = { "userPassword" };
Attributes passwords =
   getInitialContext().getAttributes(
        "ou=staff, ui d=glm", passwordAttri bute);
NamingEnumeration values = passwords.getAll();
while (values. hasMoreElements()) {
   Attribute attribute = (Attribute) values.nextElement();
   Object value = attribute.get();
   if (value instanceof byte[]) {
      passwordReference. setPassword((byte[]) value);
   el se
   if (value instanceof String) {
      passwordReference.setPassword(((String)value).getBytes());
```



Accessing Attributes – Notes

- Attributes were accessed for an object relative to the initial context.
 - Works better than getting a reference to the DirContext and then getting the attributes from the context
- Attributes may be multi-valued. In that example, there may have been multiple passwords. For single-value attributes:

```
ctx. getAttri butes("ou=ts, ui d=gary"). get("password"). get();
```



Accessing Attributes – Notes

- Attribute.get() returns a java.lang.Object. What is it?
- I suspect it is up to the SPI to return a suitable object. It appears to be either a String or a byte [] depending on whether the data is binary (e.g. certificates, encrypted passwords) or character data, which comprises most of the LDAP data
- A definitive reference would be welcome



Listing Contexts

- Context.list() method will return an enumeration of NameClassPair objects which list a name and an associated class name.
- The name is the name of the context, such as "uid=glm". The class is typically javax.naming.DirContext.

Could it be anything else?



Listing Contexts

- Context.listBindings() method will return an enumeration of Binding objects, which list a name, the class name and the object itself.
- The object is typically an instance of a DirContext.
- This is potentially more expensive since the objects themselves are instantiated.



Creating a Subcontext

```
Attribute objclass = new BasicAttribute("objectclass");
objclass.add("top");
objclass.add("something"); // Must be in the LDAP schema

Attributes attrs = new BasicAttribute(true); // true is case-ignore attrs.put(objclass);

Context subcontext = context.createSubcontext("cn=biff", attrs);
```



Delete a subcontext

context. destroySubcontext("cn=biff");



Modifying Attributes



Searching

- Outstanding Feature of LDAP in general. Robust implementation in JNDI
- Search filters comply with RFC 2254
- Prefix notation expressions like:

must have a surname of "Geisel" and a mail attribute with some value



Searching

```
// Given the name, we need to locate any permission assignments
// to any of the principals

SearchControls controls = new SearchControls();
controls.setSearchScope(SearchControls.SUBTREE_SCOPE);
String filter = "(&(objectClass=hfwPermissionMember)(perm="+logicalName+"))";
NamingEnumeration results = getInitialContext().search("", filter, controls);
while (results.hasMoreElements()) {
    // Since this search is from the initial context, we
    // don't need to worry about whether the results have
    // relative names or not.

SearchResult result = (SearchResult)results.nextElement();
context.unbind(result.getName());
++removed;
} // while
```





Searching

- SearchControls objects can:
 - set attributes returned
 - set number of results returned
 - set time limit for search
 - determine if the objects are returned
- SearchResult contains:
 - the name, attributes as you would expect
 - whether the name is relative





Java Objects

- Java objects can be stored in an LDAP directory in the following ways:
 - Serialized binary stream
 - JNDI References and Referenceable objects
 - Objects with attributes (e.g. DirContext)



Serialization

```
// Create the object to be bound
Button button = new Button("Push me");
// Perform the bind (i.e. store it)
ctx. bind("cn=Button", button);
// Read the object back
Button restored = (Button)ctx.lookup("cn=Button");
```



Ref: JNDI API Tutorial and Reference by Lee & Seligman



Serialization

- Stores the serialized byte stream in the LDAP context
- Major Advantage
 - Very simple to implement
- Major Disadvantage
 - Stored as a stream of bytes, so only Java applications can see the content



Referenceable

- Serialization stores a copy of an object, Reference objects store a reference or "pointer" to the object in a stateful way.
- A Reference is a class name and a list of "addresses" as concrete implementations of the abstract RefAddr class.
- To store an object by its reference, the class must implement the Referenceable interface.



Referenceable Example

```
public class Fruit <u>implements Referenceable</u> {
    String fruit;
    public Fruit(String f) {
     fruit = f;
    public Reference getReference() throws NamingException {
     return new Reference(
         Fruit. class. getName(),
         new StringRefAddr("fruit", fruit),
         FruitFactory. class. getName(),
                           // Factory location
         null);
    public String toString() {
     return fruit:
```



Ref: JNDI API Tutorial and Reference by Lee & Seligman



Referenceable

- Major Disadvantages
 - Classes must implement Referenceable
 - Not appropriate for business objects
 - Objects must know how to bind themselves to LDAP
 - Information useful only to Java objects
- I would be interested in a definitive example of when you would want to use this. I don't get it.



Factories

- Object Factories are used to construct a Java object based on the information in an LDAP context.
- State Factories are used to save the state of a Java object in an LDAP context
- The attributes are available to other applications that query/update the LDAP directory.



Factories

- The Sun LDAP Service Provider implements a factory design pattern:
 - When a object is to be returned via lookup(), search (), listBindings(), etc., the list of available factories have a chance to return an object.
 - If a factory doesn't deal with that context, it returns a null reference.
 - If no factory returns an object, a DirContext object is constructed by the service provider.

Yes, it could be something else!



State Factories

- State Factories take an object, and references to the LDAP objects and create attributes for LDAP.
- Method signatures:

```
public Result getStateToBind(
    Object object,
    Name name,
    Context context,
    Hashtable env,
    Attributes inAttrs) throws NamingException

public Result getStateToBind( // Probably not used for LDAP
    Object object,
    Name name,
    Context context,
    Hashtable env) throws NamingException
```





State Factories

```
[c]
```

```
public Result getStateToBind(Object object, ...
   if (!(object instanceof HPermissionMember)) {
      return null; // This will give another state factory a chance
   Attribute attribute = null:
   Attributes outAttrs = = new BasicAttributes(true); // Case insensitive
   if (null == outAttrs.get("objectclass")) {
      attribute = new BasicAttribute("objectclass", "hfwPermissionMember");
      attribute.add("top");
      outAttrs. put(attribute);
   HPermi ssi onMember member = (HPermi ssi onMember) object;
   String perm = member.getMemberName();
   if (null == perm) {
      throw new Illegal Argument Exception (
        "The member name ... not be a null reference");
   Attribute attribute = new BasicAttribute("hfwPermissionName", perm);
   attributes.remove("hfwPermissionName");
   attri butes. put (attri bute);
   return new DirStateFactory. Result(null, outAttrs);
```



Ref: COM.hilbertinc.security.ldap.factory.HPermissionMemberFactory

LDAP Schema for Example





Using State Factories

- Add all factory class names to the context as a colon-delimited string
- Call the bind() method on the context



Using State Factories

```
String factoryList =
   "COM. hilbertinc. security. ldap. factory. HPermissionMemberFactory: "
  +"COM. hilbertinc. security. ldap. factory. HPermissionListMemberFactory";
String logicalName = "updateCustomer";
String contextName = "cn=permissions, dc=hilbertine, dc=com";
context. addToEnvi ronment (Context. STATE_FACTORIES,
                                                     factoryList);
DirContext codeContext = (DirContext) context.lookup(contextName);
HPermissionMember member = new HPermissionMember(logical Name);
codeContext. rebi nd("perm=". concat(logical Name), member);
codeContext. close();
context. close();
// Creates an LDAP context of the name
       perm=updateCustomer, cn=permissions, dc=hilbertinc, dc=com
// that matches the schema hfwPermissionMember because that was
// objectclass we specified for this object
```



Object Factories

- Object factories get the LDAP context and attributes and creates an object
- Method signatures:

```
public Object getObjectInstance( // Not used with LDAP - no attrs
   Object object,
   Name name, Context context,
   Hashtable env) throws Exception;

public Object getObjectInstance(
   Object object, // Possibly null reference/location information
   Name name, Context context, Hashtable env,
   Attributes inAttrs) throws Exception;
```



Object Factories

```
[c]
```

```
public Object getObjectInstance(Object object, Name name, ...
   // Take a look at the object class attribute and make sure this is of the
   // correct class
   if (null == inAttrs) {
        return null: // Can't be us...
   Attribute objectclass = inAttrs.get("objectclass");
   if (null == objectclass) {
      return null:
   if (!objectclass.contains("hfwPermissionMember")) {
      return null:
   // Construct an instance of the principal with the name from the
   // LDAP entry attribute
   Attribute attribute = inAttrs.get("perm");
   String memberName = (null == attribute) ? null
                                             attribute.get().toString();
   HPermissionMember member = new HPermissionMember(memberName):
   return member;
```

Software Summit

Ref: COM.hilbertinc.security.ldap.factory.HPermissionMemberFactory

LDAP Schema for Example





Using Object Factories

- Add all factory class names to the context as a colon-delimited string
- Use one of the LDAP methods for reading such as listBindings(), search(), lookup(), etc.



Using Object Factories

```
DirContext codeContext = (DirContext) binding.getObject();
// Re-obtain this context as a code source
String factoryList =
   "COM. hilbertinc. security. ldap. factory. HPermissionMemberFactory: "
  +"COM. hilbertinc. security. ldap. factory. HCodeSourceFactory";
context. addToEnvironment(Context. STATE_FACTORIES, factoryList);
CodeSource codeSource = (CodeSource) codeContext.lookup("");
// Iterate through the subcontexts of this code source to
// access the permission references that are associated with
// it
ArrayList permissionNames = new ArrayList();
NamingEnumeration perms = codeContext.listBindings("");
while (perms. hasMoreElements()) {
   Binding permissionBinding = (Binding) perms. nextElement();
   HPermissionMember member
      = (HPermi ssi onMember) permi ssi onBi ndi ng. get 0bj ect();
   permissionNames.add(member.getMemberName());
   } // while more references for a code source
codeContext.close():
```



Ref: COM.hilbertinc.security.metastore.basic.HBasicLdapMetaStore.reloadCodeSource()

JNDI Questions





Time Permitting...

- Hilbert Computing implementation decisions
- Programming notes



Using LDAP for Security

- First use of LDAP was to store the Java 2 security policy objects.
- Implementation at: http://www.hilbertinc.com/security.html



Implementation Decisions

- Create a single factory class that combines state and object factory
 - Saving and restoring object states are symmetrical
 - Methods without attributes always return a null reference since LDAP always wants the overload with attributes
 - Convenience methods
- See COM.hilbertinc.security.ldap.factory.HAbstractFactory





LDAP Programming Problems

- java.lang.ClassCastException
 - If the object factory is not properly identified to the environment, you will get ClassCastException's because JNDI SPI will return DirContext objects instead of your object or conversely, there was a factory that created a specific object instead of the DirContext object that you were expecting.





LDAP Programming Problems

- javax.naming.directory.SchemaViolationException
 - Something in your factory or attributes violated the schema. This can also happen if you have factories that unmarshall to different schemas, but check for the same Java object. For example, if you have two factories that unmarshall a java.lang.String, and both factories are assigned to the context, the wrong factory may be used for your String since the key to using a factory or returning a null reference is typically the class type of the Java object.



LDAP Programming Problems

- javax.naming.NameNotFoundException
 - Typically, this occurs when trying to access an LDAP context that doesn't exist. It can also happen if the state of a Java object is trying to be saved using a JNDI state factory and the factory is not associated with the context.

In OpenLDAP, the error text will have the string:

```
[LDAP: error code 32 - No Such Object]; remaining name 'name'
```





References

JNDI API Tutorial and Reference: Building Directory-Enabled Java(TM) Applications by Rosanna Lee, Scott Seligman Addison-Wesley Pub Co ISBN: 0201705028



Thank You

- Thank you for taking the time to attend this session. I hope it has been helpful
- Fill out the session evaluations. They are helpful to Wayne & Peggy and me.
- Feel free to contact me via e-mail at: glm@hilbertinc.com
- I will be at the conference all week. Feel free to ask any questions that arise after the session.

