

Directory Certification

LDAP Certified

Enterprises store and use information about people for many reasons, including internal communications (telephone and email), staff management (HR), and customer management. Directories are acknowledged as the most effective type of data store for this information.

Ideally, an enterprise should have a single directory that is used by all its directory-enabled applications. This avoids data duplication, and makes it easy to update the information base when people join, leave, or change roles. In reality, a typical enterprise has a number of directories and a number of applications that use them.

When applications and directories are designed with a standard interface, an enterprise can more easily:

- Integrate new applications with existing systems – “Plug-and-Play Infrastructure”
- Implement organizational changes
- Make systems interwork with business partners’ systems
- Achieve “One Directory, Many Uses”

The current *de facto* standard interface between directories and applications is the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP). The Open Group LDAP Certified V2 certification underpins this standard, and enables enterprises to identify and procure interoperable products.

The vendor of an LDAP Certified directory warrants that it conforms to the IETF LDAP Version 3 specifications. The Open Group VSLDAP Test Suite will test this conformance.

Insisting on LDAP Certified products gives an enterprise:

1. Confidence of interoperability
2. Ability to handle change
3. Lower total cost of ownership

Advantages for server vendors

The LDAP server market has moved from an early adopter technology to wider market appeal. Delivering a reliable, high performance product that conforms to standards, rather than functional differentiation, is the key to increasing sales.

Directories are only one of many types of data store that enterprises can use to house information about the people within their organizations.

To sell directories, it is important to establish that directory is the appropriate solution to meet a customer’s requirements for ease-of-management and low total cost of ownership. Directory interoperability is crucial to delivering these benefits to customers.

By obtaining the LDAP Certified mark for their products, server vendors will:

- Demonstrate commitment to and compliance with open standards
- Give customers confidence that their products will work with directory-enabled applications, and deliver the benefits that they expect from LDAP solutions
- Promote the concept of directory interoperability through LDAP, growing the overall market for directory products



Directory Certification

The Open Group Certification

The Open Group's approach is Making standards work[®]. The organization has extensive experience and a long track record in defining and evolving standards, building consensus, and developing best practices as well as operating certification programs and providing certification services to other consortia.

The Open Group ensures that its certification programs are based on industry best practices and clear and well-defined certification policy and processes for achieving and maintaining certification.

Being technology- and vendor- neutral, The Open Group provides the industry with reliable assurance of conformance to standards, and serves as international guarantor of interoperability.

About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and Open Source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service.

Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.

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