

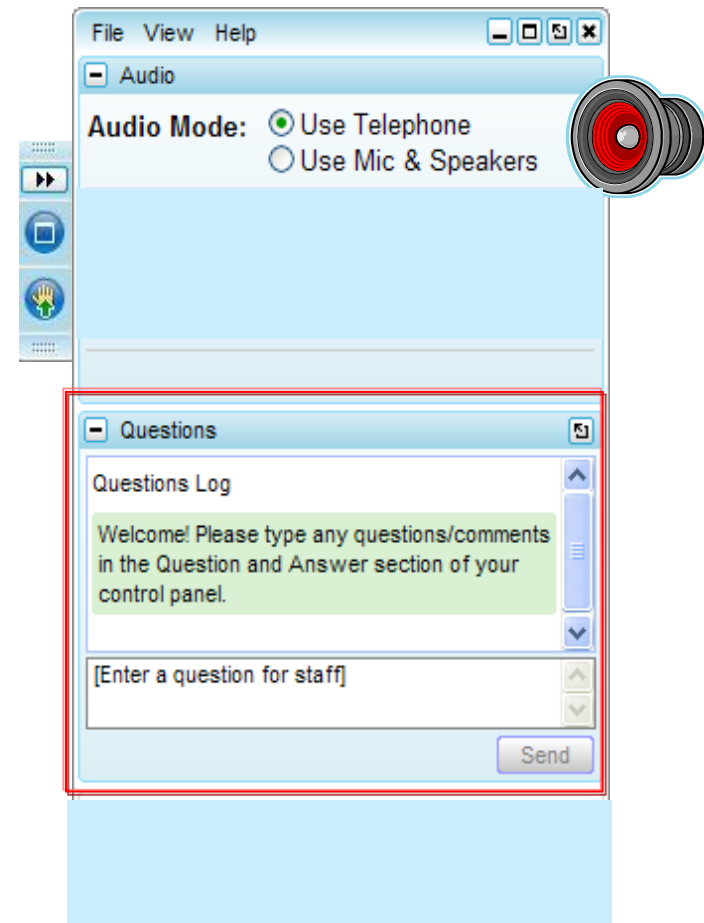
Innovative Plumbing: Five Out-of-the-Box Ideas for Leveraging Your IAM Investment in Unexpected Ways

Perry Carpenter

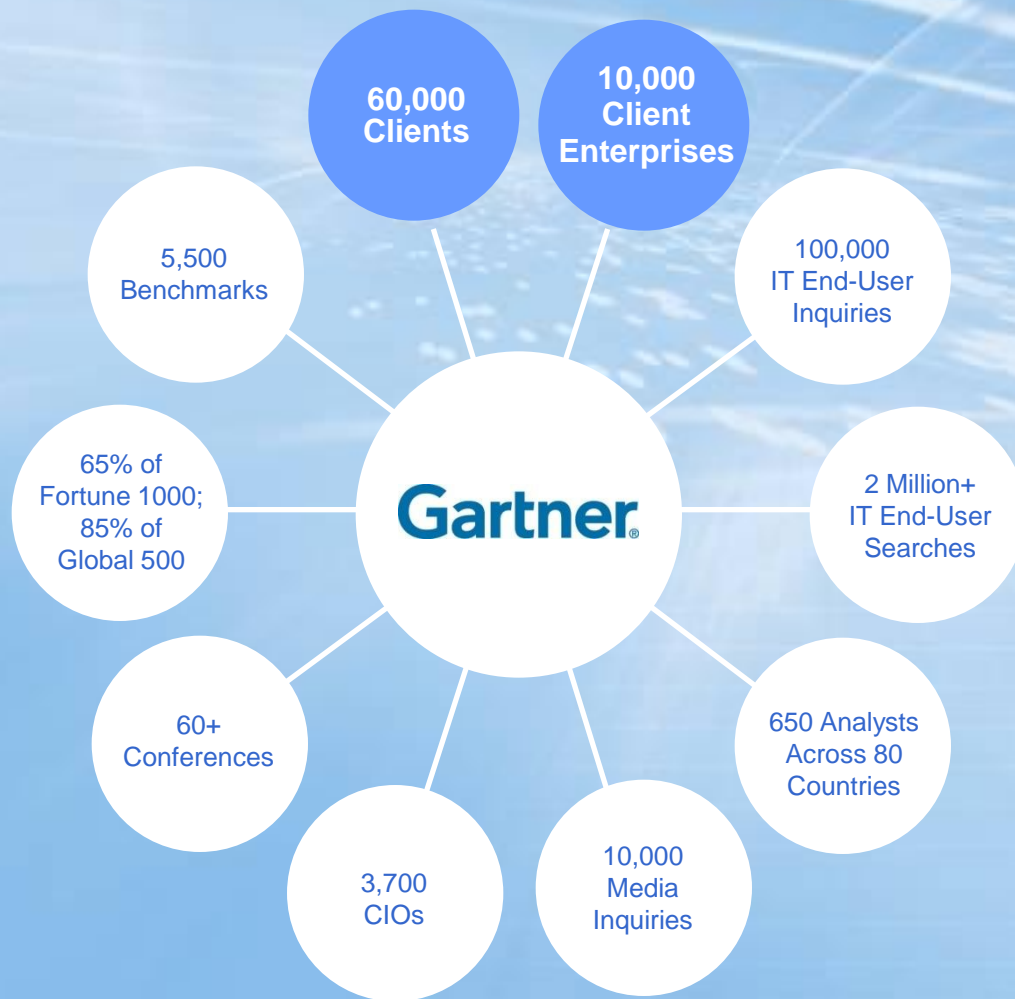
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Poll question—Participate in live research

Has funding for your IAM program stopped or slowed?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

**Please select the option that best fits your situation.
Responses are confidential.**

We Are All Facing "the Crunch"

- The global economy continues to mandate that we spend/purchase/work circumspectly.
- Creative use of what we *currently* own (or are in the process of purchasing) can mean the difference between progress and stagnation.
- Although, in general, large IAM implementations can be costly and time consuming, there are many things that we can do using that technology to achieve short-term "wins."

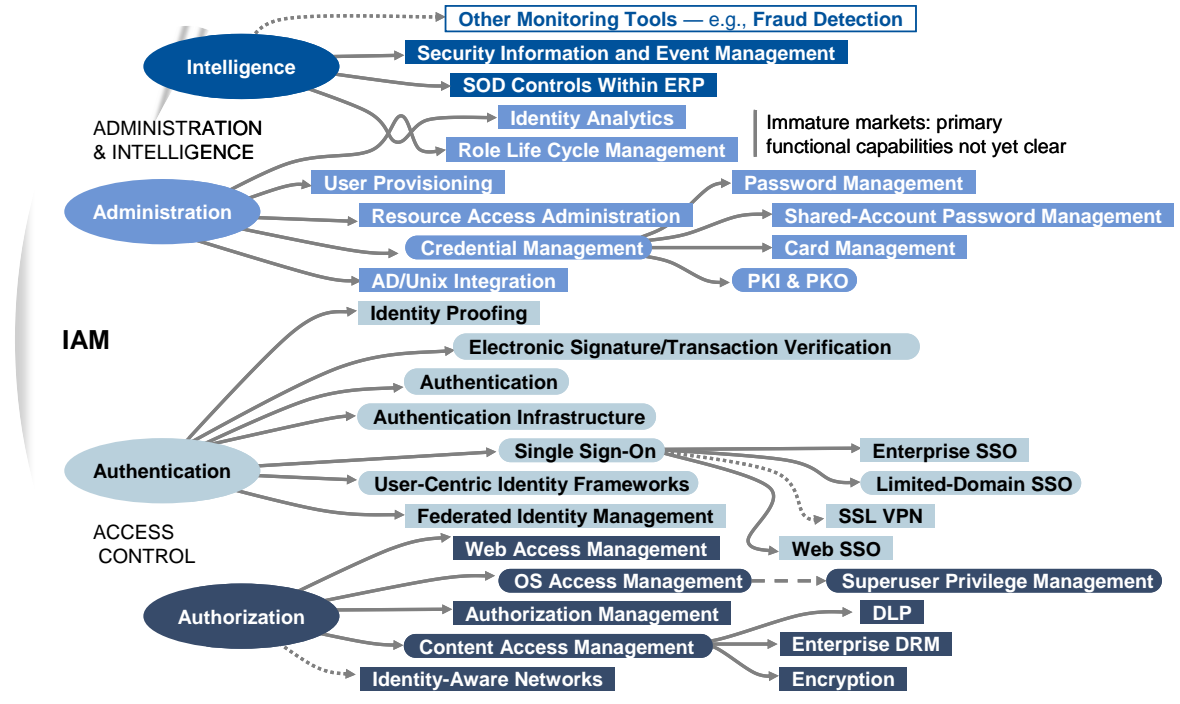


Key Issues

1. What capabilities of your existing IAM investment are unused or underused?
2. How can you best exploit your IAM investment?
3. Not every problem is a nail: How do you determine when you really need to put the hammer aside?

Inventory and Analyze

- What do you **have**?
- What are you in the **midst** of purchasing?
- What does it **do**? (i.e., what can it accomplish functionally?)



	Intelligence		Administration		Authentication		Authorization	
	100% Functional Capabilities	100% Brokerage Capabilities	100% Functional Capabilities	100% Brokerage Capabilities	100% Functional Capabilities	100% Brokerage Capabilities	100% Functional Capabilities	100% Brokerage Capabilities
SIEM	■	■						
User Provisioning	■	■	■	■				
ESSO		■	■			■	■	
Web Access Management		■	■			■	■	■

Poll question—Participate in live research

Have you done an inventory of all IAM-related software within your organization?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

**Please select the option that best fits your situation.
Responses are confidential.**

Key Issues

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Five Ideas for Your Consideration

1. Deploy ESSO as a provisioning map and role "suggestion" tool.
2. Identity graveyard and resurrection pools (using user provisioning).
3. Use a virtual directory or LDAP proxy for low-impact directory migration.
4. Rethink any ID consolidation/migration initiatives that you might be considering — examine the real drivers and architect accordingly.
5. Use a virtual directory and/or LDAP proxy to decrease cycle time for application development.

Idea 1: ESSO to Help With Provisioning and Roles

Suggestion: *Deploy ESSO to help define provisioning target-system priorities and as a role "suggestion" tool.*

Rationale:

ESSO enables users to do their jobs more efficiently. And it also keeps track of what applications they go to (via logs and user profiles).

This data can be mined/analyzed to help you determine what your most used systems are.

It can also be mined to help determine preliminary user groupings or roles.



Idea 2: Save on Directory Licensing Costs With an Identity Graveyard

Suggestion: *Use your provisioning workflow tool to create an "identity graveyard" in a separate directory upon "deprovisioning."*

Rationale:

Many "mainstream" IAM vendors base part of their licensing on the number of users in the corporate directory.

But most companies want to keep identity data for as long as possible (e.g., ID reuse, forensic purposes, etc.).

A number of good open-source and/or third-party directory tools offer an alternative directory for "deprovisioned" identity shell objects.



Idea 3: Virtual Directory or LDAP Proxy for Low-Impact Directory Migration

Suggestion: *Use a virtual directory or LDAP proxy to help with your migration to a new enterprise directory or to help with a directory consolidation project.*

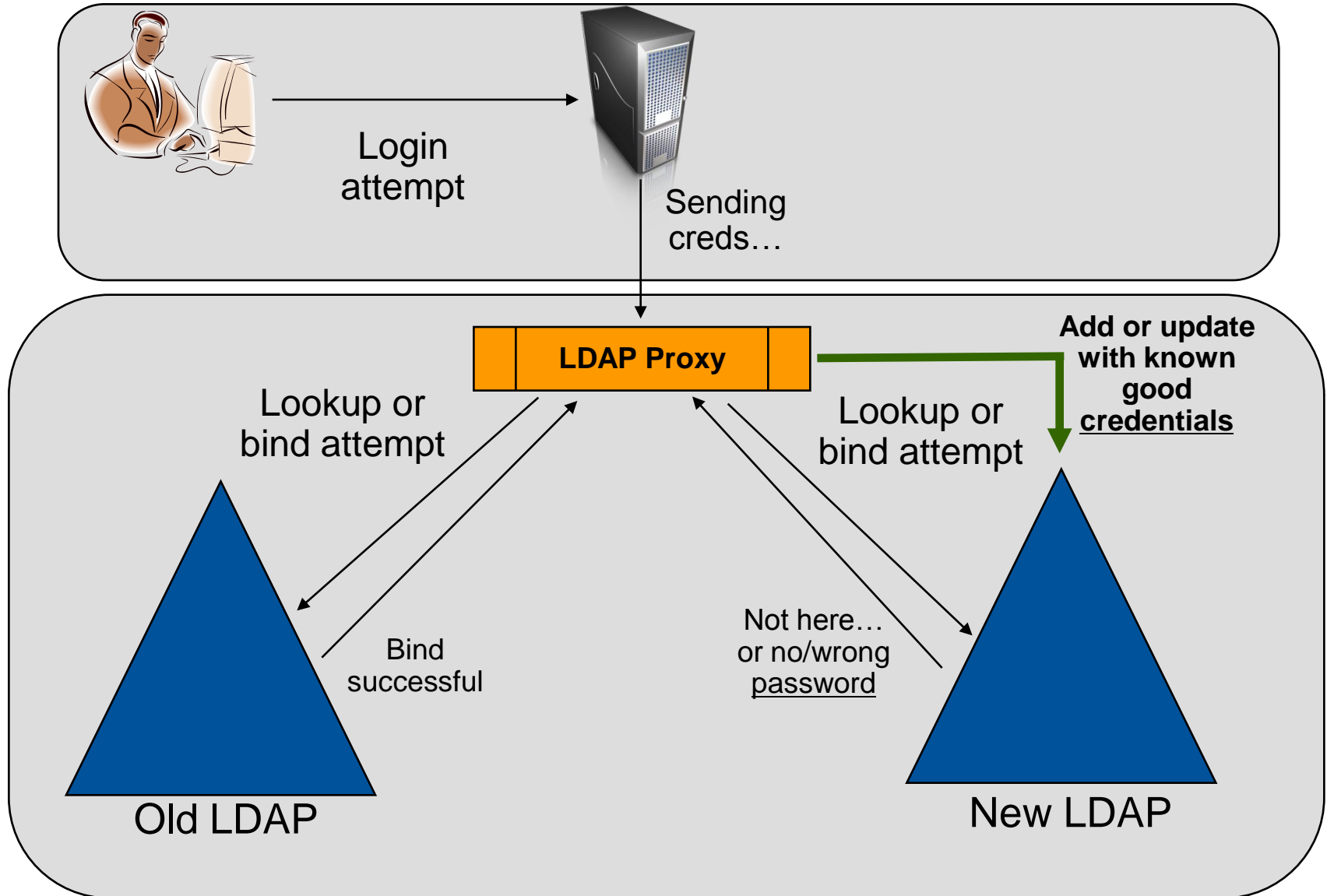
Rationale:

LDAP proxy functionality allows companies to place application scripting at the LDAP interface level. This allows the proxy to do some "behind the scenes" magic, which enables just-in-time directory migration without requiring users to change their current passwords.

After the migration is complete, the old directory can be decommissioned, licenses discontinued, and the hardware freed-up for use in other projects.



Idea 3: Virtual Directory or LDAP Proxy — How It Works



Idea 4: Rethink Any ID Consolidation/Migration Initiatives That You Might be Considering

Suggestion: *If you are thinking about a full-scale ID migration or consolidation project, take a look at the ROI to see if it really makes sense. It is probably better to migrate IDs on a subset of your environment, abstract authentication where possible, and deal with the rest through attrition.*

Rationale:

The driver behind user ID consolidation/migration initiatives is usually related to the auditability of identity data and streamlining administration.

This auditability can be achieved through a combination of SIEM, virtual directories, and AD -> Unix bridging tools (some of which are freely available).

Administrative streamlining can be done through a combination of AD->Unix bridging tools, virtual directories, and ESSO.



Idea 5: Use a Virtual Directory and/or LDAP Proxy to Decrease Cycle Time for Application Development

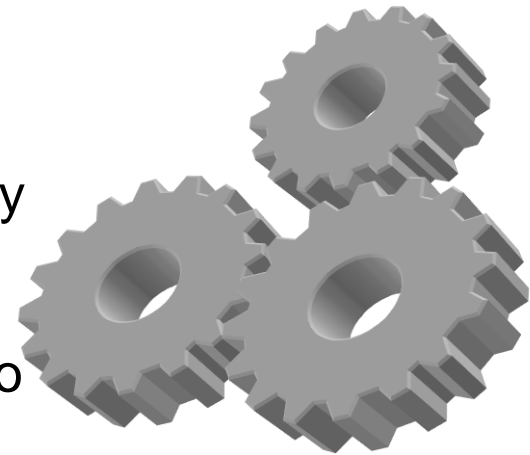
Suggestion: *Use the scripting functionality inherent in virtual directories and LDAP proxies to abstract complex identity logic and data aggregation decisions, thereby enabling application developers to focus on writing business code*

Rationale:

Abstracting identity-related programming/aggregation logic away from the developers will yield greater consistency and predictability in the way that identity data is used/accessed.

Abstracting this data allows developers to focus on writing business-enabling code rather than having to recreate identity/security code each time.

A virtual directory or LDAP proxy may offer a more efficient manner of data aggregation and presentation than is achievable by individual developers working under tight deadlines.



Bonus! Idea 6: Use Your Web Proxy as a Security Awareness Tool

Suggestion: *Your Web proxy doesn't have to just route people to standard pages that tell them that they tried to access content that is counter to your policy. Instead, route them to something constructive!*

Rationale:

Although your Web proxy is not technically an IAM tool, it is something that exists in virtually every enterprise, and some of the decisions that it makes are identity-centric.

Rather than just routing to a page that says, "Porn is blocked!" or "Gambling sites are blocked," send them to your internal security awareness site for an explanation of why certain sites are blocked. Offer content, quizzes and other information to explain and reinforce your security policy.



Poll question—Participate in live research

Are you currently making ‘innovative’ use of any of your IAM-related software?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

**Please select the option that best fits your situation.
Responses are confidential.**

Key Issues

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Think About it Before You Do it!

Just because you *can*...



... doesn't mean you *should*!

Honestly Assess the Situation

- What do you really **need** to accomplish?
 - Is this the **right thing** to do for the **organization**?
 - What is the impact if I **don't** do **x** in the short term?
 - What is the impact if I try to accomplish **x** in a **nontraditional** way?
- Am I trying to accomplish something **cool** or am I working toward something that is **relevant**?
- What is the **longer-term impact** of making this decision?
- Ask yourself, "Am I driving unnecessary **complexity** into the situation?"



Emerging Trends

The Trends

- Project funding is increasingly hard to come by.
- Vendors are demonstrating the interoperability and the applicability of a number of IAM and related technologies across a wide range of use cases.
- Organizations are looking for quick wins to prove the worth of IAM.
- Organizations are being pushed to do more with less.

The Implications

- Many companies already possess a number of the products/components necessary to build out functionality that would be beneficial to their organization.
- Being willing to think "outside the box" by taking a hard look at what you already have may enable you to save time and money, position the IAM team as a responsible corporate citizen, and foster even greater creativity and innovation in the organization.

Action Plan

IAM program managers and leaders should ...

- **Monday Morning**

- It's Monday morning, time to take stock of what you have.
- Look at what you already own (or are about to purchase). Evaluate the product's primary and tertiary feature sets.
- Evaluate your identity-related needs for the next 12 to 18 months.

- **Your Next 90 Days**

- Prioritize your identity-related needs. What can realistically be accomplished through "traditional" methods with the budget that you have?
- What might not be able to be accomplished due to lack of budget (or other factors)?
- Put on your thinking cap, grab a list of what you have, and find a whiteboard!

- **Your Next 12 Months**

- Hopefully you've been able to do something innovative.
- Evaluate what worked and what didn't. Make any necessary adjustments (*or apologies*).
- Rinse and repeat.

Related Gartner Research

- ➔ "Virtual Directories: Where Do They Fit In?" Perry Carpenter, G00168923
- ➔ "Gartner Identity and Access Management Capability Models, 2009" Gregg Kreizman and others, G00166023
- ➔ "Magic Quadrant for User Provisioning" Perry Carpenter, Earl Perkins, G00171056
- ➔ "How to Use 'Visioneering' Principles to Drive a Successful Identity and Access Management Program" Perry Carpenter, G00168932
- ➔ "Hype Cycle for Identity and Access Management Technologies, 2009" Gregg Kreizman and others, G00168849
- ➔ "Toolkit: Identity and Access Management Program Overview Presentation" Ray Wagner, Ant Allan, Earl Perkins, G00159711
- ➔ "A Decision Framework for Initial Identity and Access Management Planning" Earl Perkins, Ant Allan, G00154695

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