EDUCAUSE Southeast Regional Conference
Roundtable: State of the Art on Deploying Directories

Moderator: Larry Conrad, Florida State University

Attendees

Summary
The session was well-attended and it’s clear there is considerable interest in and work-in-progress on LDAP directories, so LDAP served as the focal point for this session.

Most everyone with a directory project underway is following the progress of the Internet2 Middleware Initiative led by Ken Klingenstein at UCAID, the eduPerson standard, and the LDAP Recipe work done led by Michael Gettes at Georgetown. Directories are seen as a key piece of infrastructure that will be needed to improve security, privacy and access at our institutions; support anticipated increased inter-institutional collaboration; and pave the way for follow-on technologies such as PKI.

One of the first things an institution needs to do in preparing for an enterprise directory implementation is to establish a common name space and attendees indicated this can entail some work. Other specific challenges that were raised included:

- Integration of Microsoft Active Directory into a campus-wide directory
  - A bridge mechanism seems to be the way to go at this point
  - The University of Maryland, Baltimore is doing some work in this area
- OpenLDAP vs. Iplanet commercial product—Iplanet is used by a number of institutions, however, the open source product is attracting interest
- Synchronization of passwords across different desktop operating systems
- Directory synchronization tools
  - Need to automate the synchronization process
  - Need to determine how often to synchronize
- None of the participants have separated students vs. staff as part of a directory implementation
- Establishing an adequate authority delegation mechanism helps improve password protection