

Lanka Education and Research Network

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

November 2016

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Overview

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Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

- Introduction

- Open, vendor-neutral, industry standard application protocol for accessing and maintaining distributed directory information services over an Internet Protocol (IP) network
- directory services may provide any organized set of records, often with a hierarchical structure
 - *eg. telephone directory is a list of subscribers with an address and a phone number*
- LDAP is specified in a series of Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Standard Track publications called Request for Comments (RFCs), using the description language ASN.1. The latest specification is Version 3, published as RFC 4511.
- A common use of LDAP is to provide a central place to store usernames and passwords.
- allows many different applications and services to connect to the LDAP server to validate users.
- platform-independent protocol

Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

- Protocol Overview

- Directory System Agent (DSA)

- A client starts an LDAP session by connecting to an LDAP server
 - by default on TCP and UDP port 389
 - The client then sends an operation request to the server, and the server sends responses in return
 - StartTLS — use the LDAPv3 Transport Layer Security (TLS) extension for a secure connection
 - Bind — authenticate and specify LDAP protocol version
 - Search — search for and/or retrieve directory entries
 - Compare — test if a named entry contains a given attribute value
 - Add a new entry
 - Delete an entry
 - Modify an entry
 - Modify Distinguished Name (DN) — move or rename an entry
 - Abandon — abort a previous request
 - Extended Operation — generic operation used to define other operations
 - Unbind — close the connection (not the inverse of Bind)

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- Directory Structure

- usually structured hierarchically as a tree of nodes
- the LDAP directory tree is sometimes referred to as the Directory Information Tree, or DIT
- Each node represents a record, or “entry” in the LDAP database

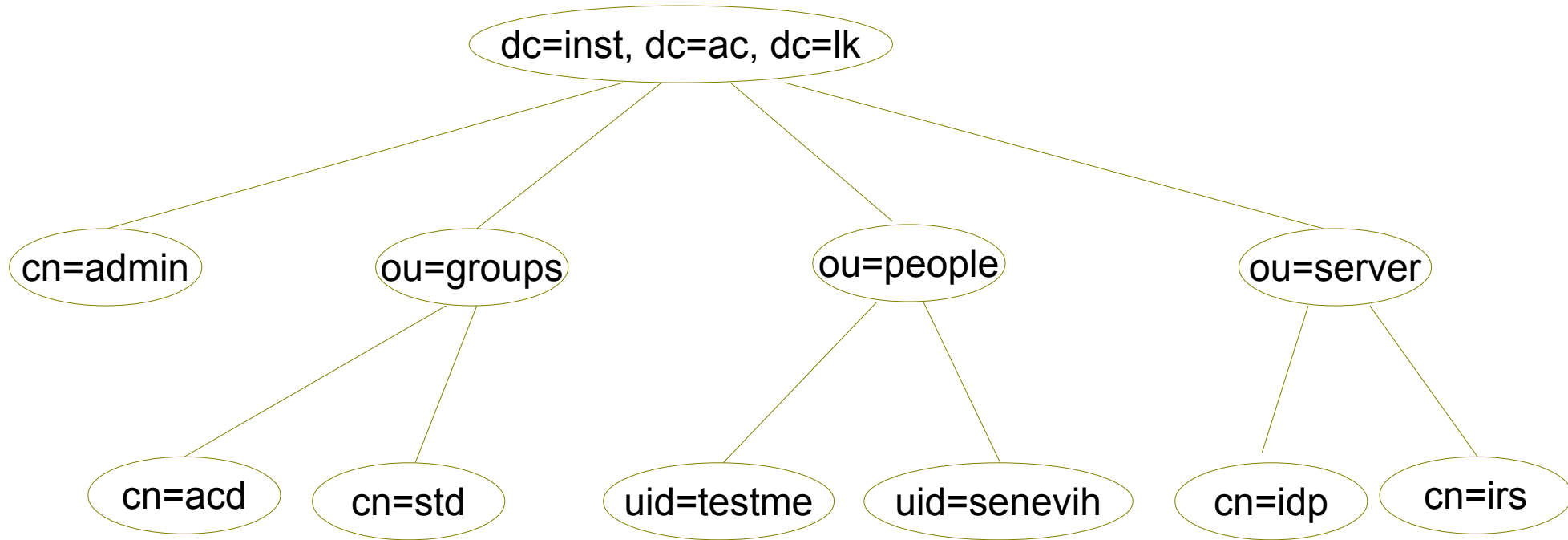
- The Distinguished Name (DN)

- An LDAP entry consists of numerous attribute-value pairs
- uniquely identified by what is known as a “distinguished name” (DN)

- eg.

```
dn: mail=joe@novell.com, dc=novell, dc=com
objectclass: inetOrgPerson
cn: Joe
sn: Somebody
mail: joe@novell.com
telephoneNumber: 1 234 567 8912
```

LDAP DIT



Open LDAP

- What is Open LDAP
 - free, open source implementation of the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)
 - BSD-style license called the OpenLDAP Public License
 - developed by the OpenLDAP Project
 - OpenLDAP has three main components
 - slapd – stand-alone LDAP daemon and associated modules and tools
 - libraries implementing the LDAP protocol and Basic Encoding Rules (BER)
 - client software: Idapsearch, Idapadd, Idapdelete, and others

Open LDAP

- Open LDAP using OLC (cn=config)
 - On-Line configuration for previous slapd.conf
 - Dynamic configuration of static configuration in slapd.conf where slapd restart needed
 - Configuration may be perform run time using a DIT cn=config
 - Zero down time configuration
 - Stored in /etc/ldap/slapd.d directory
 - Introduce in version 2.3

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Thank You

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