

INTERNET2

2022 TECHNOLOGY exchange

Wolverine vs. Grouper

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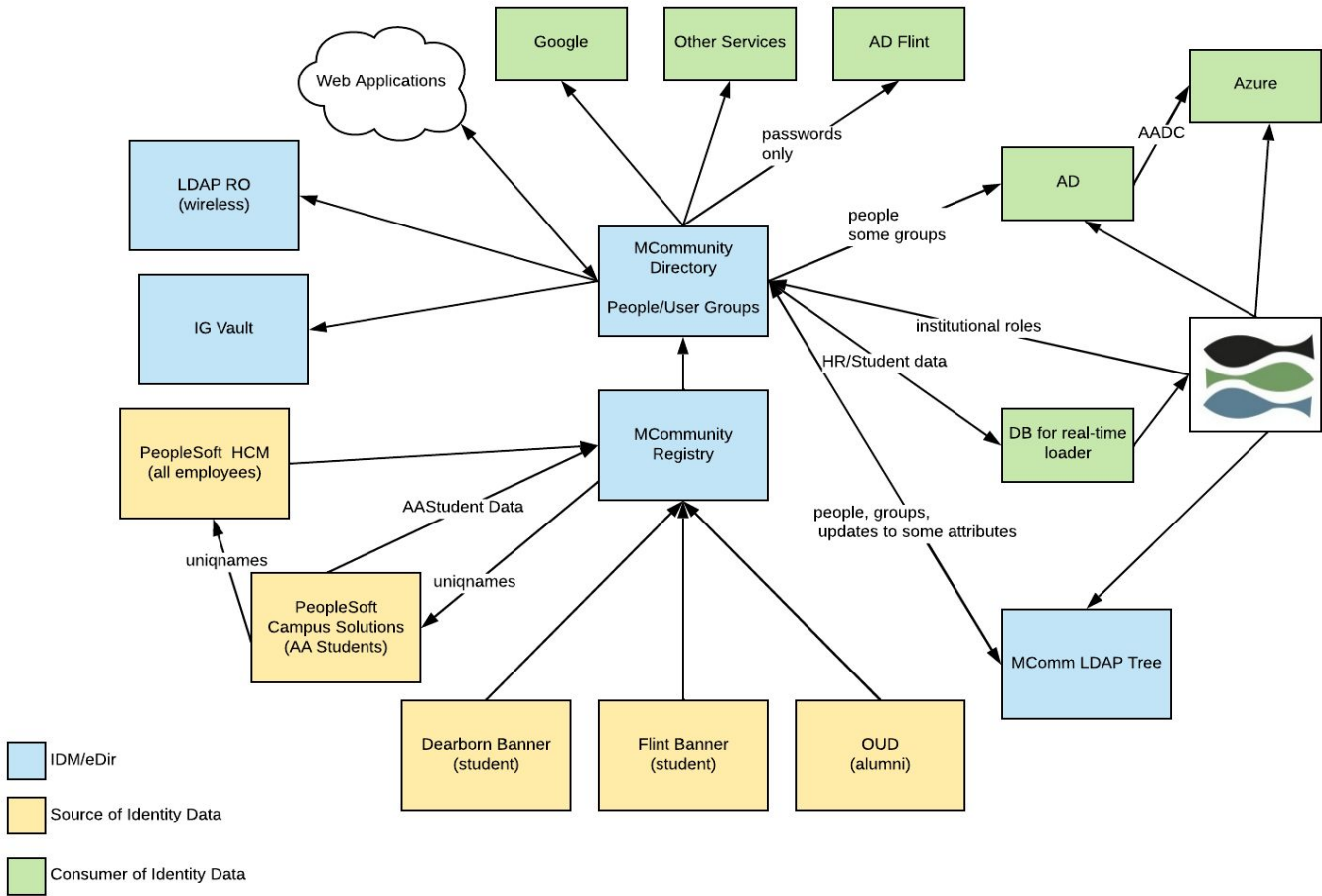
University of Michigan IT Environment Background



U-M Environment Background

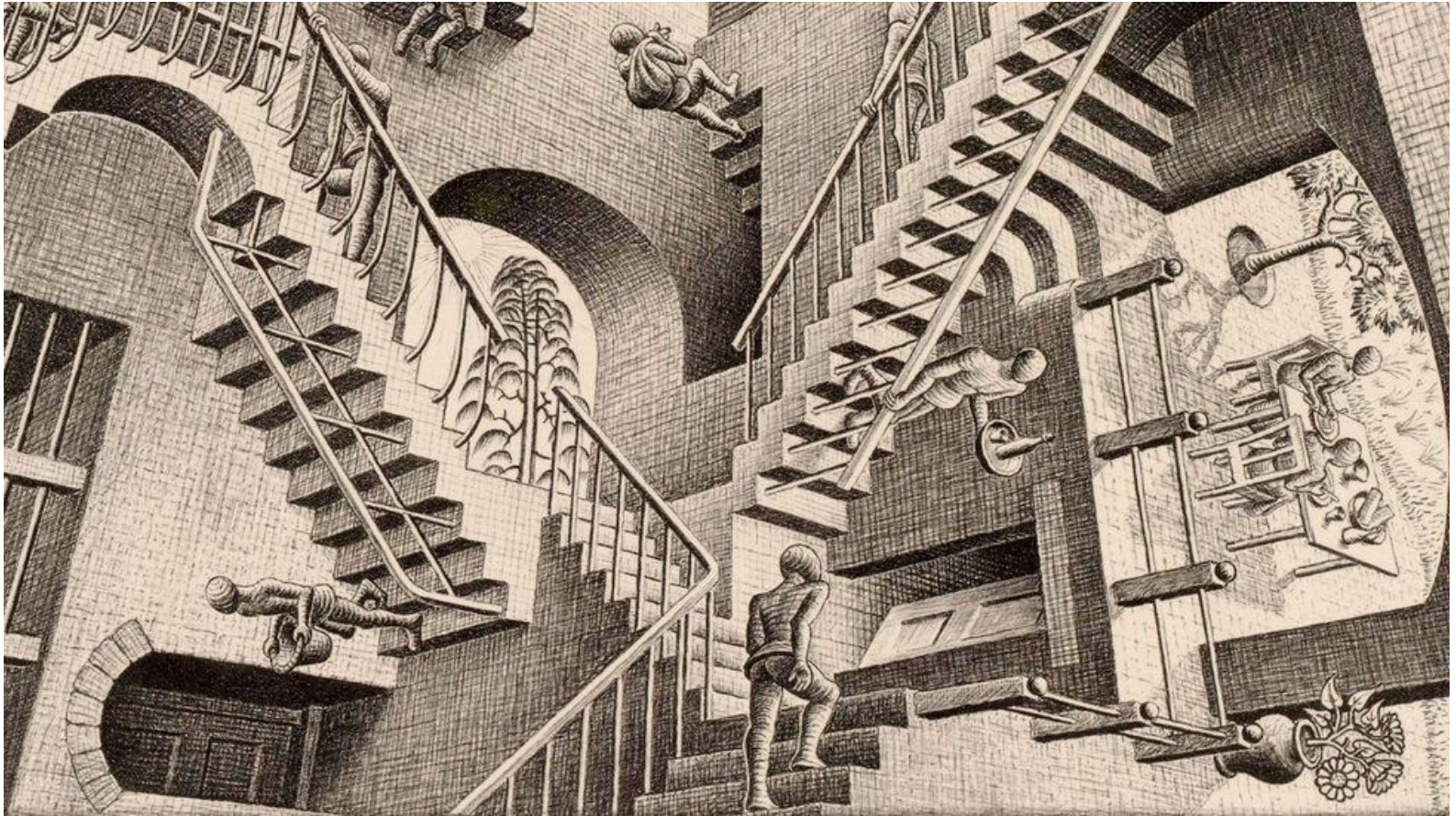
- 19 colleges, 9 professional schools
- 3 regional campuses (Ann Arbor, Flint, Dearborn)
- Michigan Medicine (medical schools, hospital)
- Peoplesoft, Banner, Blackbaud

- MCommunity (NetIQ eDirectory/Identity Manager + in-house J2EE web apps)
 - 1.4 million identities, 650k active "people" (including alumni)
 - Aggregator of Peoplesoft/Banner/alumni source data
 - Subject source for Grouper



U-M Environment Background

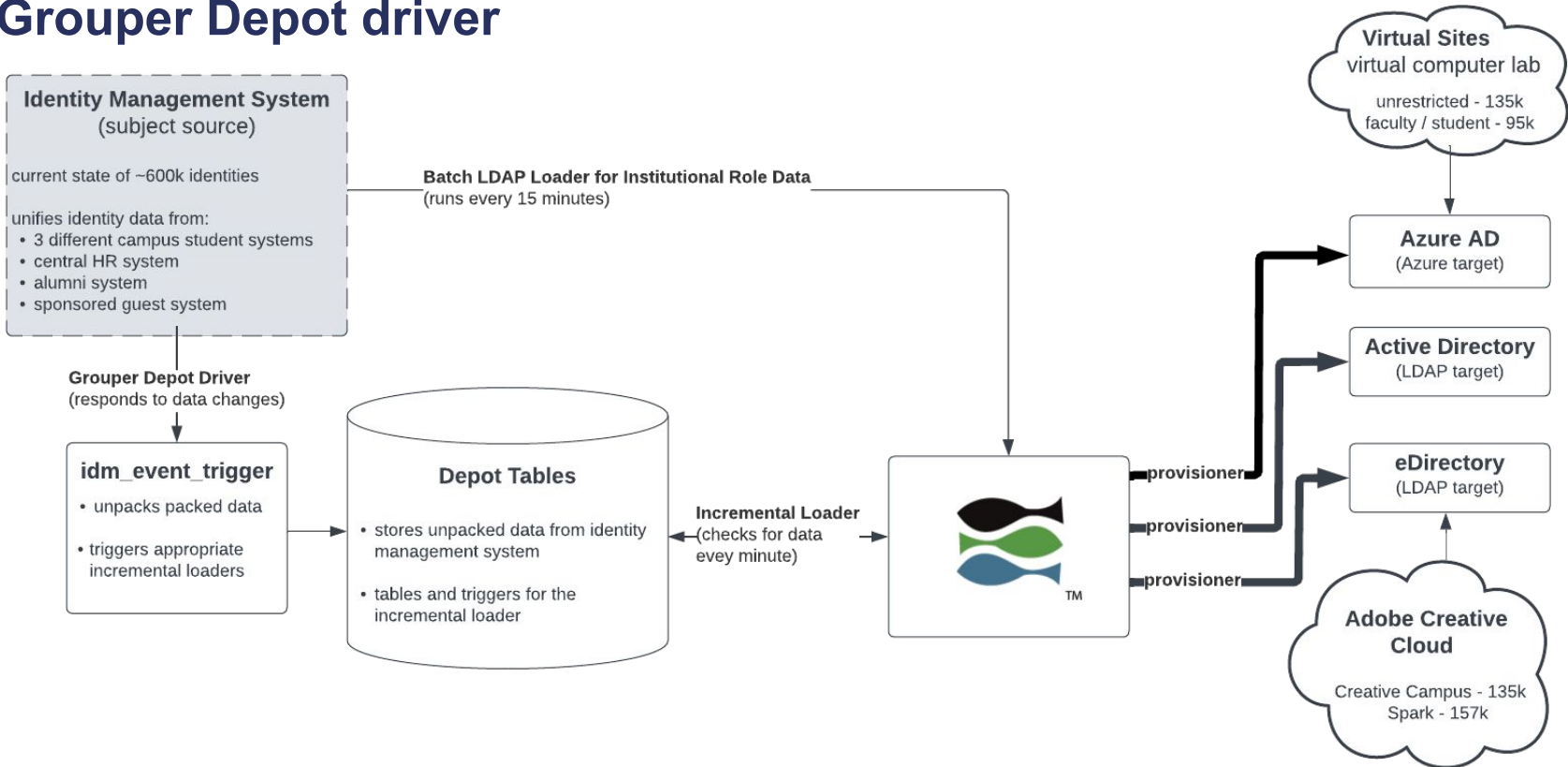
- Starting in the late 1990s, home-built "white pages" application allowed anyone to make groups
- Originally intended for mail groups, morphed to business use for access control
- Now we have
 - 97,000+ "all purpose" groups in MCommunity
 - 57,000+ groups in Active Directory
 - growing number synced to Azure from AD and from Grouper
 - various groups synced to cloud services (Google, Dropbox, Slack)



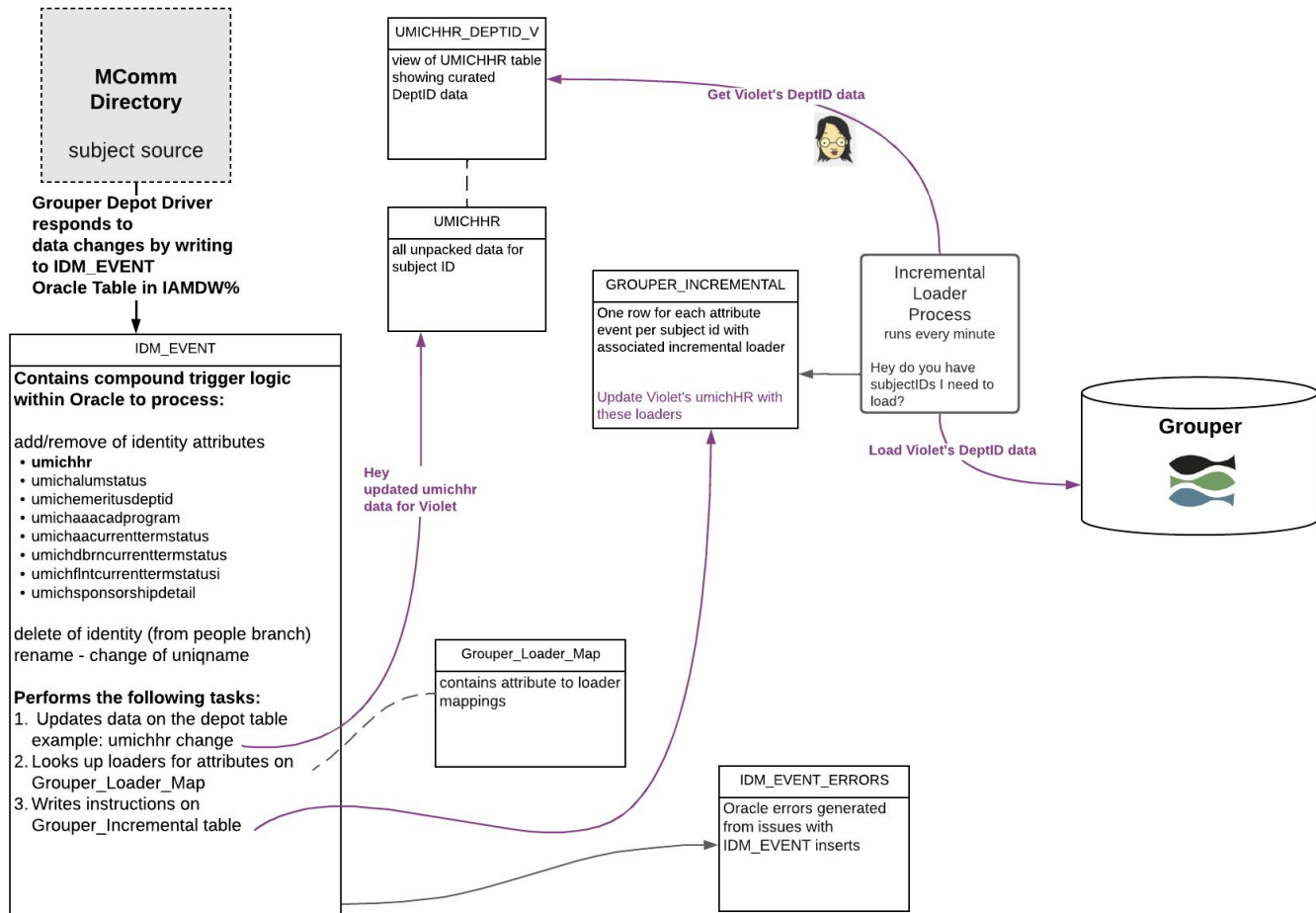
Provisioning Challenges

- Existing group solutions have been in place for decades
- Decentralized IT
- Grouper is not in charge of everything
 - Needs to co-exist with AD and MCommunity groups that are created/managed in different ways

Grouper Depot driver



Getting HR details to Grouper: Grouper Depot driver



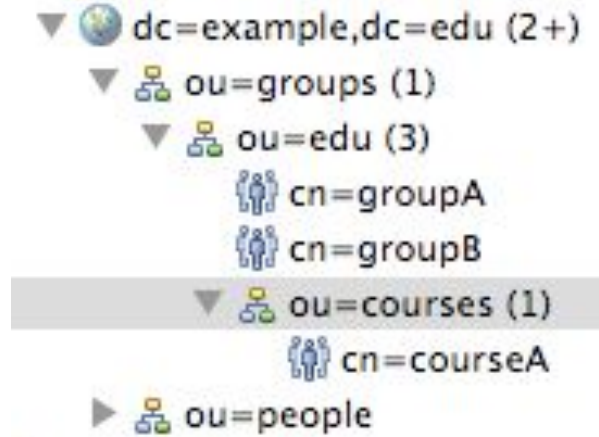
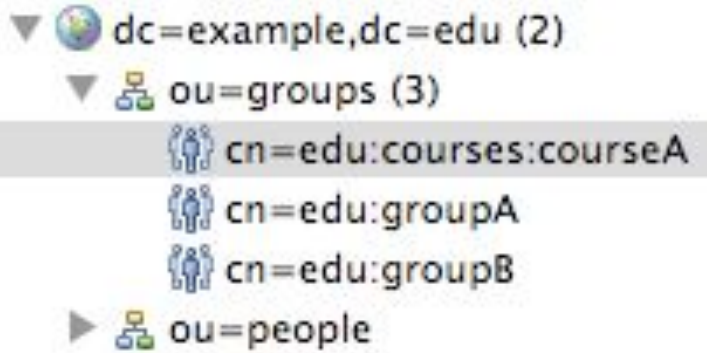
New Provisioning Framework



Provisioning

- "Start with"
- Provisioners have consistent features and configuration
- Provisioners re-use external systems
- New provisioners can be easily implemented in Java

Provisioning: Flat vs Bushy



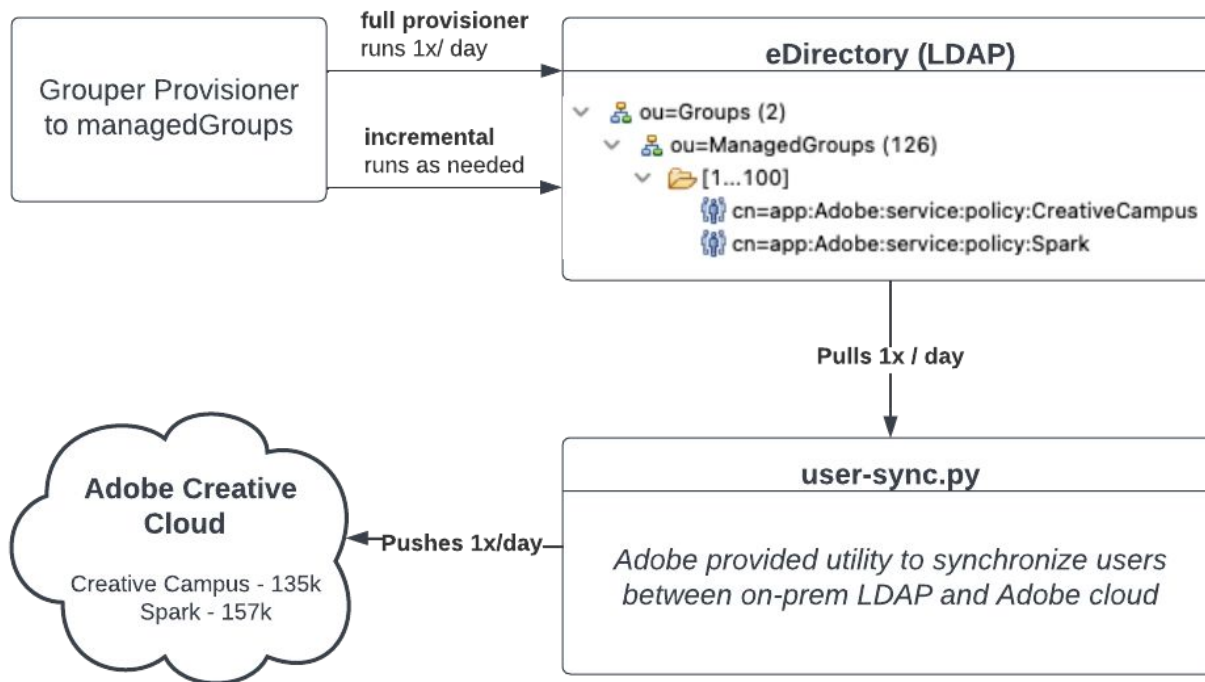
Flat provisioning

Embeds grouper hierarchy in the cn

```
cn=app:Adobe:service:policy:Spark,ou=ManagedGroups,  
ou=Groups,dc=umich,dc=edu
```

- connection to Grouper group easy to see
- less likely to hit dn length limit
- more likely to hit cn length limit
- less likely to confuse someone searching for a cn in ou=Groups
- if using GDG recommended hierarchy, may want to prevent cn=org:blah:org:blahblah...

Flat naming: Adobe use case



Bushy LDAP provisioning

Matches Grouper hierarchy

```
cn=Flint_AD_Student,ou=policy,ou=service,ou=ActiveDirectory,  
ou=app,OU=Grouper,DC=umflint,DC=edu
```

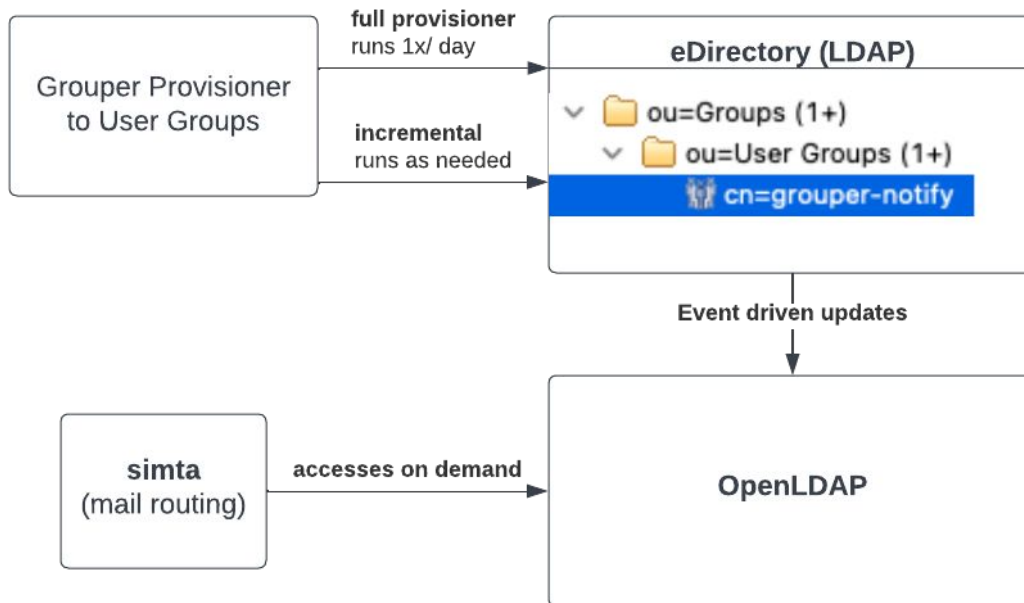
- keeps the cn short -- avoids 60 or 64 character limit
- easy for IT pros to understand
- can automatically omit top of Grouper hierarchy
- searching for a cn in ou=Groups might return unexpected results
- deep hierarchies might hit a dn length limit -- typically 255 characters

Specified name (DN override)

cn=OVPR All Staff,ou=User Groups,
ou=Groups,dc=umich,dc=edu

- easy to make a readable name
- can map to existing group -- avoid having to change references to name or SID/gid
- easy to avoid dn or cn length limits
- person (or GSH template?) needs to set the name
- need to prevent overwriting existing groups in the LDAP target

DN override use case: AD & MCommunity



Provisioning

- As framework features have grown, the number of config options have also grown. Don't get overwhelmed though!
 - UI improvements have been added to show/hide sections (for example)
 - Developers have provided 1-on-1 help to migrate configurations
 - As usage increases, community knowledge and documentation/examples will improve too
- able to adjust multithreading
- able to control whether provisioner inspects the entire target (we do not want to inspect Azure device groups)

Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC)



Current Reference groups

We have this HR information for each appointment:

- department with hierarchy
- faculty/regular staff/temp staff
- jobcode and jobfamily (job classification)
- active / on leave / retired
- primary / secondary job
- supervisor

As stored in our IAM system (LDAP):

```
{jobCategory=Faculty}:{campus=UM_ANN-ARBOR}:{deptId=183000}:  
{deptGroup=COLLEGE_OF_LSA}:{deptDescription=LSA Mathematics}:  
{deptGroupDescription=College of Lit, Science & Arts}:  
{deptVPArea=PRVST_EXC_VP_ACA_AFF}:{jobcode=201000}:{jobFamily=10}:  
{emplStatus=A}:{regTemp=R}:{supervisorId=}:{tenureStatus=TEN}:{jobIndicator=P}
```

HR Reference groups

HR groups by
department
department group (college level)
vp area

17584 HR reference groups


 College of Engineering ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - Active ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - Emeritus ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - Faculty ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - Faculty - Active ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - Faculty - On Leave ([ref](#))


 College of Engineering - Faculty - Retired ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - On Leave ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - RegularStaff ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - RegularStaff - Active ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - RegularStaff - On Leave ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - RegularStaff - Retired ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - Retired ([ref](#))

 College of Engineering - TemporaryStaff ([ref](#))

That's very nice, but . . .

“I need teaching faculty separated from library faculty”
custom loader?

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“I need GSIs separated from the rest of regular staff”
another custom loader?

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“Why does temp staff include students?”
and another custom loader?

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custom loader?

“I need GSIs separated from the rest of regular staff”
another custom loader?

“Why does temp staff include students?”
and another custom loader?

“I need all supervisors in my unit, but not those who only supervise temps”
 is this going to scale?

New Grouper feature

[Grouper attribute based access control with scripted groups](#)

Now

- Reduces pre-loaded rollups that might not be used
- You don't need a loader job for each one of these groups
- Any Grouper user could edit the policies if they can READ underlying groups. You can have a UI to help build it and give good error messages
- This solves the issue of composites with any number of factors

Future work:

- The memberships of the ABAC groups are near real time
- Could visualize the policies.

How ABAC will work

HR data table:

subject_id	Category	deptId	deptGroup	job code	job Family	Status	reg/ Temp
Maize	Faculty	183000	COLLEGE_OF_LSA	201000	10	A	R
Maize	Staff	183000	COLLEGE_OF_LSA	106000	28	A	R
Blue	Faculty	465000	SCHOOL_SOCIAL_WORK	202800	13	W	R
Blue	Staff	191250	COLLEGE_OF_LSA	026200	33	A	T
Blue	Faculty	171900	COLLEGE_OF_LSA	202820	13	A	R
Wolverine	Staff	183000	COLLEGE_OF_LSA	101907	210	A	R

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Wolverine	Staff	183000	COLLEGE_OF_LSA	101907	210	A	R
Bigbluebus	Staff	686000	PRKG_TRANSPRT_SRVS	153027	225	A	R

Grouper ABAC

- Add a Grouper config to describe your data, add user-friendly field names, etc.
- Set up a changelog for changes in your data.
- Give group admins some examples of how to use the data in group criteria
- Get rid of reference groups that no one will ever use

Collaboration Topics



Collaboration Topics

- Web services
- New provisioners
- GSH templates to assist with target group setup/naming
- Decentralized use cases
 - Denodo

Developer Engagement

- It has been extremely beneficial for U-M to have direct engagement with the Grouper developers
 - Bug fixes
 - Feature requests
 - Azure provisioner in 2.6.18 reduced full provision time from 45 minutes to 15!
- You need to be on the latest version, so start planning your upgrades now!

Questions?



Thank you!

