Access Sentinel Authorization Policy Server for Attribute Based Access Control

ViewDS Access Sentinel

Access Sentinel makes enterprise & vendor suite applications faster, safer, and easier to use. ViewDS Access Sentinel is an Attribute-Based Access Control server that enables fine-grained authorization, which provides added security and flexibility in controlling access to application and systems.

User Access Controls

Controlling a user's access to data and services has always been an important aspect of every software application. The authorization of access to information stored in ICT applications, systems and databases for privacy and security reasons is becoming increasingly important as electronic delivery such as eGovernment and eHealth becomes more pervasive.

The organic evolution and growth of software applications and IT within an organization has led towards controls being put in place on an application by application basis. A distributed policy management approach such as this makes the overall security controls hard to view and manage as well as adding costs to the application development.

The organic evolution of applications and siloed access control management hinder the ability to provide a secure environment that can be managed and audited easily. Such imperatives affect not only enterprises, but are equally important to software suite vendors who (through acquisitions or otherwise) offer a range of solutions that maintain independent authorization controls.

A single location for authorization

The emerging global trend is to manage authorization externally to the individual applications or systems. By providing a single location for all authorization policies, the systems become much easier to manage and audit, whilst offering scalability and simplicity benefits.

The standardized framework for building such systems is XACMLv3 as specified by the OASIS model. XACMLv3 offers an XML and SOA based mechanism for externalizing authorization using attribute-based access controls.

Authorization Standards

XACML is the Extensible Access Control Markup Language - a standardized language for expressing access control policy as XML documents.

XACML is a security policy authoring language specified and championed by the industry standards group OASIS, and has now become the standard for "fine-grained" Authorization Management Policy creation and enforcement. Further information can be obtained from the OASIS website and industry papers.
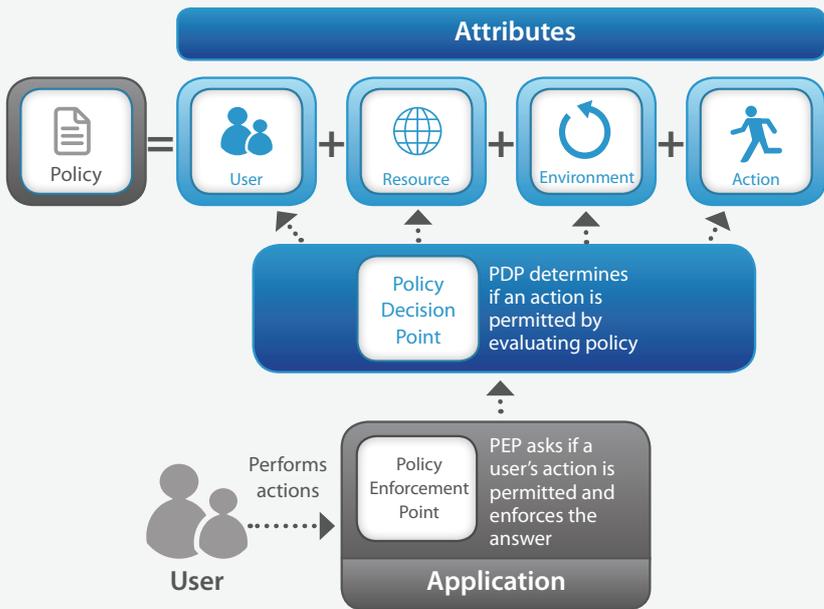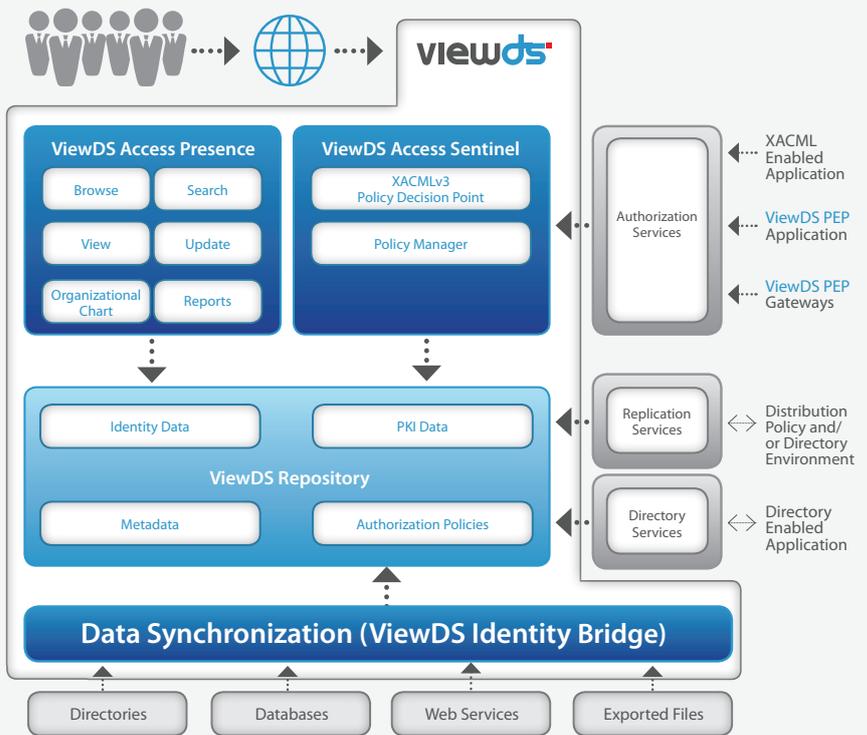
Access Sentinel Technology

Access Sentinel provides a simple-to manage, XACML-based authorization policy creation and enforcement system for an enterprise or for a vendor's suite of applications. It provides support for both centralized and delegated models of access control as well as supporting Obligations and Advice. It also combines the creation and integration of Role Management with authorization policies to create a context aware, scalable and dynamic access control solution for both enterprises and cloud implementations.

The Access Sentinel architecture is unique. It is built upon a Discovery Server that can index and search on any attribute or component. This architecture enables the creation and storage of Identities, Roles and Policy information in an integrated single repository. This unique capability provides substantial advantages in terms of scalability, performance, efficiency, security, and the ability for sharing of information across Enterprise boundaries. Furthermore, Access Sentinel excels in its Policy Management interface for ease-of use in creating and maintaining Access Control policies.

ViewDS "Suite" Architecture

The ViewDS Identity Solutions suite consists of a range of product solutions designed for both customer and OEM implementations for managing Identity information for: Global Multi National Enterprises, eGovernment, Health and Defence & Intelligence Communities.

The core to the ViewDS Identity Solution Suite is an advanced XML and LDAPv3 Directory and Discovery Server, from which Directory, Replication, Authorization and Data Synchronization services are provided. The ViewDS Identity suite also comprises a highly functional web based interface service known as ViewDS Access Presence; ViewDS Access Sentinel, an XACMLv3 based Attribute Based Authorisation Server; ViewDS Identity Bridge a bi directional synchronization and Integration server, and ViewDS Access Proxy a TSCP Certificate Look-up service solution.

About Us

The creators of ViewDS, eNitiatives.com Pty Ltd, are a privately owned boutique firm that specialize in the development and distribution of identity management software design and development. eNitiatives has customers in Europe, USA, Asia Pacific and Australasia with a Global Support Centre located in Melbourne, Australia. eNitiatives has an indirect sales model, so the solutions can be acquired and deployed by major enterprises, application software vendors, systems integrators, prime contractors and resellers.

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