White Paper:

Machinery of Government

Identity Management and XML Directory Services Solutions

Credentials

ViewDS Identity Solutions is the owner and developer of the ViewDS product suite that is deployed in Government, Defense, and private sector companies throughout the world. This technology has some unique features that deliver superior performance, reliability and operability in large distributed environments. This document describes ViewDS's capability to operate in a structured and hierarchical environment, whilst also being adapted to the natural volatility of such hierarchies.

Introduction

The design of ViewDS incorporates many capabilities that provide significant operational benefits to users. Two of these are the facility to represent data in real-world hierarchies, and the very powerful but simple quick drag-and-drop process of making Machinery of Government changes (also known as ORBAT for military applications).

Real-world Representation of Data

The entries in a directory are arranged in a hierarchy called the Directory Information Tree (DIT). A directory is of most use when this DIT mirrors a real world hierarchy, such as the structure of a company, hospital, region, or government department.

However, real world hierarchies tend to change very frequently – for example, departments can be formed, dissolved, moved, merged or split. This can lead designers using standard directories to flatten and simplify the DIT to avoid the complexity of maintaining it. Unfortunately, the result can be little more than a list of entries, rather than a resource that helps people understand the structure of their organization.

Machinery of Government

Governments and private sector organisations are continually making changes to the roles of their personnel and the way their business units or departements are organized and named. It is typical for such changes to occur both in low volumes on a day by days basis and in high volumes over a short period of time. High volume changes are often observed when a change of leadership takes place, as this will generally trigger a large scale reorganization.

Access to the new information is often critical to operations and public access, but reflecting such changes in repositories like databases and directories can be very time consuming, onerous, and slow. Even an apparently minor change such as updating a department name can be a major nightmare for organisations from an administrative perspective.

Even simple things like changing email addresses to reflect a new Government Agency name or moving departments within a portfolio or across departments can be major headaches and take substantial amounts of effort and have a high administrative cost.

ViewDS Technology

Implementations of a directory using ViewDS address these issues better and more simply than any other repository. The DIT can reflect real organization structures, and Machinery of Government changes can be made quickly and simply.

A ViewDS directory enables an authorized person to perform these changes instantly using drag-and-drop tools.

Furthermore, if deployed with the ViewDS Identity Bridge, such changes can be replicated and synchronized to other corporate applications such as email, the telephone directory, and other databases very simply.
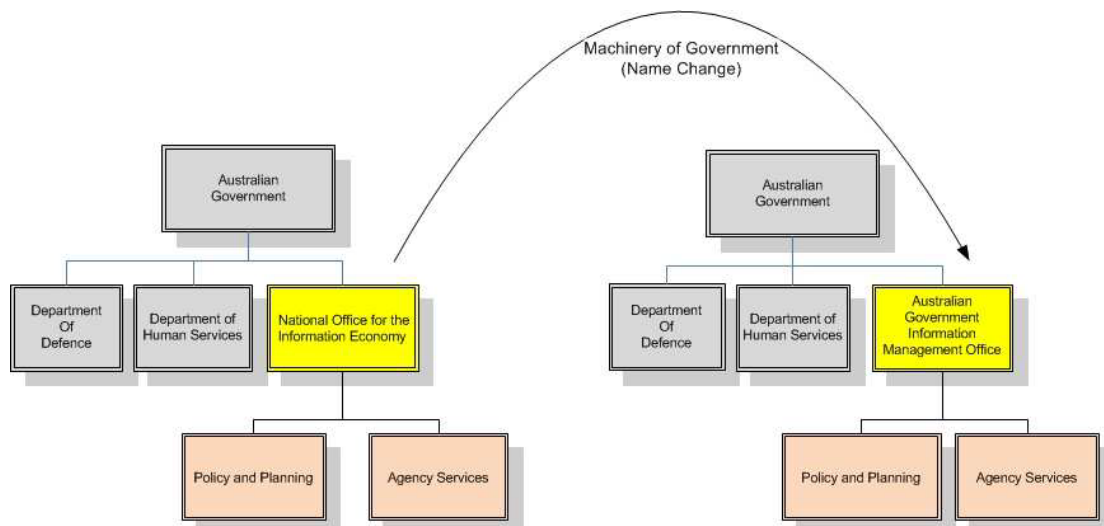
4.1 Name changes
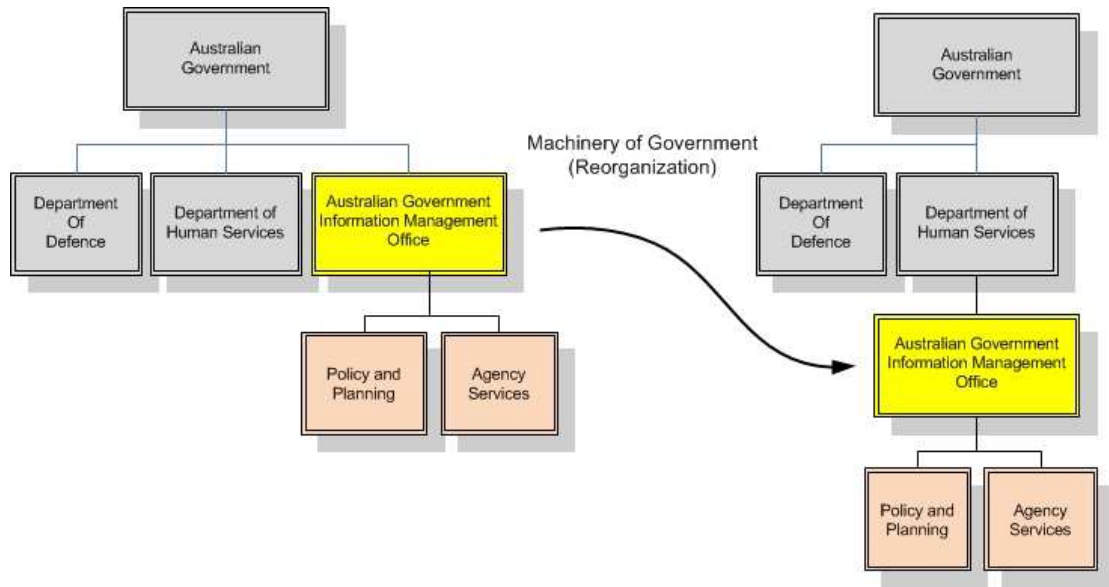
4.2 Reorganizations

4.3 Role Changes
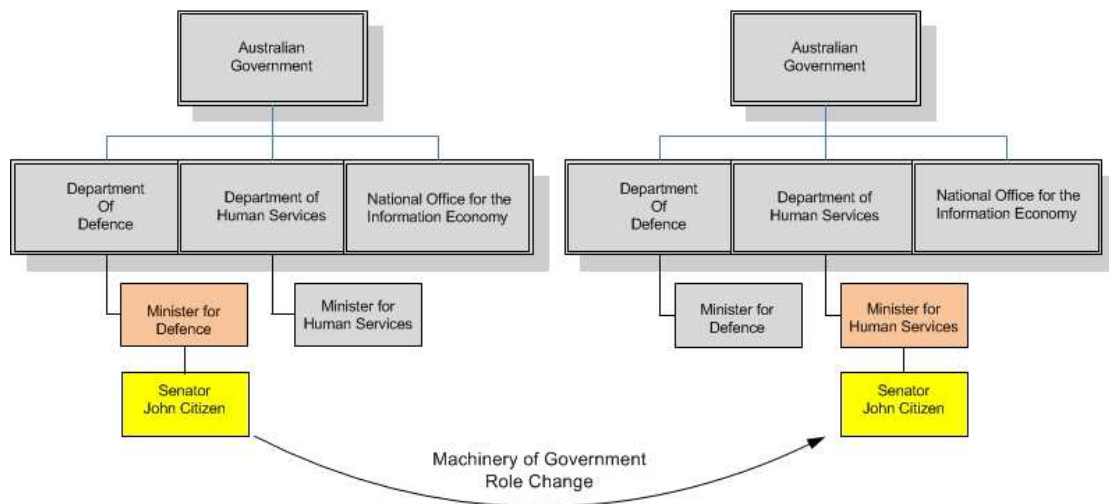
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How it Works

ViewDS will allow any agency, department, role or function within the organization's hierarchy to be renamed, moved or dissolved. Delegates for each agency may be given the capability to make such changes, or alternatively the ability can be reserved for specific administrative users. ViewDS provides web-based and a simple drag-and-drop administrative interface to manage Machinery of Government changes

ViewDS is specifically designed to seamlessly support volatile government environments and enables simple and rapid Machinery of Government changes. For this reason ViewDS is an excellent choice for complex hierarchical organizations such as Governments, Defense, Health, and so on. Without "Moves & Renames" functionality, large-scale changes in the DIT take more time, more planning and more resources to implement. Many directories only allow leaf entries to be moved or renamed, whereas ViewDS supports instantaneous moves and renames of non-leaf entries. Links such as "managed by", "manager of" relationships are automatically maintained. ViewDS can also be configured to enforce various referential integrity constraints.

The three screenshots below illustrate the simplicity:

Select the entry that needs to be moved

*The "Sport" entry contains thousands of subordinates
identifying different sporting organizations within Victoria.*

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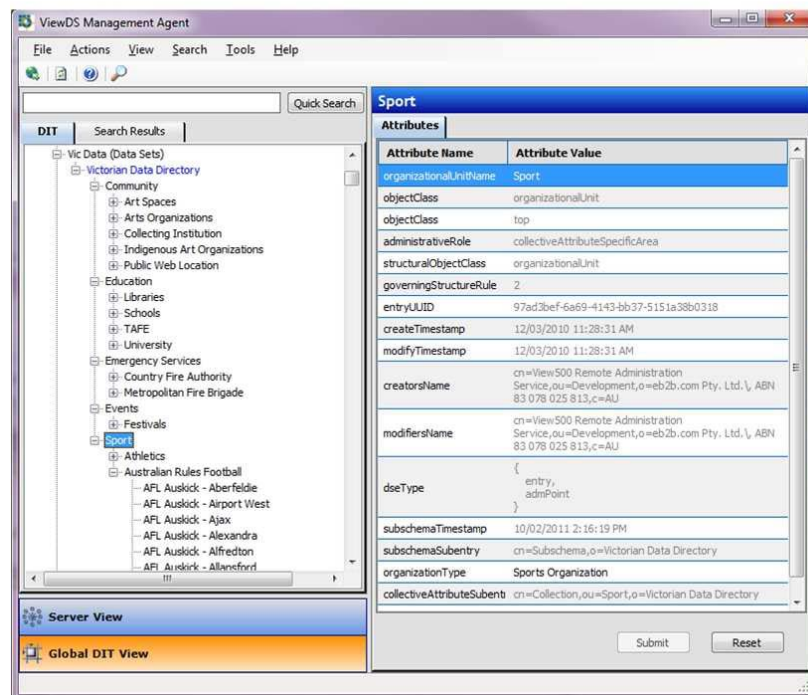
Drag and drop the entry to its desired location

The "Sport" entry is dropped within the "Community" container. Confirming the action will move over a thousand entries in a single atomic operation.
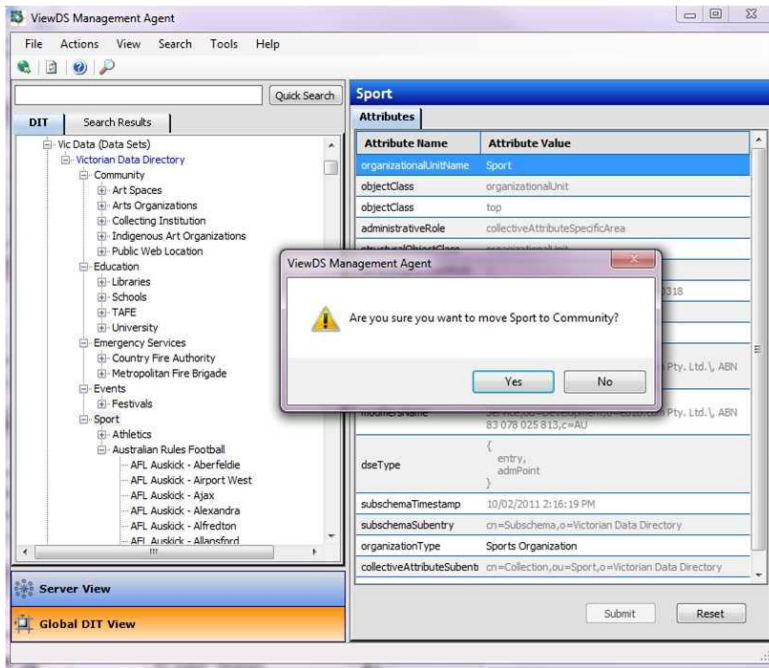
Sport and all subordinates are moved into Community

Within a fraction of a second, "Sport" and all of its subordinates are moved to their new location. All data remains intact, the names of all entries are updated and all referential links are updated.
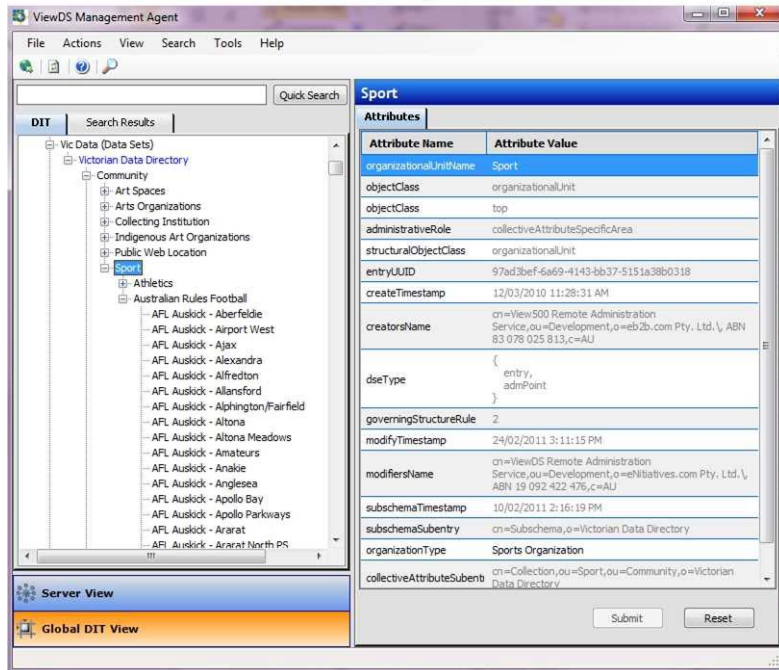
Military Order of Battle

For Military users, Machinery of Government requirements apply but are generally referred to as the Order of Battle (ORBAT). The requirement is for easy movement of units and personnel around functions, divisional and brigade units and combat teams or task forces.

ViewDS and ORBAT

ViewDS's support for real-world structures, graphical representations of alternate hierarchies and excellent support for Machinery of Government changes make it ideal for the volatile hierarchical deployment scenarios common in military applications.

Task Groups, Task Forces or Brigade Combat teams can be easily created, moved in the ORBAT, renamed or dissolved with just a drag and drop operation with all referential links and parametric data, such as email addresses, changed instantaneously.
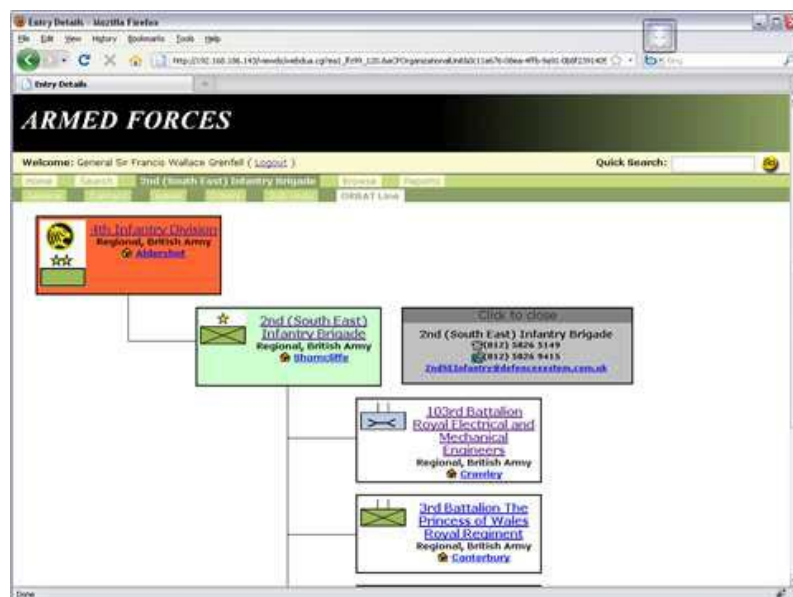
About Us

ViewDS Identity Solutions, the trading name for eNitiatives.com Pty Ltd, is a privately owned boutique firm that specializes in the development and distribution of identity management software solutions. ViewDS has customers in Europe, USA, Asia Pacific and Australasia with a Global Support Centre located in Melbourne Australia.

ViewDS Identity Solutions 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.