

Replacing a Highly Customized IdM System with midPoint

The Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) needed a new IdM system as their self-developed solution had become outdated.

Overview



Challenge: Replacing a self-developed identity management system while maintaining the highly customized functionality.



Process: Setting up multiple instances of midPoint to first compliment the existing system, and slowly starting the transitional period.



Outcome: The university now runs both midPoint and their self-developed system. Ultimately, midPoint will fully replace the old system.



About The Ruhr University Bochum

Located in the heart of Europe in the dynamic metropolitan region of the Ruhrgebiet, the [Ruhr University Bochum](#), with its 21 faculties, is home to 42,600 students from over 130 countries. RUB has a strong focus on the sciences, nonetheless students can also opt to pursue one of the many degrees in the field of humanities.

The Objective

RUB was looking to replace their self-developed IdM system. Once they had chosen midPoint, they worked together with DAASI International on figuring out the exact requirements, including how to implement their individual processes in midPoint.

The Challenge

It was clear from the start that the two IdM systems would have to coexist for a long time. The challenge here was not only to implement the one-time migration of data from the old system, but also to ensure permanent synchronization of the data to midPoint. This was mainly necessary because not all processes could be simultaneously translated into midPoint, but the transition would steadily progress over time.

As part of the project, it was also necessary to create a new OpenLDAP cluster, which then had to be provisioned exclusively by midPoint. Since the old system was based on a heavily nested database structure, connecting this system and provisioning the data to OpenLDAP was one of the biggest challenges in the first phases of the project.

The Process

In order to start the transitional period without risking a loss of data or functionality, the service partner DAASI International set up three instances of midPoint, one for

testing and staging each, as well as the productive installation.

At first, many resource services had to be reconfigured so they were able to collect relevant information from different database tables from the old system database. This served as the foundation to connect midPoint to the old IdM system. In order to expand the scope of information for the new identity management, additional data sources were configured and connected to midPoint. Then multiple archetypes and roles (incl. metaroles) had to be configured so conditional provisioning could be implemented. Additionally, this step made it possible to group source data into different categories.

In the next step, the OpenLDAP target system was connected. After this, multiple processes were implemented, including complex delegation of rights based on the organisational structure, memberships, and account management. Finally, more systems, i.e., Active Directory and many others, were successfully connected.

The Outcome

RUB and DAASI International are very optimistic about reaching the ultimate goal of completely replacing the old system in the foreseeable future. As of now, the university is operating a functional midPoint implementation in the production stage parallel to their old IdM system, which will ultimately be fully replaced. If there are problems of any sort, DAASI International as the second-level support provider and Evolveum as the third-level product support provider are there to help if any issues occur in the midPoint deployment.

About DAASI International

DAASI International is an expert in (federated) identity and access management, exclusively using open source technology. Since it was founded in 2000, the IT service provider from Tübingen, Germany deals with identity management, access control and directory service technologies for universities, public authorities, and companies. Additionally, DAASI International is actively involved in the field of digital humanities and participates in national and international research projects, including the digital research infrastructure DARIAH. DAASI International's range of services covers consulting, support, hosting, and software development, as well as (individualized) training.



Evolveum is a globally recognized EU based organization that was established in 2011. With its dedicated team of professionals, Evolveum is the creator and maintainer of the leading open source identity platform, midPoint. The feature set covering identity governance and administration makes midPoint the ideal choice for organizations seeking digital transformation to enhance security and efficiency.