

CASE STUDY | HIGHER EDUCATION

The University of Prešov: Simulations Changed the Game

The University of Prešov (UNIPO) had only four months to build an identity management system integrated with close to 30 academic systems. Simulations saved the day.

Overview



Challenge: The project was supported by European funds, and the strict deadline left only 4 months for it to be delivered.



Process: A legacy midPoint version was integrated with two authoritative source systems that needed to be upgraded to midPoint 4.7.1. Inalogy expedited a series of integrations for the new systems, where Simulations played a vital role.



Outcome: Simulations replaced time-consuming parallel runs and guessing. MidPoint now oversees identity management in most of the university's IT systems. It unifies credentials for all users and stands as the singular system for administering passwords and access.



About the University of Prešov

The University of Prešov is a public and self-governing academic institution that freely carries out creative scientific, educational, artistic, and cultural activities. Teaching activities at the university are based on the latest findings in science, including the results of its own scientific research. The mission of UNIPO is to develop harmonious personalities, knowledge, wisdom, goodness, and creativity in people, and to contribute to the development of education, science, culture, and health for the well-being of society as a whole, thus contributing to the development of a knowledgeable and creative society.

The Objective

In the past, individual faculties were autonomous entities that incorporated academic information systems according to their needs and preferences. Due to these historical circumstances, the central IT department inherited almost 30 informatic systems to maintain. Multiple systems were initially designed for access by teachers or students but lacked a centralized identity, resulting in users having distinct credentials for each system. The key goals were to make midPoint the central point of truth for identity accounts and, in parallel, automate identity governance processes, simplify password reset, and simplify the workload for system administrators by reducing manual operations.

The Challenge

Another challenge was communication with 3rd party vendors, as multiple systems omitted APIs for user management, weren't ready for standardized LDAP authentication, or lacked documentation required for connector development.

The complexity of business processes, the number of exceptions, multiple data sources, and data inconsistencies only underlined the project's difficulty.

The Process

In numbers, the university has over 8,000 active students and more than 1,000 active staff members. Their identities come from two source systems, and midPoint distributes these to 20 target informatic systems via 30 resources. On the first day of the project, Inalogy started to work with UNIPO on the analysis intensively. A dedicated project team was tasked with implementing the missing connectors, and the special task force had to master the secret weapon - Simulations.

Due to the short project schedule, Inalogy had to find alternatives to standardized processes like parallel runs and multiple dry runs to achieve the required data clarity.

The initial step was to upgrade the production instance of midPoint to version 4.7.1 and upgrade existing integrations toward authoritative source systems for students and teachers. Once authoritative source data were in place, Inalogy started integrating target systems, beginning with the IT systems that had user management API ready. The following step was to link accounts in a non-destructive way. Once Inalogy achieved this, simulations were carried out before updates on target systems were applied. Simulations helped to mitigate risks related to incorporating configuration changes immensely, bug fixing, changing policies, and especially when disabling and deleting accounts or unwanted account updates.

The Outcome

The project was a real challenge as it was unthinkable to integrate 30 IT systems within four months. However, Simulations drastically reduced the delivery time, proving that challenging dates are achievable with the right tools. These advanced projections make midPoint a powerful tool that rapidly shortens delivery times, saves myriad test rounds, and reduces data damage risks.

This project delivery was possible only due to the university's dedicated team, as Inalogy received all the support required. It was again proven that customer cooperation is essential in integration projects like IDM.



About Inalogy

Inalogy specializes in integrating a range of customizable solutions based on either open source or commercial products to meet the unique needs of their customers. Inalogy integrates innovative solutions focusing on identity management, access management, privileged access management, and perimeter protection, which all help organizations safeguard their valuable digital assets.

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 an ideal choice for organizations seeking digital transformation to enhance security and efficiency.



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