



# THE BASICS OF CONVERGED PROVISIONING AND IDENTITY AUDITING

## What it is

*Converged provisioning and identity auditing combines identity lifecycle management and compliance automation in a single solution. This means that provisioning and identity auditing are based on the same business rules, roles, and audit policies, so that current, accurate information is always completely synchronized across both processes. Within this combined environment, identity lifecycle management ensures that a company always knows what resources a user should have access to — from the time the user joins the company, through whatever job changes may occur, until his or her relationship with the company ends. At the same time, identity auditing enables the company to also know what a user does have access to — and whether that conflicts with what he or she should have access to. The result of this convergence of processes is a unique ability to both detect and prevent compliance violations.*

*For example, when a user changes jobs within a company, automated identity auditing can detect whether a segregation of duties violation will occur as a result — even before the user is ever provisioned for the new role, thus preventing the violation from occurring in the first place. Automated identity auditing can also detect whether a violation is already taking place and instantly remediate it through automated provisioning. For the first time, a company can fully evaluate and enforce appropriate access in a repeatable, sustainable way, dramatically reducing the risk of non-compliance with company audit policies and government regulations.*

## Why We Need It

### To Reduce the Risk of Non-Compliance

Non-compliance is a real risk for organizations that treat provisioning and identity auditing as two separate, unrelated processes, particularly when you consider that just one organization may have hundreds or even thousands of applications that are affected by compliance regulations. Converging the two processes can enable organizations to detect violations immediately, and correct them instantly — and also help them to go beyond detecting violations to preventing them altogether.

### To Reduce the Cost of Compliance

Today, the cost of auditing to comply with regulations has skyrocketed, in part because administrators have to rely on tedious and costly manual reviews of access privileges to determine whether any violate audit policies or regulatory mandates. The problem is compounded by the sheer magnitude of the challenge, when access to potentially thousands of applications must be reviewed. Converged provisioning and identity auditing reduces costs by automating both the process of keeping track of who has access to what *and* the process of determining quickly and accurately when that access is in violation.

### To Increase the Ability to Scale

In addition to the growing compliance burden, companies are increasingly facing the challenge of extending the processes associated with identity lifecycle management and identity auditing to their extranet projects and partners. As these extranet relationships grow, so does the number of users. A converged identity management solution that can scale with this growth is therefore essential.

### How It Works

Sun Java™ System Identity Manager, the first provisioning solution to integrate identity auditing into the management of identities, works by applying the same set of enterprise rules and policies to both the provisioning and identity auditing processes. It sets up a dynamic exchange in which:

- potential audit policy violations can be detected by identity auditing before users are provisioned
- existing policy violations can be detected through identity auditing and remediated through provisioning
- feedback from policy violations can be leveraged to update roles in the provisioning process
- provisioning roles can be leveraged to detect policy violations in the identity auditing process

Within this flow, manual and redundant identity projects are eliminated, and sustainable compliance is achieved through the synchronized automation of both processes.

Identity Manager is also architected to scale up to accommodate a growing user base so that the provisioning and identity auditing

processes can occur on a much greater scale. In fact, this solution has been proven in environments involving more than ten million users.

### How It Can Benefit Businesses

Through converged provisioning and identity auditing, Identity Manager enables organizations to reduce costs, improve compliance, and scale infinitely to accommodate growing extranet-based relationships. The solution specifically enables:

- **Reduced costs for provisioning and identity auditing.** Converged provisioning and identity auditing reduces costs by automating both the provisioning and auditing aspects of identity lifecycle management and by eliminating the redundant operations and staffing that come from maintaining two different solutions for these two purposes.
- **Repeatable, sustainable compliance.** Services such as policy-based provisioning and deprovisioning, automated policy violation scanning, and automated remediation make compliance-related processes repeatable and sustainable. Instead of always reacting to impending audits and responding with costly, error-prone manual processes, organizations can instead make compliance an ongoing, automated part of their IT operations.
- **Reduced security risks.** In addition to automating and converging provisioning and identity auditing operations, Identity Manager consistently applies identity controls across both these aspects of identity lifecycle management. This makes it possible to detect and stop violations, such as improper aggregation of access privileges, and to detect and flag incidents of excessive access before they cause security problems.

- **Practically infinite scalability.** Organizations partnering with others through extranets can extend their combined capabilities to as many internal and external users and applications as necessary.

### How Sun Is Leading the Way

With Identity Manager, Sun introduces the first converged provisioning and identity auditing solution in the industry. A leader in establishing the standards to make identity lifecycle management possible, Sun built Identity Manager to provide companies with a robust ability to scale.

Identity Manager has been widely recognized as a leading provisioning product by industry reports, including the Gartner Magic Quadrant and the Forrester Wave. It has also been widely deployed to thousands of identity management customers. The solution's non-invasive architecture enables easy, fast implementation, with simplified connections that use agentless adapters to speed deployment across platforms, applications, databases, and directories.

### For More Information

To learn more about Sun converged provisioning and identity auditing solutions, please visit [sun.com/identity](http://sun.com/identity).

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