

Sun Identity Management for Government

Making Public Funds Work Harder to Improve Security and Service to Constituents



Highlights

Sun identity management for government enables federal, state, and local government agencies to meet the need for high security and quality of service — efficiently and cost-effectively — through:

- Secure control over information access by dynamic and diverse user populations
- Single sign-on and identity federation for seamless operations across multiple IT environments
- Automated provisioning and deprovisioning to reduce costs
- Delegated and self-service account management to improve the user experience
- Auditing and reporting to meet internal security and compliance requirements



From federal and state agencies to local municipalities, government organizations face unprecedented challenges today on several fronts:

- The ongoing threat of terrorism has made the security of sensitive information and operations a greater priority than ever.
- The rapid rise of the Internet as a vehicle for collaboration and constituent service has led to more widespread information-sharing and services delivery. This, in turn, makes it critical to not only secure information and resources, but also step up the level of service to those who interact with government organizations online.
- Because they are publicly funded, government organizations remain under constant pressure to make the most of the monies they spend. This presents a serious challenge at a time when increased capabilities may be required to achieve the levels of security and quality of service that have become so important.
- As government agencies move toward implementing technologies for collaboration and services delivery, they must find ways to roll them out cost-effectively and use them efficiently on an ongoing basis.
- Like many organizations in both the public and private sectors, government entities are now required to comply with security- and privacy-related regulations and mandates and to meet stringent audit requirements.

One of the greatest challenges for government, therefore, is how to meet growing critical needs on multiple fronts — and how to do it efficiently and cost-effectively. As government organizations grapple with these issues, they must deal with several specific aspects of each challenge.

Key areas

Protecting sensitive information and resources

Just as private enterprises must protect vital corporate information as well as private customer information, so must government organizations protect information on more than one level.

In the wake of increased terrorism potential, the internal information of intelligence and defense agencies must be absolutely protected against unauthorized access — whether by internal or external users. This protection must also extend to other government agencies, vendors, suppliers, and other entities with which governments may share information.

Given the trend toward delivering services online, citizen constituents are increasingly likely to share sensitive information with government agencies electronically. For example, healthcare-related agencies that provide benefits to constituents may collect personal health information from them online, and must safeguard that information against unauthorized access.

Like private companies, government agencies today must follow new laws designed to protect the integrity and security of sensitive information, and they must meet increasingly stringent means for establishing identity (for example, Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-12) and audit requirements (for example, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123).

Improving online collaboration and services delivery

In addition to providing electronic access to information and resources for its own employees, government entities must also connect online with other governments and government agencies as well as external vendors and private citizens.

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01, U.S. Homeland Security initiatives have stressed the importance of collaboration and intelligence-sharing across multiple government agencies as well as with nongovernment contractors and even other governments. Such widespread sharing of sensitive information increases the need for a secure way to manage not only the different access levels that are required but also the assignment of privilege entitlement mechanisms via roles, groups, and even individuals.

Online services delivery raises the bar for government agencies on the quality of service that constituents receive. People who go online to get government services expect the same convenient, efficient service that they receive when they go online to make retail purchases or collaborate with business colleagues.

Increasing efficiency and decreasing costs

The pressure to “do more with less” affects virtually every organization today, whether public or private. But government organizations are in a unique situation in that they rely on public funding. To serve as responsible stewards of those monies, they must be mindful of how they spend operating funds and must make every attempt to keep costs low.

As government processes move from paper-based to online systems, government organizations must find the most cost-efficient way to make the transition. In adopting new technology, they must find solutions that integrate easily with legacy systems to leverage existing investments as much as possible. (Ease of integration also minimizes the impact of technology transitions on productivity and costs.)

Sun identity management for government

Sun identity management for government is a comprehensive solution that addresses every aspect of the unique challenges government organizations face today. To address each key area of concern, the Sun solution delivers the broadest range of capabilities.

Security and compliance

- A single point of control for managing users' access to information and resources, including making changes to access privileges, terminating access, monitoring for potential security risks, and enforcing security policies
- Centralized control over and constant visibility into access activity, with automated detection of and alerts on security events
- Single sign-on password for multiple resources, which reduces the need for users to keep track of multiple passwords by writing them down or otherwise making them vulnerable to discovery by unauthorized users
- Comprehensive auditing and reporting capabilities to ensure compliance with security policies and regulatory mandates

Collaboration and quality of service

- Federated services that ease collaboration by allowing identity information to be shared across agencies — and even with outside entities such as vendors and other governments — without compromising sensitive data
- Convenient single sign-on for access to multiple resources without having to sign on again every time a user needs to access a different online application
- Self-service features that empower constituents to manage their own passwords and perform other everyday administrative tasks without having to wait for help desk assistance, improving service and saving money

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness

- Automated processes designed to reduce the need for costly and time-consuming manual provisioning and audit activities
- The ability to streamline administration by securely delegating administrative tasks to individual departments throughout and across government agencies
- Open, integratable, standards-based architecture to reduce development and integration costs and maximize the value of legacy technology investments
- The flexibility to accommodate existing workflows and processes

Capabilities at a glance

Sun's identity management portfolio includes a complete, integrated set of products to provide comprehensive, end-to-end identity management capabilities.

Feature	Capability	Benefit
<i>Identity Manager</i> — Superior, integrated provisioning and identity auditing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User Provisioning • Password Management • Data Synchronization Services • Access Auditing with Automated Remediation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automates manual processes • Streamlines operations • Increases efficiency and creates a single presence across customer base • Creates audit trail and facilitates compliance
<i>Access Manager</i> — Secure, standards-based access management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Control • SSO • Federation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances security • Improves user experience • Fosters interoperability
<i>Directory Server Enterprise Edition</i> — Industry-leading directory capabilities and highly available, scalable, manageable, and secure directory services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directory Services • Failover/Failback • Password Synchronization with Microsoft Active Directory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens security • Increases reliability • Enables seamless integration with operating environment
<i>Federation Manager</i> — Comprehensive federation services to create and extend Trusted Domains of multiple business partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner SSO • Account Linking • Global Logout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends secure access • Enhances user experience • Improves security

Serious software made simple

Sun provides a complete portfolio of affordable, interoperable, and open software systems designed to help you maximize the utilization and efficiency of your IT infrastructure. Built from the secure, highly available foundations of UNIX® and the Java platform, these systems deliver implementations that are preintegrated and backward compatible.

Sun's portfolio consists of the Solaris™ Operating System (OS) and Linux software for UltraSPARC® and x64 platforms, Sun N1™ software, and the Sun Java System — six integrated software systems for data centers, desktops, developers, mobile devices, and identity implementations.

The Java System is a radical approach that has changed forever the way businesses acquire, develop, and manage software. Only Sun has the experience and the end-to-end portfolio to deliver such a unique and industry-revolutionizing strategy. With the Java System, network services and other critical business applications are up and running faster, easier, and at a lower cost than ever before, so you can focus on innovation, competition, and bottom-line results.

About Sun

A singular vision, The Network is the Computer™, drives Sun in delivering industry-leading technologies that focus on the whole system — where computers, software, storage, and services combine. With a proven history of sharing, building communities, and innovation, Sun solutions create opportunities, both social and economic, around the world. You can learn more about Sun at sun.com.

For more information

To learn more about Sun identity management for government, please visit sun.com/identity/government.

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