LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Talking About NDS eDirectory With Novell’s Samm DiStasio

In the article “Talking About NDS eDirectory With Novell’s Samm DiStasio” (NetWare Connection, Jan. 2000, pp. 22–23), Mr. DiStasio states, “You can also think of NDS eDirectory as a backbone directory. Other directories such as Active Directory or NetWare’s directory just plug into the bigger picture.”

Can you explain what this statement means? How can alternate directories “plug in” to NDS eDirectory? Are they synchronized, or do these directories contain different objects? Which directory is used for lookups? Does NDS eDirectory also support other directories such as Lotus Domino, Exchange, or iS iC O R?

Thank you,
Vinny

With a meta directory technology such as Novell’s forthcoming Di r XM L, you can link up other data sources such as the ones you described. This link is a synchronization with certain objects being common (for example, the username). The key is that a “core directory” must not only provide linkage but also ensure that the data source remains authoritative in many cases (such as a Human Resources database). The big advantage of NDS eDirectory and Di r XM L is that we will be able to hook up any data source. More importantly, a new replica type will allow you to create a virtual replica of data that may come from several data sources. (Replicas store subsets of directory data.)

I hope this information helps,
Samm DiStasio, director of NDS-enabled products at Novell

More Talk About NDS eDirectory

I just want to take a moment to tell you what a pleasure it is to read NetWare Connection. The articles are clear and informative, providing timely information in a concise way. I’d like to say thanks for your effort and time. NetWare Connection is filled with valuable information for anyone who wants to keep on top of the new technologies.

I just finished reading “Talking About NDS eDirectory, With Novell’s Samm DiStasio.” Can you explain in detail what DirXML is? I would also like to know more about NDS eDirectory’s business-to-business solutions.

Roberth E. Mendoza

Thank you for your comments. For more information about DirXML, you can read “DirXML: Share Data Across Applications” (NetWare Connection, Sept. 1999, pp. 34–37). You can download this article from http://www.nwconnection.com/past. You can also visit the DirXML product page on Novell’s web site (http://www.novell.com/products/nds/dirxml).

NDS eDirectory is designed to enable businesses to create relationships with both other businesses and with customers while leveraging current technology investments. In addition, NDS eDirectory recently announced several new products that will enhance business-to-business partnerships. These new products are part of Novell’s new NetWare services and include NDS eDirectory for Servers, ZENworks for Servers, ZENworks for NetWare, and eGuide. For more information about these products, see the related articles in this issue (pp. 6–14 and pp. 38–43), or visit Novell’s web site at http://www.novell.com/netservices.

Correction

In “NetWare Client 5.12 for Mac OS: Easy Macintosh Client Access for NetWare” (NetWare Connection, Feb. 2000, pp. 41–43), we incorrectly indicated that the new version of the NetWare Client (version 5.13) supports pure IP. NetWare Client 5.13 supports only IPX. We apologize for any confusion this mistake might have caused.