Novell Shouts Yahoo!

According to the October 2000 Nielsen NetRatings, Yahoo! reaches 71 percent of all corporate and enterprise workers. The implications of this statistic are obvious: The vast majority of employees spend a significant amount of time on Yahoo! searching for the information they need to be effective in their jobs. Of course, employees are probably also spending some time searching for information not related to their jobs.

If you are a manager, director, or CxO, it doesn't take long to figure out that with a little help from your company's IS department, employees could be a good deal more productive. Rather than having employees surf the web, your company could build its own portal and populate that portal with information personalized for each employee based on that employee's electronic identity—such as group association and functional role in the company.

If industry analysts are right, you are, or will soon be, considering company portals. For example, the META Group estimates that by 2003, 85 percent of the Global 2000 will have deployed or will be developing an enterprise portal. (For more information about the META Group, visit www.metagroup.com.)

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

One of the problems you will face in implementing a company portal is figuring out how to combine information from both outside and inside your company. After all, your company portal should be able to display data from your company's network as easily as it displays data from the Internet. Your company portal should also be able to grant access to that information based on the electronic identity of each employee, partner, or customer.

You can see where this is leading, right? To build a company portal that meets the needs of your company, you need a directory service. And since no other directory service is better at managing identities and granting access to information based on identity, you need Novell eDirectory.

Yahoo! recently reached the same conclusion and announced that eDirectory is now the default directory for Corporate Yahoo!, an enterprise portal that combines the familiar My Yahoo! interface and content-rich media services. (Incidentally, eDirectory replaces iPlanet Directory Server as the default directory.)

Technical excellence is only one reason Yahoo! chose eDirectory, as Jeff Mallet, Yahoo!'s president and chief operating officer, explains: "The Corporate Yahoo! enterprise portal leverages Yahoo!'s leading reach in the workplace as well as our expertise in delivering a personalized and compelling portal experience to centralize critical information for end users. From state governmentsto Global 2000 companies, Corporate Yahoo! has a commitment to deliver collaborative portal solutions that are easy to deploy and easier to administer.

"Yahoo!'s decision to include eDirectory as a core component of the Corporate Yahoo! solution was based not only on the technical merits of Novell's directory software but also its tremendous adoption in the market and worldwide support infrastructure."

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Corporate Yahoo! includes Yahoo! Portal Builder and Yahoo! Content Platform. Yahoo! Portal Builder integrates with eDirectory because both comply with Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) 3. As a result, Yahoo! Portal Builder can leverage the information in your company's eDirectory tree and thereby control the personalization and delivery of content, services, and applications. In addition, the integration between Yahoo! Portal Builder and eDirectory allows you to access all Novell Net services software through Corporate Yahoo! (For more information about Novell Net services software, visit www.novell.com.)

Through eDirectory, Yahoo! Portal Builder also allows you to delegate management tasks and use roles-based security. You can delegate management tasks to specific categories, users, or groups. Confidential information is protected because none of the admin roles "above" a particular role can access that role or its content.

Yahoo! Content Platform, which is responsible for providing Corporate Yahoo!'s content-rich media services, pulls information from more than 2,200 sources. Yahoo! also has 24 world properties and is available in 12 languages, making Corporate Yahoo! well-suited for companies that span multiple countries. (For more information, visit http://corporate.yahoo.com.)

CONCLUSION

Yahoo! will deliver eDirectory as part of Corporate Yahoo! by the end of this year. In addition, Corporate Yahoo! will be added to the Novell price list and sold through Novell channels.

Novell and Yahoo! will continue to collaborate to create portal solutions that take advantage of eDirectory: For example, Novell plans to deliver portal solutions based on Corporate Yahoo! by the first quarter of 2002. Look for more information in upcoming issues of Novell Connection.