Case Study
Tokyo Zokei University
January 2009

東京造形大学
Tokyo Zokei University

Complex ID and Password Management

Relying on multiple disparate backend computer systems to store account information is a necessary practice in schools and Universities today. This in turn has resulted in additional user IDs, passwords and user data, which need to be synchronized accurately between the systems.

With around 2000 students and 350 faculty and staff, Tokyo Zokei University (http://www.zokei.ac.jp/eng/index.html) is no exception to this scenario, employing several user data stores like Microsoft Active Directory, Macintosh OpenDirectory, RedHat Enterprise Linux and Sun Solaris UNIX to make changes as they are needed. However a manual update process resulted in complicated tasks because the operations of each system are different.

A10's ID Series provides Tokyo Zokei University a unified, simplified identity management solution for user account management.

"Tokyo Zokei University now has a system in place that ensures we can update users across multiple systems even though they operate independently. The ID Series appliances offer a comprehensive amount of functionality and high-performance platform for the best price on the market today. Our user account management issues have been solved effectively."

--Koichi Taguchi, Manager of System Section for Tokyo Zokei University

Solution for Simplified Identity Management

To ensure accuracy and simplify its user account management processes, Tokyo Zokei University desired a solution that could process any update to user information on its systems and replicate it to all the companies' applications automatically, without human interaction. This in turn would save administrators time, ensure accuracy and avoid user confusion, while helping to reduce associated help desk calls for password retrieval and changes.

For a solution, Tokyo Zokei University considered identity management products from five different vendors that could accomplish the task

Problem Solved with Unified Identity Management

Four primary factors made A10 Networks ID Series network identity management appliances lead the pack:

- Hardware appliance based solution for ease of deployment with no impact to existing systems
- All existing systems supported (Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac, RedHat LINUX, Sun Solaris)
- End users can change their own passwords, and can reset them
- User account information in each system can be listed on a single screen and synchronized

The ID Series products incorporate a powerful central provisioning toolset allowing the changes to happen seamlessly between disparate systems, ensuring the accuracy of user account creation and deletion. Firstly, changes for Tokyo Zokei University are exported from user systems to the ID Series appliance. Secondly, the ID Series Centralized User Account Provisioning and Reporting module ensures the right fields in the diverse set of applications are populated with the correct data to match the changes. With a single action multiple repetitive processes for the same user update are eliminated, taking away the chance for human error, reducing IT management and support overhead.

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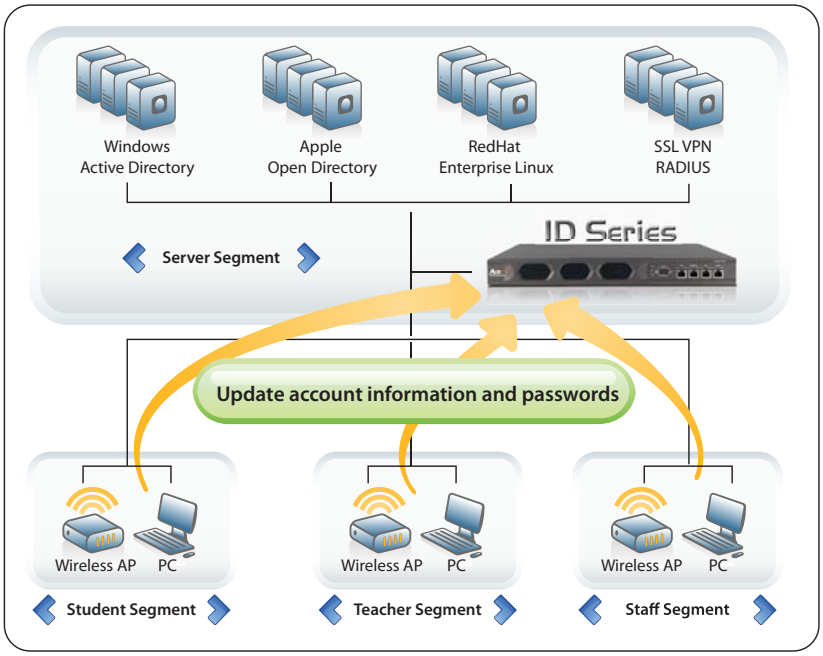
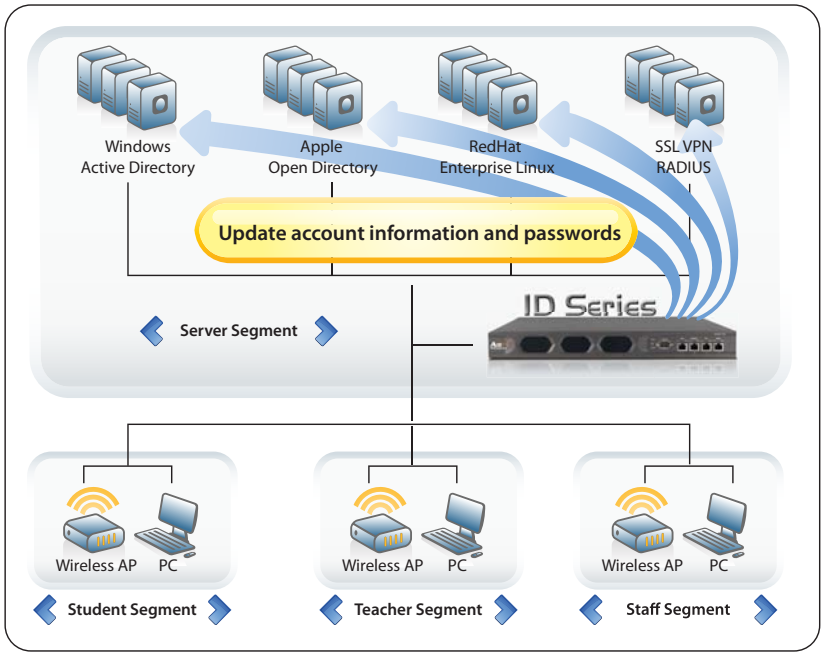
User Access



Server Access



Additional Core Modules that are included at no additional cost include:

- User Self-Service Web Portal: Empowering users to reset passwords based on answering reset questions, or change passwords to multiple disparate systems when a primary password is entered.
- Sophisticated RADIUS server that allows authentication to multiple backend data stores for authentication consolidation.
- Reporting to check password update information for each user.
- Identity Tracking with IP-to-ID.

Upon deploying A10's ID Series, Tokyo Zokei University obtained the following immediate benefits:

- Unified user account information visibility across all user account systems, as well as improved audit and reporting.
- IT Staff and end users are more productive as end users can now update password and attribute information without interaction from IT Staff.

About ID Series

ID Series delivers integrated features that improve password management, enhance network authentication and control, simplify user account management, and resolve IP addresses to identity (IP-to-ID) instantly. ID Series is the industry's only network identity management appliance to integrate the functionality and instant user identity resolution, which helps organizations of all sizes save time and minimize risk by resolving security issues faster.

About A10 Networks

A10 Networks was founded in 2004 with a mission to provide innovative networking and security solutions. A10 Networks makes high-performance products that help organizations accelerate, optimize and secure their applications. A10 Networks is headquartered in Silicon Valley with offices in the United States, Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan. For more information, visit www.a10networks.com