

## CA puts role analytics and policies to work with Smart Provisioning

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### Event summary

- CA Identity Manager 12.5 integrates the functionality from the November 2008 purchase of Eurekaify into 'Smart Provisioning' workflow capabilities to apply analytics and policy checking to the process of assigning entitlements and role attributes.
- This real-time integration of CA's provisioning and role management technology is intended to facilitate an iterative administrative and analytics process that gets CA closer to delivering on the full promise of identity lifecycle management.
- CA Identity Manager 12.5 will also support integration with CA Enterprise Log Manager and newly launched Unix Authentication Broker, which is a precursor to privileged-user role management.

### The 451 take

Role has gained more prominence in the evolution of identity management as a construct to facilitate automated policy management. CA is not necessarily taking a philosophical stand on the definition of a role or how to articulate an attribute in business terms and encapsulate it in a standardized expression. Instead, its approach is driven by the pragmatic requirement to 'de-silo' the provisioning process and contextualize the association of an access entitlement with a user and organizational or functional facets of their identity. The emphasis on operationalizing role clearly leads ultimately to governance (especially when integration with log management matures to the point where it can facilitate the establishment of baselines).

### Details

As **CA Inc** hinted in April, during the first phase of the integration of the **Eurekaify** role management technology (rebranded as CA Role & Compliance Manager), it has launched an update of its CA Identity Manager provisioning system with 'Smart Provisioning' that integrates role analytics into the provisioning workflow. The Smart Provisioning feature is the direct outcome of the November 2008 acquisition of Eurekaify for its role analytics and compliance technology. Integration with provisioning will enable the system to suggest roles, identify policy violations during provisioning and highlight entitlements that diverge from the patterns established through the application of the role-analytics technology to the correlated identity and entitlement data set. CA Role & Compliance Manager's role analytics are based on an identity warehouse populated with user, entitlement and asset management

data. The warehouse functionality also addresses the structural issue presented by provisioning and compliance silos by centralizing, normalizing and correlating identity data. The role-analytics functionality is, however, contingent on an ongoing back-end role-discovery process – which will now also incorporate provisioning decisions in a feedback loop.

The integration is through a Web service and is exposed through an updated user interface that enables administrators or business users to generate views on violations, conflicts and suggested entitlements on the fly. The intention is clearly to make the role-analytics information actionable, specific and granular – down to the entitlement level. While Smart Provisioning is largely operational functionality, and the immediate market need for the integration is driven by compliance requirements, the move does make CA's identity lifecycle management pitch more tangible. CA refers to the combination of role management, compliance and provisioning as identity lifecycle management – encompassing policies, users and processes.

### **Competitive landscape**

Until now, role management activity has been driven by the prosaic need to automate compliance procedures and streamline the process of access-control certification. Recently, enterprise architects and CSOs embraced the notion of role as an abstraction and a path toward automated attribute-based and policy-driven access controls. Role, in this sense, is a bundle of attributes that interact with authorization policies. Independent vendors **Avekxa** and **SailPoint Technologies**, which saw enterprise role management projects fall victim to the financial crisis, have experienced something of a revival.

Role management in the context of provisioning, however, relates to automating the entitlement process and cross-checking of entitlements with compliance mandates, policies and security considerations like separation of duties. This is where incumbents play – although **Courion** has tried to wrap role into its 'access assurance' pitch, and **Quest Software** has benefited from the delay in **Microsoft's** Forefront Identity Manager. A question mark lingers over the future of the largely overlapping technologies that would be brought under one roof by **Oracle's** planned acquisition of **Sun**. CA's primary competitor in the provisioning market is likely to remain **IBM**, which has decided to use role analytics as a the foundation for operational role management, but still relies on partners for role discovery.

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