



Plug-in Identity Management

IdM as a service in Finland

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Executive summary

In the recent years, the well-known promises of cloud computing have found their way into Identity Management (IdM) domain. According to IdM service providers, the long and winding road leading to your very own IdM system can be skipped. All the IdM services introduced in this market study provide some typical Identity Management features in a ready-made package over the Internet, *as a service* if you will.

Identity Management as a service is a constant cause for concern among the security-aware audience. How do you ensure that the precious identity data is protected against unauthorized access? What happens when your contractual relation with the service provider comes to an end? These are valid questions. Our study showed that the service providers have done little to substantiate their claims of ample security.

Generally speaking, there is still work to be done in the productization of Identity Management services. This hinders potential customers from making the purchase decision. Customers are compelled to spend an excessive amount of time and effort to figure out whether a service fulfills her requirements. In our opinion, both service providers and customers would greatly benefit from little improvements on the productization and marketing aspects.

Nonetheless, there are a few services already available in the marketplace, and they should not be overlooked. In our opinion, Identity Management as a service often provides a viable option to the traditional "do it yourself" approach. Just bear in mind some basic principles:

- Identify and understand the problem before jumping into the solution. Setting up Identity Management to support your business requires profound understanding of both disciplines.
- The roles and responsibilities, as well as measurable service-level indicators, should be included in the service contract in a clear and unambiguous manner.
- An all-round Identity Management service can never fulfill all of your wildest dreams. Be prepared to drop some of the requirements if, and only if, they are not of vital importance.

The above-mentioned items are very much applicable to any software development initiative. In fact, customers still face many of the same issues despite the emergence of new Identity Management services.

The complete report can be downloaded from www.secproof.com (in Finnish only).

Need more information? Please contact us.

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About the authors



Hannu Kasanen is leading a team of Identity and Access Management (IAM) and Enterprise Architecture (EA) specialists. He is also working as a consultant in a variety of Identity Management initiatives. The writer is typically supporting customers operating in a global environment to fulfill their IdM requirements. A typical assignment includes working in close co-operation with the customer to figure out what should be done and how to get it done in the most efficient manner, as well as making sure that agreed actions are, in fact, carried out by vendors, subcontractors and other parties.



Jarkko Kangas is working as a consultant, specializing in Identity and Access Management solutions as well as the development of Enterprise Architectures. A typical consultancy assignment includes supporting a customer organization in various phases of their IAM initiative, in particular current state analysis, strategy planning, requirements analysis, technology evaluation and quality assurance. The writer is often responsible of facilitating a close and constructive dialogue with customers' business representatives and other stakeholders.

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Secproof as an Identity Management expert

Are you looking for a competent partner with strong vision on Identity Management? Do you want to know how to improve your operational efficiency while reducing the risk and improving security? Contact us, we are pleased to tell you more. We can also tell you more about the IdM services covered in this market study.

Our strengths:

✓ **Expertise and experience**

Identity Management is our core business. All of our IdM specialists are seasoned agents with several years of practical experience in various Identity Management initiatives. We are familiar with the technologies, including the capabilities as well as limitations. We can also tell how the development initiative should be phased so that it will produce tangible benefits as quickly as possible.

✓ **Integrity and objectivity**

We are independent from specific technologies or vendors. We do not represent individual products or trade licences. Our task is to ensure that you get the best possible solution. We will tell you if we feel that some things should be done in a different manner - or even be completely left to be done. We can also justify and explain our opinions.

✓ **Practicality**

Instead of academic paper exercises, we try to achieve tangible results - quickly and efficiently. We believe that an assignment is successful only if it leads to measurable cost savings and/or reduces real business risks.

✓ **Versatility**

Secproof is also a renowned expert in risk management, continuity planning, security and service architecture. In conjunction with our identity management expertise, we can offer our customers a comprehensive vision under one roof.

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