RULE- AND ROLE-CONTROLLED AUTHORIZATION, BASED ON CURRENT BUSINESS DATA

Reference Project

A LARGE EUROPEAN BANK

TIGHT COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE SAM IMPLEMENTATION TEAM AND THE BANK'S SECURITY SPECIALISTS

The mission

Initial situation

With the mission of developing and introducing a new applications access control system for all users of its banking IT platform, the bank set about on a strategic infrastructure project aimed at implementing a new authorization infrastructure for new and existing applications. It was to be based on rule- and role-based access control while using existing data sources for automated provisioning. The bank chose to implement SAM Jupiter because it fit excellently into their architecture model. They understood the advantages of SAM Jupiter with respect to its user-friendliness, its automation and workflow features and, above all, its support for administering application security.

Requirements for the system included the support of an authorization module complying with the ISO norm 10181-3 "Access Control Framework", consideration of auditing fundamentals, and a user-friendly administration model based on business processes and existing organizational structures. SAM Jupiter and, above all, Beta Systems" implementation team could fulfill the bank's requirements. The bank found the team to possess a high level of conceptual as well as implementation skills, professionalism and customerorientation, as well as being flexible enough to adopt the many customer-specific requirements into the standard implementation. The end result: the bank's identity management system manages the access rights of app. 45,000 users, and administers app. 3,500 individual access rights from over 1,800 programs.

The Challenge

The challenge facing the bank were manifold: a proprietary administration tool was in use, authorization was done via technical terms such as security categories, there was no workflow and no process support, the "need to know" principle was not sufficiently supported by manual rights allocation, and reporting and auditing was only via lists and not up-to-date. The bank's IT security managers knew what they were looking for: they had developed a blueprint for a new administration and authorization framework. Now they scrutinized the market to find a standard software solution that could fit into this concept. With SAM Jupiter, the bank found the only solution that fulfilled their requirements: Beta Systems could show that SAM Jupiter was able to map their expectations for the support of their rule- and role-controlled authorization system, based on current business data, process-oriented, featuring event and workflow-driven administration, automated rights issuing, and online reporting and auditing ad hoc, periodic and up-to-date.

The company

The implementation

The European bank

The bank is a leading global financial services enterprise. The group's financial services business unit provides private customers and small and medium-sized companies with comprehensive financial consulting, banking products, pensions and insurance solutions. Another business unit, an investment bank, supports global institutions and enterprises, public corporations and private customers as a financial market intermediary. The group employs approximately 73,000 employees worldwide and administers funds of more than Euros 800 Mill. (2003)

Connection to the new authorization system

After mapping the customer's authorization framework blueprint to the SAM Jupiter data model, a dedicated prototype connector was implemented to prove the feasibility of the proposed solution. At the same time, the bank implemented a prototype of its new authorization system to which SAM Jupiter was to be connected. A tight collaboration between the SAM implementation team and the bank's security specialists made the integrated solution a success.

Integration of workflow and the provisioning engine

After this, the project team could start to refine the prototype and develop the fully featured connector in conjunction with thecustomizing of the SAM Jupiter interface. As a first step to production, a pilot application was successfully administered. The roll-out could begin. To achieve an end-to-end pilot, the provisioning engine and the SAM workflow feature were integrated so that SAM Jupiter's automation features could be leveraged.
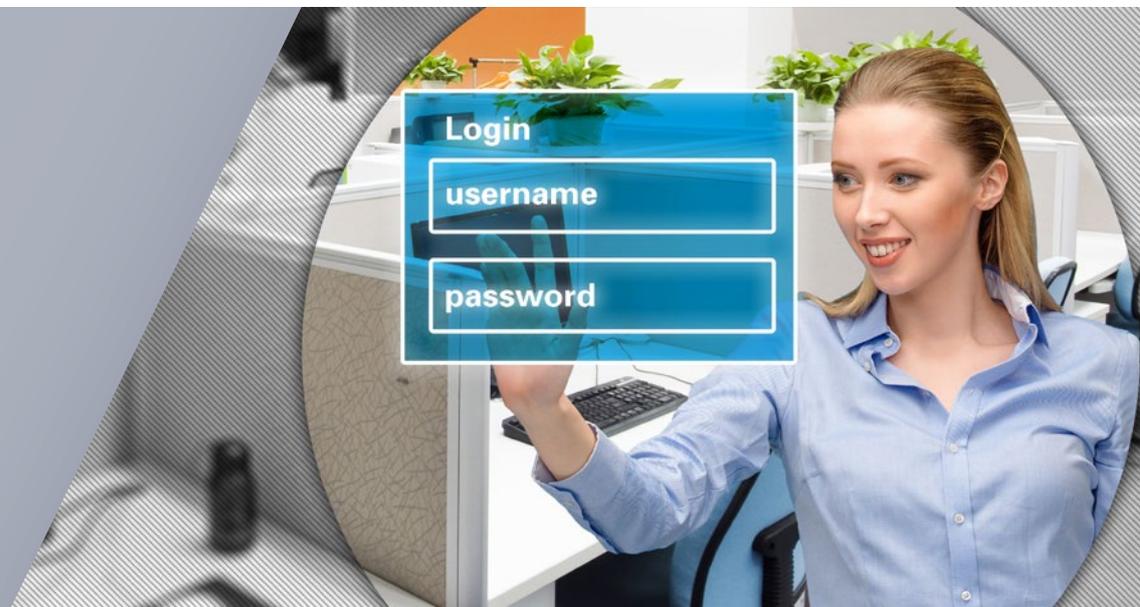
The benefit

Powerful administrative layer for the applications

Instead of investing a high effort on developing an in-house solution for application security administration, the bank chose instead to rely on the flexible customization features of the standard product SAM Jupiter. As a result, they now have an efficient and powerful administrative layer for their applications fitting exactly to their requirements and, at the same time, can benefit from the advantages of using a standard software.

Fulfilling audit requirements

The solution reduces administration cost with automated access rights maintenance and electronic request workflow. It fulfills the bank's audit requirements. It supports the "Need-to-Know" principle since access rights can be defined very granularly and easily monitored.

Scalable and extendable

The solution is scalable and extendable to other platforms and security systems of the bank such as ACF2, Windows or Unix.

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