

## Members

Business Layers, Inc.  
C&C Technology Ltd.  
ChiSurf (Hong Kong) Ltd.  
Computer Associates International  
Critical Path  
Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)  
Dept. for Work & Pensions (DWP)  
Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF)  
Fujitsu Limited  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Hitach Corporation  
Hewlett-Packard Company  
IBM Corporation  
Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Microsoft Corporation  
Ministry of Defence (UK)  
Monash University  
NASA Jet Propulsion Lab  
NASA Scientific & Engineering Workstation Procurement  
National Computerization Agency (Korea)  
NEC Corporation  
Nexor  
Novell, Inc.  
Open GIS Consortium, Inc.  
Oracle Corporation  
Primeur Italia SrL  
Raytheon Corporation  
ReGIS Ltd.  
Siemens AG  
Sun Microsystems, Inc.  
Symlabs, LDA  
Teamcall Limited  
TeleManagement Forum  
The Boeing Company  
The MITRE Corporation  
The SCO Group  
Toyota InfoTechnology Center  
University of Plymouth, Network Research Group  
University of Reading  
US Army WSTAWG  
Veriserve Corporation  
Waterforest Consulting Services  
Westpac Banking Corporation  
White Obsidian Ltd.

# Directory Interoperability

Directories are an essential part of the infrastructure necessary to operate an enterprise and conduct eBusiness. Openness and interoperability make directories more useable, ensure that any applications can run with any directory without regard to the supplier, and make it easy for software developers to create those applications. Enterprises and service providers can then deliver services to their users and customers with the speed and quality that they expect, and application vendors can readily explore new business opportunities.

## The Role

The Directory Interoperability Forum brings customers and suppliers together to increase use of interoperable standards-based directory technologies through the promotion of open directory-related standards. It:

- Influences the development, harmonization, and utilization of open directory-related standards
- Educates the market regarding the use and benefits of open directory-related standards
- Provides testing and certification for products that use open directory-related standards

Directory is a key enabling technology for Boundaryless Information Flow.

The members of the DIF include architects, strategists, and product managers from customers and vendors of directories and directory-enabled applications. The DIF helps them to understand and influence the market for directory-based business solutions, and to give their companies prominent positions in that marketplace by:

- Participating in the only common market promotion program for interoperable directory-based solutions

- Helping to operate the only independent certification program for directories and directory-enabled applications
- Leading and participating in activities such as:
  - (a) Business scenarios to explore requirements
  - (b) Challenges to stimulate vendors to meet those requirements, and frameworks and solution templates
  - (c) Working within a unique community that is international, cross-industry, and inclusive of customers and vendors

Members of the DIF are also entitled to participate in The Open Group Identity Management activity.

## The Challenge

The challenge for the industry is to develop and deliver open and interoperable directories based on open standards.

# Directory Interoperability

---

## Work Areas

### Certification

[www.opengroup.org/tech/dif/areas/cert/](http://www.opengroup.org/tech/dif/areas/cert/)

Certification provides customers with assurance that products conform to open standards and will work together. The DIF has defined the LDAP Certified program for directory servers and the complementary LDAP Ready program for directory applications. The DIF will develop and enhance these certification programs to meet evolving needs, and will hold interoperability testing events (Plugfests) to support them.

### Directory Standardization

[www.opengroup.org/tech/dif/areas/stds/](http://www.opengroup.org/tech/dif/areas/stds/)

The Directory Standardization work area will forge collaborations with the various directory standards working groups and industry forums to advance the open standards related to the directory marketplace. It will also generate standards enhancement proposals and reference implementations that the individual members will propose to the appropriate standards bodies or appropriate directory industry forums.

### Directory Interoperability Marketing

[www.opengroup.org/tech/dif/areas/market](http://www.opengroup.org/tech/dif/areas/market)

The scope and objectives of the Directory Interoperability Marketing work area are promotion of open and interoperable directories based on open standards per the DIF charter, promotion of the DIF itself, and promotion of the certification programs defined by the DIF.

### Identity Management

[www.opengroup.org/projects/idm/](http://www.opengroup.org/projects/idm/)

Can we develop a global framework for Identity Management in which the communities that an individual belongs to can operate — and cooperate — effectively, while maintaining the right of the individual to privacy, to dignity, and to be in control of his or her destiny? The Open Group, in co-operation with other bodies, is working for a global Identity Management framework. This work area has developed a statement of the requirements in its Identity Management Business Scenario, and a Roadmap White Paper. Current work items include development of a catalog of identity management product implementations, open source test suites for identity management protocols, requirements for a core identity representation, and creation of an enterprise identity management architecture guide.

## For More Information

### Tonya Henderson

US

+1 415 374 8280

+1 408 410 4413 (M)

[t.henderson@opengroup.org](mailto:t.henderson@opengroup.org)

### Chris Parnell

Europe

+44 (0)118 902 3038

+44 (0)7740 162947 (M)

[c.parnell@opengroup.org](mailto:c.parnell@opengroup.org)

### Jack Fujieda

Japan

+81 44 221 2180

[j.fujieda@opengroup.org](mailto:j.fujieda@opengroup.org)

### Paul Hickey

Rest-of-World

+1 512 343 0927

+1 512 658 8357 (M)

[p.hickey@opengroup.org](mailto:p.hickey@opengroup.org)