



The On-ramp to Identity

sponsored by **Novell**[®]

Discover innovative identity management solutions in the open source community

Overview

Regulatory pressures and the lack of a consistent method to implement or leverage identity-enabled policies are forcing organizations to identity-enable applications and services. Furthermore, with so many systems spread across an enterprise—and often, across multiple locations—businesses find it difficult to effectively audit and monitor the entire environment. As today's organizations deploy identity-management technologies to address these issues, they face a bewildering array of choices. Multiple, disparate offerings from various vendors pose complex integration challenges and slow the adoption of effective solutions. Complicating matters, the environment often contains existing, elusive “home-grown” and legacy applications that must be incorporated into identity-management efforts. With so many different applications to enable and multiple different views of identity across the business, it's no wonder that organizations feel overwhelmed.

To address these concerns, Novell created the Bandit™ project, a groundbreaking open source community with a charter to unify disparate identity systems and provide a consistent approach to securing and managing identity. In simple terms, Bandit is the on-ramp to identity. By offering a standard and vendor/platform-agnostic method, Bandit makes it possible to integrate once unreachable legacy applications with identity management systems, facilitating security and compliance, streamlining administration and reducing development costs.

An example of the Novell-led Bandit project in action is the development of a reference implementation based on Hotel Technology Next Generation (HTNG) standards. This enables hotel and hospitality enterprises to bridge various systems and platforms in their environment—including legacy systems—with commercially available identity management software. As a result, these organizations can cost effectively connect disparate systems to maintain compliance with industry regulations, lower administrative costs and significantly reduce the time required to provision, administer and pass audits.

Key Features

Security Compliance

- Standardizes authentication and authorization services across custom developed applications
- Facilitates single sign-on between corporate developed applications
- Provides centralized auditing for applications and interface events

Cost & Complexity

- Re-usable and cross platform interfaces simplifies development and deployment
- Role-based authorization simplifies administration
- Provides centralized channel for applications to audit events

Business Agility

- Provides a standard method to quickly identity enable new applications
- Leverages industry standards to facilitate integration with IdM infrastructures and third-party applications
- Allows developers to code to identity services, while moving decisions of user account location and policy to system administrator



Architecture

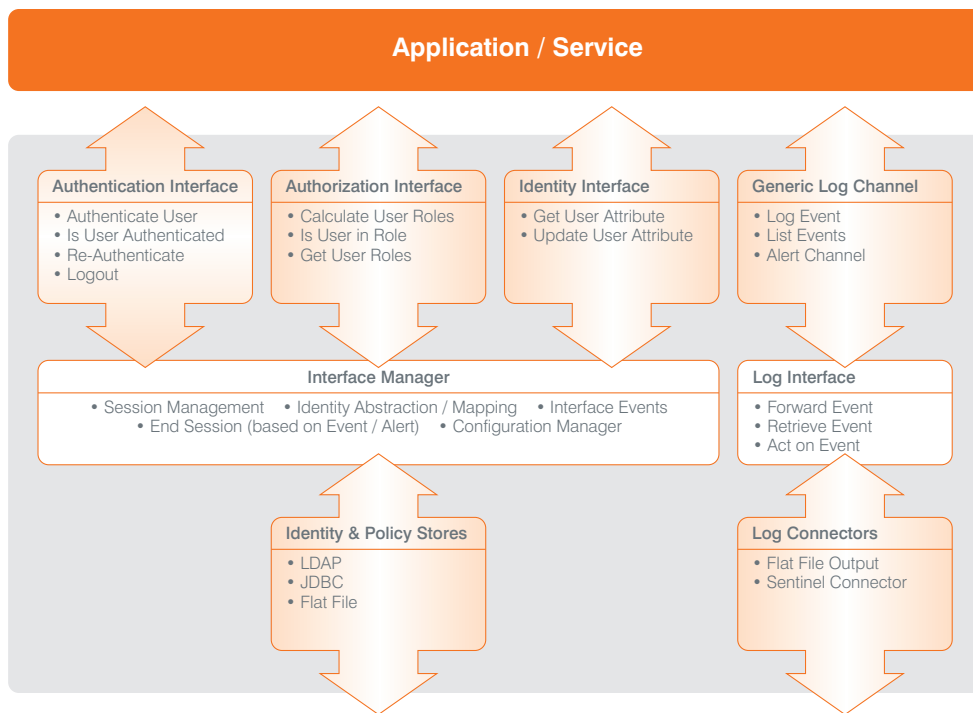
The Bandit Identity Service Interface Layer is designed to be modular and allow the developer to use the specific interfaces they need to meet their project goals.

All Bandit interfaces are built on an abstraction for identity data sources, this allows the developer to focus on the needs of her application without the need to hard-code support for LDAP, MySQL, or other identity system or data source. This essentially moves the decision of support for a specific identity system or storage from development time to deployment time. This greatly increases the flexibility of the application to integrate into more identity environments, and increases the agility of companies who use the application.

Bandit Identity Service modules can be modified or replaced as well.

For example, an application developer may use the Bandit authentication and audit services while providing their own authorization module. This would allow the developer to focus on the needs of her application without the need to hard-code support for LDAP, MySQL, or other identity data source. This speeds application development, ensures standardized authentication methods and audit events are handled correctly, and makes the application more flexible to fit into existing identity system environments.

In another example, an application may specifically need a new or specialized authentication method. Since all Bandit components are open source, a developer may start with a method already provided, then modify it according to their needs. The rest of the application components can be used as needed, including benefits of role based authorization and event auditing.



www.novell.com



**Contact your local Novell Solutions
Provider, or call Novell at:**

1 800 714 3400 U.S./Canada
1 801 861 1349 Worldwide
1 801 861 8473 Facsimile

Novell, Inc.
404 Wyman Street
Waltham, MA 02451 USA

Bandit™ Project—the Path to Better Identity Management

Organizations want to increase the effectiveness and decrease the complexity of their identity management initiatives. They need identity services that address these issues—regardless of the underlying infrastructure and vendor mix. That's where Bandit™ comes in—an open source project devoted to developing new identity services that will unify existing disparate identity sources.

With Bandit and the Identity Fabric, organizations can realize:

- Higher productivity
- Lower operational costs
- Enhanced security
- Accurate and verifiable policy enforcement
- Effective regulatory compliance

To accomplish this objective, Bandit is working with the Internet identity community to develop identity models and common services for identity virtualization, authentication, roles, policy and compliance. These elements will give organizations a consistent way to solve higher-level identity challenges.

What do I need to know about the Bandit project?

01 What is Bandit and who is it for? Bandit is a system of loosely coupled components that provide consistent identity services. It is an open source project consisting of a community of developers producing identity-related standards and technologies.

02 What are the goals of the Bandit project? Ultimately, the goal of the Bandit project is to give organizations a consistent approach to enterprise identity management challenges, such as secure, role-based access and regulatory compliance reporting.

03 How does Bandit complement the Novell® product line? Novell has donated the majority of the Bandit code and will leverage this code in its products; contributions from the community will further enhance our product lines. By doing this, customers and partners who integrate Bandit components ensure that their systems will work well with Novell products.

04 Why are Bandit and the Identity Fabric (a fabric providing ubiquitous identity wherever the network is present; it overlays the network fabric) important to Novell customers? By adopting and using Bandit and the broader Identity Fabric, Novell customers will have a consistent and secure identity management solution that delivers higher productivity, lower operational costs, enhanced security, accurate and verifiable policy enforcement, and effective regulatory compliance



“Identity assurance and strong authentication solutions would greatly benefit from seamless integration with identity management systems. ActivIdentity supports Novell’s leadership with Bandit as we believe the resulting open industry standards will expand the market and deliver greater value to customers.”

Ed Macbeth
Senior Vice President of Business Development
ActivIdentity, Inc.

www.novell.com

05 What is the difference between Bandit and Microsoft* Windows* CardSpace? Bandit offers a set of common identity services not found in CardSpace, but which interoperate with CardSpace and other identity systems. Novell will leverage Bandit to accelerate its support of CardSpace in relevant applications, including Novell Access Manager™. The Bandit project also developed an open source application, DigitalMe®, the functional equivalent to CardSpace and runs on Linux* and Mac*.

06 Why did Novell create and contribute to the Bandit project? To help our customers increase the effectiveness and decrease the complexity of identity management in their enterprises. Our sponsorship and continued support of the Bandit project is a natural extension of our leadership in both identity and open source initiatives.

07 How can an organization use Bandit to solve identity-related business challenges? Organizations must grant access to IT resources based on users’ roles within the organization, and must track and log user activities for compliance reporting. To achieve these objectives, many organizations use in-house or third-party developers to integrate their various applications. By leveraging Bandit, developers can use a common identity interface layer to integrate the identity services from multiple sources and applications, simplifying secure access and compliance reporting processes.

Or perhaps a company selects a solution that delivers approved access to corporate resources and systems to users. Because some applications and processes in the company’s infrastructure aren’t supported by this solution, a third-party developer must integrate the unsupported applications, the new approval solution and existing identity-related data. Leveraging Bandit means no proprietary code is used, making it easy to add solutions in the future while keeping overall project costs down.

08 What is the relationship between Bandit and Higgins? Both projects are focused on related but different aspects of the identity interoperability challenge. Bandit is building open source identity components with an emphasis on enterprise identity management systems—components such as authentication, roles, authorization policy, audit and other services. Higgins focuses more on enabling Internet users to have more control of their personal identity information. This approach is also known as the “user-centric” aspect of the emerging Internet identity space. The projects are complementary, and many Bandit components compose an additional layer of identity services built on top of the Higgins foundational components.

09 Which APIs does Bandit support? Bandit will support whatever APIs our developer community decides to work with, but in general does not seek to invent new APIs where existing standards exist.

10 Who is already contributing to Bandit? While Novell employees and customers are the key contributors to Bandit, some developers from the open source community have also made contributions, and this participation is likely to increase as the Bandit community matures.