

## LDAP – Sympa integration (1/5)

Sympa can use ldap in order to:

- Determine the mailing list members;
- Authenticate the user;
- Determine the user role.

We succesfully defined mailing lists using LDAP entries and authenticated the users against their LDAP password.

However, such mailing lists don't allow users to drop out other than being cancelled from the directory.

## LDAP – Sympa integration (2/5)

In order to grant authorizations, it is necessary to use Named Filters, files containing the LDAP query to determine if the user entry has the attribute associate to the requested role.

However, the basic entity managed by Sympa is the e-mail address, which is only an attribute of the LDAP entry, not the uid or the dn which generally identify the user.

This requires two queries: one to get the uid from the email and a second one to get the attribute, but sympy provides no mechanism to perform such a “join”.

We can get around this by defining a group: an entry whose attribute are the email of the users holding the attribute associated to a particular role.

In this way we can check with a single query, but we must build and synchronize the group entries with the individual user entries.

## LDAP – Sympa integration (3/5)

We tested four different scenarios:

- An open list, where posting is moderated; e.g. for general information;
- A closed lists, where only members can post; e.g. a working group;
- A closed list where also member of other ldap-defined group can send (but not receive), e.g. a referee group;
- An open list, where only member of some ldap-defined group can subscribe, i.e ldap is used to allow the subscription, not directly to subscribe. In this way we avoid the problem related to drop out.

## LDAP – Sympa integration (4/5)

Elisa tested the roles, a feature of FDS similar to groups, as proposed by Enrico.

She found roles allow to maintain the referential integrity of the groups: modifying the user's attribute, FDS updates automatically also the roles and viceversa.

One limitation of roles is that they apply only to member of a single ldap tree, i.e. it is not possible to integrate with other trees.

## LDAP – Sympa integration (5/5)

Finally, there are problems with the SSL connection to FDS, so we used an SSH tunnel between the Sympa host and the LDAP server.

Currently we are using Sympa 5.3.3 at Cnaf and Fedora Directory Server 1.0.4-1 in Ferrara.

Now that all the basic pieces are in place, we plan to create some SuperB related lists in both servers.