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LDAP Firewall and Security Features of Virtual Directory by [John Ozoa](#)

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Most big organizations have firewall in place as a form of security to their databases and directories. However, the majority of these firewalls disallow traffic and allow ports as well as protocols through on the basis of request only. Some of them also do not allow standard LDAP protocol hence clients aren't able to request for addresses using protocol. You may have to use a number of host queries on consolidating LDAP query. Thankfully by using a virtual directory, you need not to encounter all these. This is because it can serve as LDAP firewall.

A virtual directory can be used to implement multiple places of security functionality. It has the capability of manipulating information that the requests passes and the result of it. The solutions available help currently basic capabilities however the advanced ones have great possible. Using a virtual directory, you can be sure that the queries won't be using certain attributes. You can also make sure the queries are not returning certain attributes.

A virtual directory server or VDS may also be used when the internal clients need to query a number of LDAP directories online and also the customers require LDAP proxy that can act in a mediator role of a directory. In such case, you are able to set a virtual directory to search numerous LDAP services on behalf of a single query and return specific information. When you have to search all your directory servers, you will have to configure your client to talk to these servers.

A virtual directory can also provide a kind of control on the kind of operations to be executed against the directory. In some instances, you may have to make sure that the clients aren't able to perform types of write operation. In other instances, you may also wish to make sure that some customers aren't able to execute reads against the secured directories. Depending on what virtual directory service you are using, you have the power of controlling permissions by IP address.

Another way you can use a virtual directory is it can help organizations migrate from Sun directory server into another platform through its directory emulating capabilities.

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