Evolving LDAP Schema Entries (ELSE)

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Problem Statement

- LDAPv3 (RFC 2251-2252) describes how clients can locate and retrieve the attribute types, object classes and other schema rules which govern an entry in the directory (its subschema). The underlying schema model is defined in X.500(93 and later).

- Neither LDAPv3 nor X.500 currently define how administrative clients can change and manage the subschema over protocol. Interoperability is needed to allow applications to place their schema into any appropriate LDAPv3 server, and allow administrators to evolve and manage their schema.

Proposed Items

- Define how LDAPv3 clients can create and change subschema. Consider:

    - grouping of LDAP schema attribute values, e.g.what schemata is supported, what groups need to stay together (schema packages), schema package dependencies; schema versioning

    - procedures and semantics for partitioning subschema administrative areas; discovery of attribute type options

    - procedures for merging new schema elements into a subschema area

    - determining allowable changes to existing schema including impact on current DIT data (potential Best Common Practices draft)

    - procedures for updating and removing existing schema elements

    - evolve useful techniques/actions that vendors use today for schema operations

    - additional schema representation to facilitate management operations (ref: CMIP spec + RFC 1804)

    - how to uniquely identify object classes, types, etc (see current email on ldapext)

- Consider additional schema model elements beyond those required in RFC 2251 that would be suitable for inclusion or refinement in the subschema entry.

Out of Scope

- The working group will not define any schemas itself

- Schema repositories, non-LDAP directories and non-directory databases are out of scope of the working group.

What Next?

- Is there interest in pursuing this work?
- Possible drafts
  - BCP for handling schema
  - Schema operations/management (see list from previous slide)
  - Schema subentry
  - …

ELSE Mailing List Information

- Post: mailto:ietf-else@OpenLDAP.org

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