

Federation Provisioning System (FPS)

The Business Challenge

Now more than ever, your enterprise needs to share access to information resources and services with its customers and partners. Your IT staff must be able to quickly and efficiently provision and de-provision your partners' user identities with accounts and appropriate access rights on those systems you wish to expose to your partners – in a flexible, secure, and transparent way.

Federated provisioning is the ideal answer to this challenge. Federation is the method by which identity management is extended beyond the boundaries of your organization to include multiple enterprises, such as partners, customers, public agencies, or vendors. Federated provisioning is the way that these enterprises exchange identity data – information about users, their profiles, roles, and access rights.

Unfortunately, federations involve a complex provisioning problem, which raises a barrier-of-entry for many enterprises that would otherwise benefit greatly from federation. For an enterprise to be able to reap the vast benefits of federation, the cost and complexity of federation provisioning must be kept to a minimum.

The FPS Solution

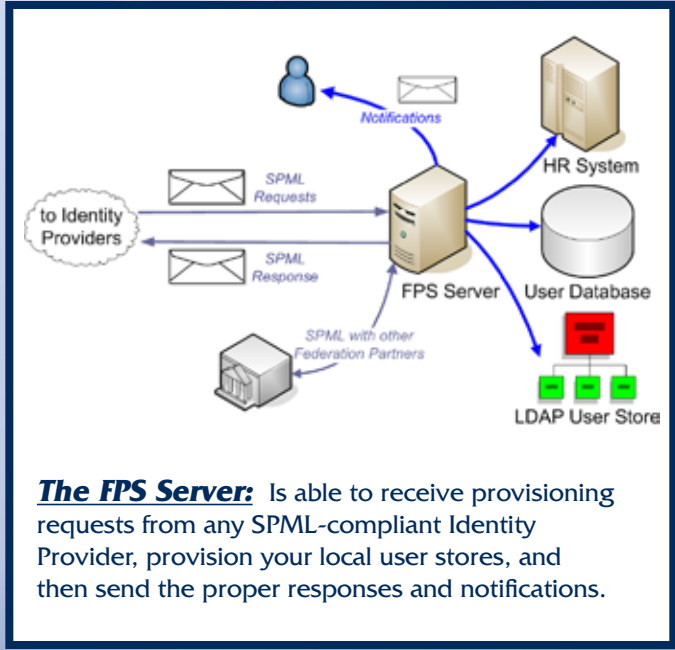
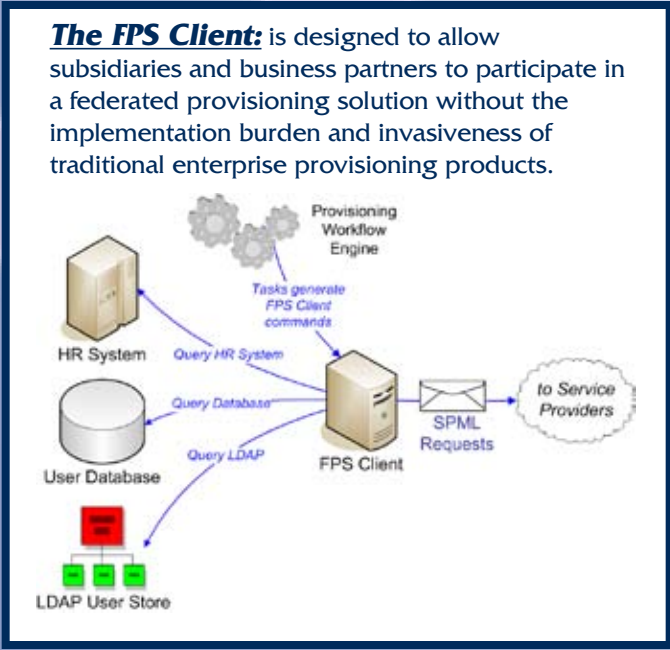
Federation Provisioning System (FPS) is a lightweight, non-invasive federated provisioning solution. FPS is the only provisioning solution in the industry that has been designed from the ground up with the specific purpose of meeting the provisioning needs of your federated relationships. FPS employs a pure standards-based approach to inter-enterprise provisioning; this streamlines and simplifies the entire process, and delivers a robust, secure, yet flexible answer to the provisioning challenge.

How It Works

FPS expresses all provisioning commands in the form of SPML (Service Provisioning Markup Language), an industry standard set forth by OASIS for describing provisioning tasks with XML-based messages. FPS enables enterprises to both generate SPML messages, and securely deliver them to partners and customers; and to interpret incoming SPML messages, and provision its user data stores accordingly.

Solution Components

FPS consists of two distinct products, THE FPS Server and the FPS Client, which can be used either together or stand-alone.



FPS Features and Benefits

Non-invasive, rapid, and low-cost implementation

One of the highest barriers to the successful entry into a federated provisioning solution is the invasive and costly implementation burden for subsidiaries and business partners. FPS bypasses this trap by providing the lightweight, low-cost **FPS Client** component for secondary parties. The FPS Client doesn't need to be installed on the database or LDAP server; it can instead exist as a stand-alone unit in a partner's network and simply query such systems for the information it needs to provision its partners.

Interoperable and Extensible

FPS reaps the full benefits of a standards-based approach to provisioning: by adhering to the industry-standard provisioning language, SPML, FPS provides maximum interoperability with other SPML compliant systems, and prevents vendor lock-in.

FPS also includes a comprehensive set of API's, which allow it to be easily integrated into a variety of environments. Examples include:

- ◆ The **Agent API**, which can be used to readily add on alternate transport protocols (like MQ Series or JMS) to FPS' out-of-the-box SOAP over HTTPS)
- ◆ The **PST API**, which allows the addition of custom provisioning service targets (PSTs) to FPS' out-of-the-box support for LDAP, ODBC, and SPML-enabled back-ends
- ◆ API's for event handling, authentication mechanisms, authorization logic, partner management, etc.



Secure

Security is central to FPS' design: it has an integrated security system that enables your enterprise to easily set up authentication/ authorization for the partners in your federation.

Plus, it integrates out-of-the-box with perimeter security solutions, such as those provided by enterprise single-sign-on products.

Reliable

FPS provides numerous mechanisms and options for increased reliability and operational redundancy; e.g.

- ◆ Support for server clustering
- ◆ Multiple FPS Servers and FPS Agents (the front-end to the FPS Server) are allowed to operate concurrently
- ◆ One FPS Server can talk to clusters of back-end servers (e.g. multiple LDAP servers, etc.)

Flexible and Efficient

- ◆ FPS is written 100% in Java, making it highly portable
- ◆ The FPS Server is multi-threaded for maximum processing throughput
- ◆ FPS is fully configurable to provision an arbitrary number of different PSTs



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Tripod Technology Group, Inc. (www.ttg.cc) is a world-wide provider of IT security services and products based in Moorestown, New Jersey, with offices in Oslo, Norway and Copenhagen, Denmark.