MKB Bank Centralized Database Accounts in AD and Eliminated Helpdesk Calls On DB Passwords

MKB Bank
Hungary
http://www.mkb.hu/

Industry:
Financial Services

Annual Revenue:
9 Billion Euro in Assets

Employees:
3,750

Oracle Products & Services:
Oracle Virtual Directory
Oracle Enterprise Database

Implementer
Oracle Consulting

Key Benefits:

- Reduced Helpdesk Calls
- Centralized Database Accounts
- Re-Used Existing Active Directory and Provisioning System
- Eliminated direct provisioning to individual databases for DB users

"Centralizing database accounts with Oracle Virtual Directory allowed us to eliminate calls to the helpdesk about user's passwords. " – Zoltán Tóth, Project Manager, MKB Bank

Deploying Oracle Virtual Directory (OVD) at MKB Bank has enabled MKB Bank to use Oracle Database Enterprise User Security (EUS) to centralize their database accounts and roles via their existing Microsoft Active Directory environment.

MKB BANK, which is the first private bank in Hungary with 9 Billion Euros in assets, launched a new data warehouse using Oracle Database. This warehouse would be used for data mining and business intelligence applications. Over 400 employees would be accessing the data directly and to control access to the data, MKB Bank leveraged Oracle database security features such as roles.

However, MKB Bank wanted to avoid providing new username and passwords to their data warehouse users as well as deploying new provisioning connectors for their existing provisioning system from BMC. MKB refers to their provisioning system as Enterprise User Administration (EUA).

The solution was to deploy Oracle Database Enterprise User Security with Oracle Virtual Directory. This allowed end-users to use their existing Windows credentials to access the database while allowing MKB Bank to automate provisioning via their existing EUA connector to Active Directory.

The Challenge: Leveraging Existing Identity Infrastructure

There were two primary challenges facing MKB Bank.

- Use existing Microsoft Active Directory credentials for database login
- Leverage existing provisioning system for centralized automated role management.

Published August 2008

"Oracle Virtual Directory greatly simplified our database user provisioning by leveraging existing systems and processes."

Zoltán Tóth
Project Manager
MKB Bank

MKB Bank wanted to reduce the need for their database users and DBA to have to learn and manage new passwords. This would reduce the benefit the bank had received by standardizing on LDAP for its enterprise authentication protocol.

Additionally the bank already had a functional provisioning connector to their Active Directory in use by their provisioning system. The bank did not want to invest in creating and managing database specific connectors, as with a large number of individual databases, it would be un-manageable. Instead they wanted to manage access to the database via groups in their Active Directory server.

Centralizing Database Identity With Virtual Directory

MKB Bank decided to leverage Oracle Database Enterprise User Security (EUS) with Oracle Virtual Directory (OVD). This solution would enable them to centralize their account management within their existing Active Directory. Additionally the provisioning system could manage the user roles via proper configuration instead of a custom connector.

The EUS feature is one of the core features of Oracle Database Enterprise Edition and has been a feature since Oracle Database 8i. However, prior to Oracle Database 10g, it required customers to configure and synchronize any existing identity data into an Oracle Internet Directory.

With Oracle Database 10g, Oracle Virtual Directory can use its unique identity virtualization capabilities so that Microsoft Active Directory (or Sun's directory) can be used to store the required database EUS meta-data and user/role mappings.

Thus MKB is now able to use their existing provisioning workflow, which is connected to Active Directory to create the proper accounts and role-based privileges for users who need to access the data warehouse.

This eliminates the need for any additional synchronization and allows MKB to re-use their existing identity infrastructure. Furthermore, the newly deployed OVD for EUS is ready to be leveraged by additional Oracle databases in MKB Bank's environment for provisioning.

Published August 2008

Why Oracle?

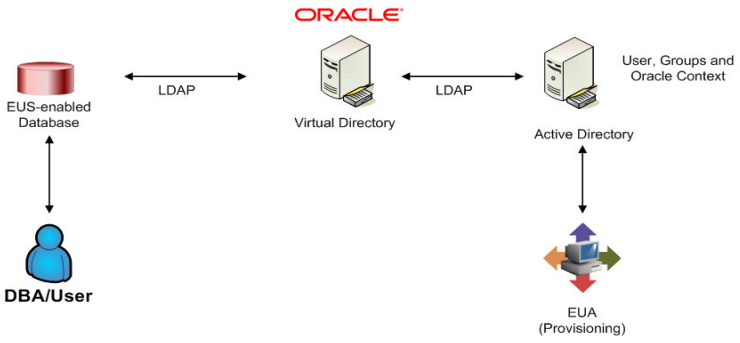
While EUS is a feature of Oracle database, it is not the only reason why MKB Bank chose Oracle Virtual Directory. The primary reason was that OVD was the only solution that would allow them to re-use their existing identity infrastructure without any additional data synchronization or data copying.

Thus it was quicker to implement and simpler to maintain.

Implementation Process

The initial deployment connected Oracle database warehouse to Oracle Virtual Directory (OVD). The Oracle Virtual Directory was then connected to the MKB Bank Active Directory. After OVD was configured to accept EUS connections via standard configuration, the database registered itself with the directory following normal EUS processes. This allows MKB Bank to use existing identity management processes and software to manage their database applications. And they were able to do this without having to write or purchase any new provisioning connectors.

The following diagram gives a high-level overview of MKB Bank's OVD-EUS deployment.



MKB Bank solution is additionally designed to be ready for more Oracle databases and scale to meet future business growth.

MKB Bank is Hungary's first private bank with over 9 Billion Euros in assets.

Published August 2008