

# UAB Authentication and Directory Services

(From chad to LDAP in about 20 years)

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User Services

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# 1983-84

- Implement ACF2 security software on administrative mainframe.
- Create database of eligible users by combining info from employee and student databases.

# 1985

- First new edition of printed Campus Directory in a number of years.
- Office automation and data merging experience were called upon to get it done quickly.
- Beginning of never-ending relationship with directory issues.

# 1985-95

- Time flies when you're having fun. Or not.
- Insert graphic of calendar pages flipping by.
- Well, a few things did happen ....
  - Connected to BITNET, 1985
  - Founding member of SURAnet, 1986-87
  - BITNET/Internet connected mailhost, 1990
    - Used same ID's as admin mainframe

# 1995-96

- UIUC/CCSO qi directory brought online
- Handles @uab.edu e-mail forwarding
- “alias” registered through web page
- Information provided from merge of employee and student databases, users can update some personal info through web
- New e-mail server accounts sync'd with qi

# 1997-98

- LDAP mirror of qi brought online
- Non-person (entity) information added to qi
- New web interface

# 1998

- “Blue pages” (organizational listings) added to qi
- First year of online input for printed Campus Directory by departments
- Admin mainframe begins using @uab.edu addresses to send out reports/alerts

# 1999

- Phonebook alias used for web sign-in to authenticate SMTP relay (mail sent from outside UAB to non-UAB addresses)
- Dr. Clair Goldsmith hired as CIO / VP for Information Technology
- PKI “push” = need to get LDAP act together

# 2000

- Dr. Goldsmith involved in eduPerson and LDAP Recipe activities
- Recipe 1.0 and eduPerson drafts published
- Windows 2000 Task Force created
- VPN implemented with qi authentication
- LDAP committees formed
- Virtual Desktop interfaced to qi

# 2001

- “Mail-only” aliases function added
- eduPerson 1.0 released
- Alias => BlazerID
- ResNet online using qi authentication
- LDAP committee work continues

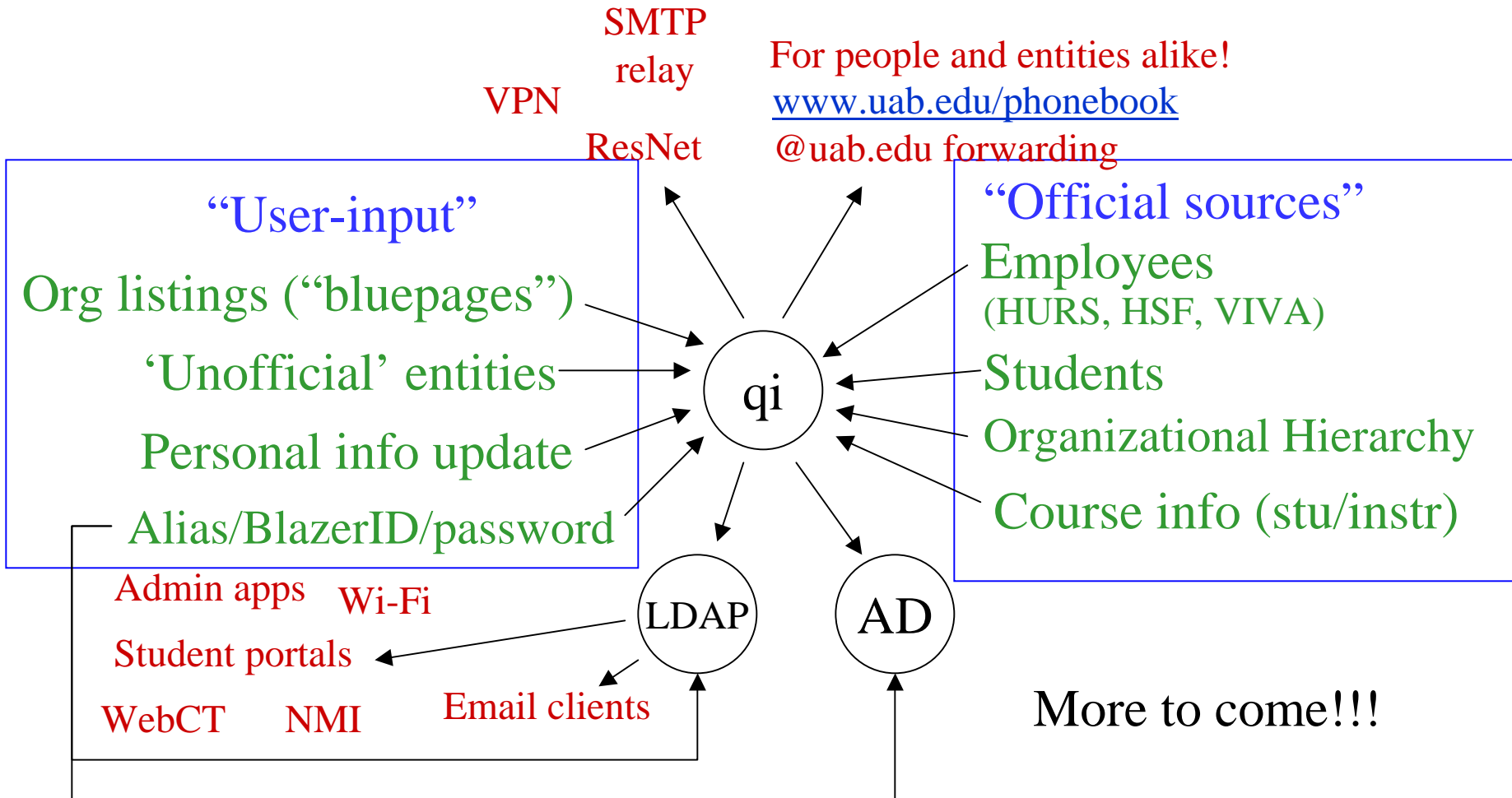
# 2002

- Recommendations from LDAP committees
- New programming to populate based on proposed data and eligibility requirements
- Incorporate eduPerson/Recipe into test schema
- Continue Win2K efforts
- New web screens for sync/security

# Last Week

- New schema put into production
- Passwords now sync'd in real-time between qi and LDAP
- WebCT now using LDAP for development, other apps eager to come online
- The fun is just beginning!

# Obligatory Confusing Diagram



# Why qi?

- Thing to use when we started
- Still most efficient for @uab.edu mail
- Still friendliest for basic queries
- Very simple text-based protocol
- Current efforts just now addressing LDAP issues/weaknesses/lack of standardization
- MacGyver rules!

# UAB LDAP, until last week

- Wanted something online for e-mail clients only supporting LDAP query
- “Magazine” pressure
- Little guidance on schema/population
- Read-only – no passwords.
- No “unlisted” users.
- Only updated from qi once a day

# UAB LDAP Committees

- Separate employee and student committees
- Propose useful attributes
- Define “continuum of association”
- Open issues:
  - Getting new people into the system faster
  - ‘Active’ vs ‘Inactive’
  - How to get people signed up for BlazerID
  - Granularity of privacy

# UAB LDAP, now

- Follows eduPerson and Recipe 1.0, committee suggestions
- Local attributes herded under uabPerson
- Non-person (entity) look-up
- New base root per specs, but old still works
- Passwords, “unlisted” users included
- Full real-time credential sync real soon

# UAB LDAP, very soon

- New web screens will sync BlazerID and password between qi, LDAP and AD.
- All authentication to be done through secure services.
- Strong passwords enforced.
- More apps!

# UAB LDAP, going forward

- Incorporate eduPerson 1.5 and Recipe 2.0; voice concerns to NMI.
- Groups, eduOrg and commObject are new; need study
- Even more apps!
- Determine if the proposed specs and suggestions really enable cross-institution access/authentication.

# Links!

- <http://www.uab.edu/phonebook>
- <http://www.dpo.uab.edu> - FAQ about BlazerIDs
- LDAP service available at ldap.uab.edu, port 389, base root dc=uab,dc=edu