

Red Hat Directory Server 12

Managing directory attributes and values

Managing directory entries using Idapadd, Idapmodify, Idapdelete, and dscof utilities or web console

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Abstract

Learn how to manage Directory Server entries by using tools from the openIdap-clients package. Enforce attribute uniqueness, assign class of services (CoS) to simplify entry management, reduce storage requirements, and avoid replication conflicts.

Table of Contents

PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON RED HAT DOCUMENTATION	. 3
CHAPTER 1. MANAGING DIRECTORY ENTRIES USING THE COMMAND LINE	4
1.1. PROVIDING INPUT TO THE LDAPADD, LDAPMODIFY, AND LDAPDELETE UTILITIES	4
1.1.1. The interactive mode of OpenLDAP client utilities	4
1.1.2. The file mode of OpenLDAP client utilities	5
1.1.3. The continuous operation mode of OpenLDAP client utilities	5
1.2. ADDING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE COMMAND LINE	5
1.2.1. Adding an entry using Idapadd	6
1.2.2. Adding an entry using Idapmodify	6
1.2.3. Creating a root entry of a database suffix	7
1.3. UPDATING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE COMMAND LINE	7
1.3.1. Adding attributes to an LDAP entry	7
1.3.2. Updating the value of an attribute	8
1.3.3. Deleting attributes from an entry	8
1.4. RENAMING AND MOVING AN LDAP ENTRY	9
1.4.1. Considerations for renaming LDAP entries	10
1.4.2. Controlling the relative distinguished name behavior when renaming entries	11
1.4.3. Renaming an LDAP entry or subtree	12
1.4.4. Moving an LDAP entry to a new parent	12
1.5. DELETING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE COMMAND LINE	12
1.5.1. Deleting an entry using Idapdelete	12
1.5.2. Deleting an entry using Idapmodify	13
1.6. USING SPECIAL CHARACTERS IN OPENLDAP CLIENT UTILITIES	13
1.7. USING BINARY ATTRIBUTES IN LDIF STATEMENTS	13
1.8. UPDATING AN LDAP ENTRY IN AN INTERNATIONALIZED DIRECTORY	14
CHAPTER 2. MANAGING DIRECTORY ENTRIES USING THE WEB CONSOLE	15
2.1. ADDING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE WEB CONSOLE	15
2.2. EDITING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE WEB CONSOLE	17
2.3. RENAMING AND RELOCATING AN LDAP ENTRY OR SUBTREE USING THE WEB CONSOLE	18
2.4. DELETING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE WEB CONSOLE	19
CHAPTER 3. ASSIGNING AND MANAGING UNIQUE NUMERIC ATTRIBUTE VALUES	20
3.1. ABOUT DYNAMIC NUMBER ASSIGNMENTS	20
3.1.1. Filters, searches, and target entries	20
3.1.2. Ranges and assigning numbers	20
3.1.3. Multiple attributes in the same range	21

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CHAPTER 1. MANAGING DIRECTORY ENTRIES USING THE COMMAND LINE

You can add, edit, rename, and delete an LDAP entry using the command line.

1.1. PROVIDING INPUT TO THE LDAPADD, LDAPMODIFY, AND LDAPDELETE UTILITIES

When you add, update, or delete entries or attributes in the directory, you can either use the interactive mode of the utilities to enter LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF) statements or pass an LDIF file to them.

1.1.1. The interactive mode of OpenLDAP client utilities

In the interactive mode, the **Idapadd**, **Idapmodify**, and **Idapdelete** utilities read the input from the command line. To exit the interactive mode, press the **Ctrl+D** (^D) key combination to send the end-of-file (EOF) escape sequence.

In interactive mode, the utility sends the statements to the LDAP server when you press **Enter** twice or when you send the EOF sequence.

Use the interactive mode:

To enter LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF) statements without creating a file.

Example 1.1. Using the Idapmodify interactive mode to enter LDIF statements

The following example runs **Idapmodify** in interactive mode, deletes the **telephoneNumber** attribute, and adds the **manager** attribute with the

cn=manager_name,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com value to the
uid=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com entry. Press Ctrl+D after the last statement to
exit the interactive mode.

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify delete: telephoneNumber

add: manager

manager: cn=manager_name,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com

modifying entry "uid=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com"

^D

To redirect LDIF statements, outputted by an another command, to the server:

Example 1.2. Using the Idapmodify interactive mode with redirected content

The following example redirects the output of the **command_that_outputs_LDIF** command to **Idapmodify**. The interactive mode exits automatically after the redirected command exits.

command_that_outputs_LDIF | Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

Additional resources

• Idif(5) man page

1.1.2. The file mode of OpenLDAP client utilities

In the interactive mode, the **Idapadd**, **Idapmodify**, and **Idapdelete** utilities read the LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF) statements from a file. Use this mode to send a larger number of LDIF statements to the server.

Example 1.3. Passing a File with LDIF Statements to Idapmodify

1. Create a file with the LDIF statements. For example, create the ~/example.ldif file with the following statements:

dn: uid=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com changetype: modify delete: telephoneNumber

add: manager

manager: cn=manager_name,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com

This example deletes the **telephoneNumber** attribute and to adds the **manager** attribute with the **cn=manager_name,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** value to the **uid=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** entry.

2. Pass the file to the **Idapmodify** command using the **-f** parameter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x -f ~/example.Idif

Additional resources

• Idif(5) man page

1.1.3. The continuous operation mode of OpenLDAP client utilities

By default, if you send multiple LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF) statements to the server and one operation fails, the process stops. However, entries processed before the error occurred were successfully added, modified, or deleted.

To ignore errors and continue processing further LDIF statements in a batch, pass the **-c** parameter to **Idapadd** and **Idapmodify**:

Idpamodify -c -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

1.2. ADDING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE COMMAND LINE

To add a new entry to the directory, use the **Idapadd** or **Idapmodify** utility. Note that /bin/Idapadd is a symbolic link to /bin/Idapmodify. Therefore, **Idapadd** performs the same operation as **Idapmodify -a**.



NOTE

You can only add a new directory entry if the parent entry already exists. For example, you cannot add **cn=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com**, if the **ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** parent entry does not exist.

1.2.1. Adding an entry using Idapadd

To use the **Idapadd** utility to add, for example, the **cn=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** user entry, enter:

Idapadd -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

uid: user

givenName: given name

objectClass: top objectClass: person

objectClass: organizationalPerson

objectClass: inetorgperson

sn: *surname* cn: *user*



NOTE

Running **Idapadd** automatically performs a **changetype: add** operation. Therefore, you do not need to specify **changetype: add** in the LDIF statement.

Additional resources

• Idapadd(1) man page

1.2.2. Adding an entry using Idapmodify

To use the **Idapmodify** utility to add, for example, the **cn=user,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** user entry, enter:

Idapmodify -a -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

uid: user

givenName: given_name

objectClass: top objectClass: person

objectClass: organizationalPerson

objectClass: inetorgperson

sn: *surname* cn: *user*



NOTE

When passing the **-a** parameter to the **Idapmodify** command, the utility automatically performs a **changetype: add** operation. Therefore, you do not need to specify **changetype: add** in the LDIF statement.

Additional resources

• Idapmodify(1) man page

1.2.3. Creating a root entry of a database suffix

To create the root entry of a database suffix, such as **dc=example,dc=com**, bind as the **cn=Directory Manager** user and add the entry. The distinguished name (DN) corresponds to the DN of the root or sub-suffix of the database.

For example, to add the **dc=example,dc=com** suffix, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: dc=example,dc=com

changetype: add objectClass: top objectClass: domain

dc: example



NOTE

You can add root objects only if you have one database per suffix. If you create a suffix that is stored in several databases, you must use the **dsctl Idif2db** command to set the database that will hold the new entries.

Additional resources

• Importing data using the command line while the server is offline

1.3. UPDATING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE COMMAND LINE

When you modify a directory entry, use the **changetype: modify** statement. Depending on the change operation, you can add, change, or delete attributes from the entry.

1.3.1. Adding attributes to an LDAP entry

To add an attribute to an LDAP entry, use the **add** operation.

For example, to add the **telephoneNumber** attribute with the **555-1234567** value to the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify add: telephoneNumber

telephoneNumber: 555-1234567

If an attribute is multi-valued, you can specify the attribute name multiple times to add all the values in a single operation. For example, to add two **telephoneNumber** attributes at once to the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com**, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify add: telephoneNumber

telephoneNumber: *555-1234567* telephoneNumber: *555-7654321*

1.3.2. Updating the value of an attribute

The procedure for updating an attribute's value depends on whether the attribute is single-valued or multi-valued:

• Updating a single-value attribute:

When updating a single-value attribute, use the **replace** operation to override the existing value. The following command updates the **manager** attribute of the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify replace: manager

manager: uid=manager_name,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

• Updating a specific value of a multi-value attribute:

To update a specific value of a multi-value attribute, first delete the entry you want to replace, and then add the new value. The following command updates only the **telephoneNumber** attribute that is currently set to **555-1234567** in the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify delete: telephoneNumber

telephoneNumber: 555-1234567

add: telephoneNumber

telephoneNumber: 555-9876543

1.3.3. Deleting attributes from an entry

To delete an attribute from an entry, use the **delete** operation:

Deleting an attribute:

For example, to delete the **manager** attribute from the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify delete: manager



IMPORTANT

If the attribute contains multiple values, this operation deletes all of them.

Deleting a specific value of a multi-value attribute:
 If you want to delete a specific value from a multi-value attribute, list the attribute and its value in the LDAP Data Interchange Format (LDIF) statement. For example, to delete only the telephoneNumber attribute that is set to 555-1234567 from the uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com entry, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify delete: telephoneNumber

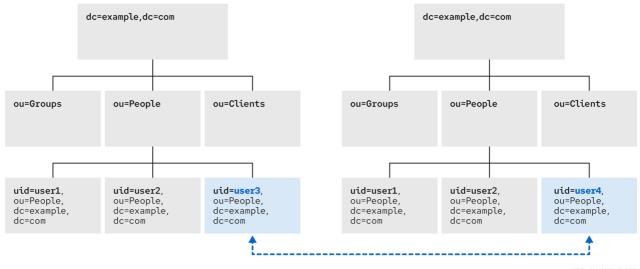
telephoneNumber: 555-1234567

1.4. RENAMING AND MOVING AN LDAP ENTRY

The following rename operations exist:

Renaming an entry

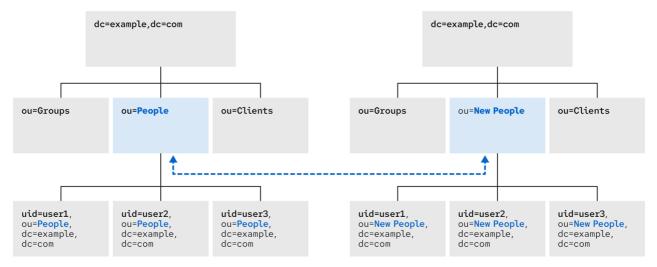
If you rename an entry, the **modrdn** operation changes the relative distinguished name (RDN) of the entry:



230_RHDS_0422

Renaming a subentry

For subtree entries, the **modrdn** operation renames the subtree and also the DN components of child entries:

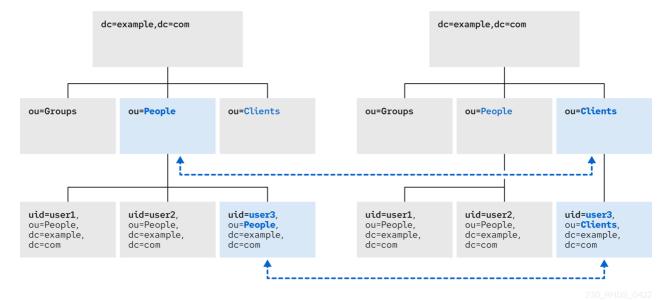


230 RHDS 0422

Note that for large subtrees, this process can take a lot of time and resources.

Moving an entry to a new parent

A similar action to renaming a subtree is moving an entry from one subtree to another. This is an expanded type of the **modrdn** operation, which simultaneously renames the entry and sets a **newSuperior** attribute which moves the entry from one parent to another:



1.4.1. Considerations for renaming LDAP entries

Keep the following in mind when performing rename operations:

- You cannot rename the root suffix.
- Subtree rename operations have minimal effect on replication. Replication agreements are applied to an entire database, not to a subtree within the database. Therefore, a subtree rename

operation does not require re-configuring a replication agreement. All name changes after a subtree rename operation are replicated as normal.

- Renaming a subtree might require any synchronization agreements to be reconfigured.
 Synchronization agreements are set at the suffix or subtree level. Therefore, renaming a subtree can break synchronization.
- Renaming a subtree requires that any subtree-level access control instructions (ACI) set for the subtree be reconfigured manually, as well as any entry-level ACIs set for child entries of the subtree.
- Trying to change the component of a subtree, such as moving from **ou** to **dc**, might fail with a schema violation. For example, the **organizationalUnit** object class requires the **ou** attribute. If that attribute is removed as part of renaming the subtree, the operation fails.
- If you move a group, the MemberOf plug-in automatically updates the memberOf attributes.
 However, if you move a subtree that contain groups, you must manually create a task in the cn=memberOf task entry or use the dsconf memberOf fixup command to update the related memberOf attributes.

1.4.2. Controlling the relative distinguished name behavior when renaming entries

When you rename an entry, the **deleteOldRDN** attribute controls whether the old relative distinguished name (RDN) will be deleted or retained:

deleteOldRDN: 0

The existing RDN is retained as a value in the new entry. The resulting entry contains two **cn** attributes: one with the old and one with the new common name (CN).

For example, the following attributes belong to a group that was renamed from cn=old_group,dc=example,dc=com to cn=new_group,dc=example,dc=com with the deleteOldRDN attribute set to 0:

dn: cn=new group,ou=Groups,dc=example,dc=com

objectClass: top

objectClass: groupOfUniqueNames

cn: old_group cn: new_group

deleteOldRDN: 1

Directory Server deletes the old entry and creates a new entry using the new RDN. The new entry only contains the **cn** attribute of the new entry.

For example, the following group was renamed to **cn=new_group,dc=example,dc=com** with the **deleteOldRDN** attribute set to **1**:

dn: cn=new group,ou=Groups,dc=example,dc=com

objectClass: top

objectClass: groupofuniquenames

cn: new_group

Additional resources

• Renaming an LDAP entry or subtree

1.4.3. Renaming an LDAP entry or subtree

To rename an entry or subtree, use the **changetype: modrdn** operation, and set the new relative distinguished name (RDN) in the **newrdn** attribute.

For example, to rename the **cn=demo1,dc=example,dc=com** entry to **cn=demo2,dc=example,dc=com**, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: cn=demo1,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modrdn newrdn: cn=demo2 deleteOldRDN: 1

Additional resources

Controlling the relative distinguished name behavior when renaming entries

1.4.4. Moving an LDAP entry to a new parent

To move an entry to a new parent, use the **changetype: modrdn** operation, and set the following to attributes:

- **newrdn**: Sets the relative distinguished name (RDN) of the moved entry. You must set this entry, even if the RDN remains the same.
- **newSuperior**: Sets the distinguished name (DN) of the new parent entry.

For example, to move the **cn=demo** entry from **ou=Germany,dc=example,dc=com** to **ou=France,dc=example,dc=com**, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: cn=demo,ou=Germany,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modrdn newrdn: *cn=demo*

newSuperior: ou=France,dc=example,dc=com

deleteOldRDN: 1

Additional resources

• Controlling the relative distinguished name behavior when renaming entries

1.5. DELETING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE COMMAND LINE

You can remove entries from an LDAP directory, but you can only delete entries that have no child entries. For example, you cannot delete **ou=People,dc=example,dc=com**, if the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry still exists.

1.5.1. Deleting an entry using Idapdelete

The **Idapdelete** utility enables you to delete one or multiple entries. For example, to delete the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry, enter:

Idapdelete -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x "uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com"

To delete multiple entries in one operation, append them to the command:

Idapdelete -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x "uid=user1,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com" "uid=user2,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com"

Additional resources

• Idapdelete(1) man page

1.5.2. Deleting an entry using Idapmodify

To delete an entry using the **Idapmodify** utility, use the **changetype: delete** operation. For example, to delete the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: delete

1.6. USING SPECIAL CHARACTERS IN OPENLDAP CLIENT UTILITIES

When using the command line, enclose characters that have a special meaning to the command-line interpreter, such as space (), asterisk (*), or backslash (\), with quotation marks. Depending on the command-line interpreter, use single or double quotation marks. For example, to authenticate as the **cn=Directory Manager** user, enclose the user's distinguished name (DN) in quotation marks:

Idapmodify -a -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

Additionally, if a DN contains a comma in a component, escape it using a backslash. For example, to authenticate as the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example.com Chicago, IL** user, enter:

Idapmodify -a -D "cn=uid=user,ou=People,dc=example.com Chicago\, IL" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

1.7. USING BINARY ATTRIBUTES IN LDIF STATEMENTS

Certain attributes support binary values, such as the **jpegPhoto** attribute. When you add or update such an attribute, the utility reads the value for the attribute from a file. To add or update such an attribute, you can use the **Idapmodify** utility.

For example, to add the **jpegPhoto** attribute to the **uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com** entry, and read the value for the attribute from the **/home/user_name/photo.jpg** file, enter:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify add: jpegPhoto

jpegPhoto:< file:///home/user_name/photo.jpg



IMPORTANT

Note that there is no space between: and <.

1.8. UPDATING AN LDAP ENTRY IN AN INTERNATIONALIZED DIRECTORY

To use attribute values with languages other than English, associate the attribute's value with a language tag.

When using **Idapmodify** to update an attribute that has a language tag set, you must match the value and language tag exactly or the operation will fail.

For example, to modify an attribute value that has the **lang-fr** language tag set, include the tag in the modify operation:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -H Idap://server.example.com -x

dn: uid=user,ou=People,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify

replace: homePostalAddress; lang-fr

homePostalAddress; lang-fr: 34 rue de Seine

CHAPTER 2. MANAGING DIRECTORY ENTRIES USING THE WEB CONSOLE

You can add, edit, rename, and delete LDAP entries using the web console.

2.1. ADDING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE WEB CONSOLE

You can create the following entries using the web console:

- users
- groups
- roles
- organizational units (OUs)
- custom entries

For example, you want to create a POSIX user **cn=John Smith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** with a password.

Prerequisites

- You are logged into the Directory Server web console.
- The parent entry exists. For example, ou=people,dc=example,dc=com.

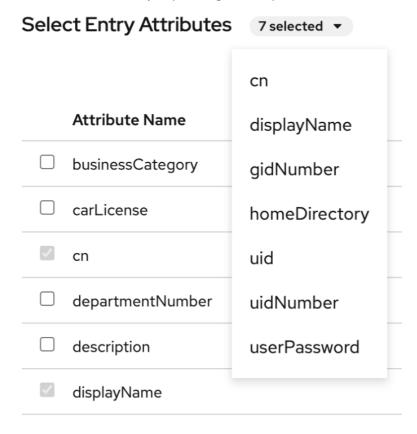
Procedure

- 1. Open the LDAP Browser menu to reveal the list of existing suffixes.
- 2. Using the **Tree** or **Table** view, expand the parent entry **ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** under which you want to create a user.
- 3. Click the Options menu (1) and select **New** to open the wizard window.



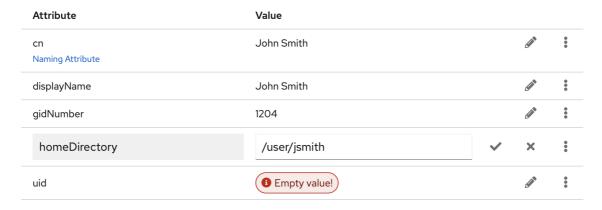
- 4. Select the Create a new User option and click Next.
- 5. For the user entry, select **Posix Account** type and click **Next**.

6. Optional: Select additional attributes, such as **userPassword**, and click **Next**. You can view all selected attributes by expanding the drop-down list near the step name.



- 7. Set a value for each attribute:
 - a. Click on the pencil button of the attribute and add a value.

Set Attribute Values



Note that a separate menu opens when you set the **userPassword** value. The value is filled with asterisks (*) to hide the plain text.

- b. Click on the check button to save changes.
- c. Optional: Set an additional attribute value by clicking the **Options menu (■)** → **Add Another Value**.
- d. After you have set all values, click **Next**.
- 8. Verify that all entry details are correct and click **Create User**. Directory Server creates the entry with mandatory attributes for a POSIX user and sets the password to it. You can click **Back** to modify entry settings, or click **Cancel** to cancel the entry creation.

9. View the Result for Entry Creation and click Finish.

Verification

- 1. Navigate to LDAP Browser → Search.
- 2. Select the database suffix that contains the entry, such as dc=example,cd=com.
- 3. Enter your search criteria in the field, such as **John**, and press **Enter**.
- 4. Find the entry you recently created in the list of entries.

2.2. EDITING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE WEB CONSOLE

You can modify a directory entry using the web console. This example modifies a user entry **cn=John Smith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** by:

- adding telephone numbers 556778987 and 556897445.
- adding email jsmith@example.com.
- changing the password.

Prerequisites

• You are logged into the Directory Server web console.

Procedure

- 1. Open the LDAP Browser menu.
- 2. Using the **Tree** or **Table** view, expand the entry you want to edit, such as **cn=John Smith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com**.
- 3. Click the Options menu (1) and select **Edit** to open the wizard window.
- 4. Optional: In the **Select ObjectClasses** step, add or delete object classes for the entry. Click **Next**.
- 5. In the **Select Attributes** step, add **telephoneNumber** and **mail** attributes to the entry and click **Next**. If you do not see an attribute you want to add to the entry it means that you did not add corresponding object class in the previous step.



NOTE

In this step, you **can not** delete mandatory attributes of the selected object classes.

- 6. In the **Edit Attribute Values** step, set **telephoneNumber** to **556778987** and **556897445**, **mail** to **jsmith@example.com** and change **userPassword** value:
 - a. Click on the pencil button of the attribute and add or change a new value.
 - b. Click on the check button to save changes.

- c. Optional: Set an additional value to an attribute by clicking the Options menu (■) → Add Another Value. The telephoneNumber attribute has two values in this example. When you set all values, click Next.
- 7. Review your changes and click **Next**.
- 8. To edit the entry, click **Modify Entry**. You can click **Back** to make other changes to the entry, or click **Cancel** to cancel the entry editing.
- 9. View the Result for Entry Modification and click Finish.

Verification

• Expand the entry details and view the new changes appear among the entry attributes.

2.3. RENAMING AND RELOCATING AN LDAP ENTRY OR SUBTREE USING THE WEB CONSOLE

Additional resources

You can rename or relocate a directory entry or a subtree using the web console. This example renames and relocates the entry **cn=John Smith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com** to **cn=Tom Smith,ou=clients,dc=example,dc=com**.

Prerequisites

• You are logged into the Directory Server web console.

Procedure

- 1. Open the **LDAP Browser** menu.
- 2. Using the **Tree** or **Table** view, expand the entry you want to modify, such as **cn=John Smith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com**.
- 3. Click the Options menu (1) and select **Rename** to open the wizard window.
- 4. In the Select The Naming Attribute And Value step:
 - a. Set a new value **Tom Smith** for the naming attribute **cn** and click **Next**.
 - b. Optional: Select another naming attribute from the drop-down menu.
 - c. Optional: In case you want to delete the old entry and create a new one using the new RDN, check the **Delete the old RDN**
- 5. In **Select The Entry Location** step, select the parent entry for the new location, and click **Next**.
- 6. Review changes you made to the entry and click **Next**.
- 7. If the entry details are correct, click **Change Entry Name**. You can click **Back** to make other changes to the entry or click **Cancel** to cancel the entry modification.
- 8. View Result for Entry Modification and click Finish.

Verification

• Expand the entry details and review the updated entry.

2.4. DELETING AN LDAP ENTRY USING THE WEB CONSOLE

You can delete a directory entry or a subtree using the web console. This example deletes the entry **cn=Tom Smith,ou=clients,dc=example,dc=com**.

Prerequisites

• You are logged into the Directory Server web console.

Procedure

- 1. Open the **LDAP Browser** menu.
- 2. Using the **Tree** or **Table** view, expand the entry you want to delete, such as **cn=Tom Smith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com**.
- 3. Click the Options menu (1) and select **Delete** to open the wizard window.
- 4. Click **Next** after you review the data about the entry you want to delete.
- 5. In the **Deletion** step, toggle the switch to the **Yes, I'm sure** position and click **Delete**. You can click **Cancel** to cancel the entry deletion.
- 6. View the **Result for Entry Deletion** and click **Finish**.

Verification

- 1. Navigate to **LDAP Browser** → **Search**.
- 2. Select the suffix where the entry previously existed, such as **dc=example,cd=com**.
- 3. Enter your search criteria in the field, such as **Tom**, and press **Enter**.
- 4. Verify that the deleted entry is no longer present.

CHAPTER 3. ASSIGNING AND MANAGING UNIQUE NUMERIC ATTRIBUTE VALUES

Some entry attributes require unique numeric identifiers, such as **uidNumber** and **gidNumber**. The Directory Server can generate and assign these unique numbers automatically for specified attributes using the Distributed Numeric Assignment (DNA) Plug-in.



NOTE

The DNA plug-in does not guarantee *attribute uniqueness*. The pug-in allocates non-overlapping ranges, enabling manual assignment of numbers to managed attributes without mandating or verifying their uniqueness.

With DNA plug-in, you can effectively avoid replication conflicts. The DNA Plug-in assigns unique numbers across a *single* backend. For multi-supplier replication, when each supplier is running a local DNA plug-in instance, you must assign different ranges of numbers to each server. This ensures that each instance is using a truly unique set of numbers.

3.1. ABOUT DYNAMIC NUMBER ASSIGNMENTS

The DNA plug-in assigns a range of available numbers that instance can issue. Two attributes define the range definition: the server next available number (the botton value of the range) and its maximum value (the upper value of the range). You set the initial bottom value when you configure the plug-in. Later, the plug-in udates this bottom value.

By breaking the available numbers into separate ranges on each replica, the servers can continually assign numbers without overlapping with each other.

3.1.1. Filters, searches, and target entries

The server performs a sorted search internally to verify if another server has already taken the next specified range, requiring the managed attribute to have an equality index with the proper ordering matching rule.

The DNA Plug-in is always applied to a specific area of the directory tree (the *scope*) and specific entry types within that subtree (the *filter*).



IMPORTANT

The DNA Plug-in works only on a *single* back end, unable to manage number assignments for multiple databases. The DNA Plug-in uses the sort control to check whether a value has been manually allocated outside of the DNA Plug-in. However, this validation using the sort control works only on a *single* back end.

3.1.2. Ranges and assigning numbers

The Directory Server can generate attribute values using several different methods:

In a basic scenario, when adding a user entry to the directory with an object class that requires
the unique-number attribute but doesn't have the attribute value, it activates the DNA Plug-in
to assign a value. This occurs when the DNA Plug-in is configured to assign unique values to a
single attribute.

• A simpler option entails using a *magic number* as a template value for the managed attribute. This magic number, which can be a number or even a word, resides outside the server's range. The plug-in recognizes it as a signal to replace it with a newly assigned value. When an entry is added with the magic value and falls within the scope and filter of the configured DNA Plug-in, it prompts the plug-in to generate a new value. For instance, using **Idapmodify**, you can add 0 as a magic number:

dn: uid=jsmith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: add objectClass: top objectClass: person

objectClass: posixAccount

uid: jsmith cn: John Smith uidNumber: 0 gidNumber: 0

The DNA Plug-in only generates new, unique values. If an entry is added or modified to use a specific value for an attribute controlled by the DNA Plug-in, the plug-in will not overwrite it.

3.1.3. Multiple attributes in the same range

The DNA Plug-in can assign unique numbers to a single or multiple attribute types from a single range of unique numbers.

This offers multiple options for assigning unique numbers to attributes:

- A single number for a single attribute type from a unique range.
- The same unique number for two attributes in one entry.
- Two distinct attributes assigned distinct numbers from the same unique range.

In many cases, assigning a unique number per attribute type suffices. For instance, when assigning an **employeeID** to a new employee entry, it's crucial to ensure each employee entry receives a unique **employeeID**.

However, in some cases, it's useful to assign unique numbers from the same range of numbers to multiple attributes. For instance, when assigning a **uidNumber** and a **gidNumber** to a **posixAccount** entry, the DNA Plug-in assigns the same number to both attributes. To achieve this, pass both managed attributes to the modify operation specifying the magic value. Using **Idapmodify**:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -x

dn: uid=jsmith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify add: uidNumber uidNumber: 0

add:gidNumber gidNumber: 0

When the DNA Plug-in handles multiple attributes, it can assign a unique value to only one attribute if the object class permits only one. For instance, the **posixGroup** object class allows **gidNumber** but not **uidNumber**. If the DNA Plug-in manages both **uidNumber** and **gidNumber**, it assigns a unique number

for **gidNumber** from the **uidNumber** and **gidNumber** attribute range when creating a **posixGroup** entry. Sharing a pool for all managed attributes ensures consistent assignment of unique numbers, preventing conflicts where **uidNumber** and **gidNumber** on different entries end up with the same number from separate ranges.

If the DNA Plug-in manages multiple attributes, it assigns the same value to all of them in a single modify operation. To assign *different* numbers from the same range, you need to perform separate modify operations. For example, you can use **ldapmodify**:

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -x dn: uid=jsmith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify add: uidNumber uidNumber: 0

^D

Idapmodify -D "cn=Directory Manager" -W -x dn: uid=jsmith,ou=people,dc=example,dc=com

changetype: modify add: employeeld employeeld: magic



IMPORTANT

To assign unique numbers to multiple attributes using the DNA Plug-in, specify a unique value for each attribute that needs it. Unlike a single attribute, which doesn't require this, multiple attributes need you to specify the unique value. In some cases, an entry won't permit all attributes in the range, or it may allow all types but only a subset requiring a unique value.

Example 3.1. Example. DNA and Unique Bank Account Numbers

Example Bank administrator configures the DNA Plug-in to assign a shared unique number to a customer's **primaryAccount** and **customerID** attributes.

The bank also wants to assign unique numbers for secondary accounts, distinct from primary accounts but from the same number range as the customer IDs and primary accounts. The Example Bank administrator configures the DNA Plug-in to manage the **secondaryAccount** attribute, added post-entry creation, after assigning unique numbers to **primaryAccount** and **customerID**. This guarantees a shared unique number for **primaryAccount** and **customerID**, with distinct and unique **secondaryAccount** numbers from the same range.