

# Best Practise for Directory Services: eDirectory

Rhys Smith  
*Cardiff University*



# err

- Well, “best practise” can only be agreed by community consensus
- So... lets start again

# Best Cardiff's Practise for Directory Services: eDirectory

Rhys Smith  
*Cardiff University*



# outline

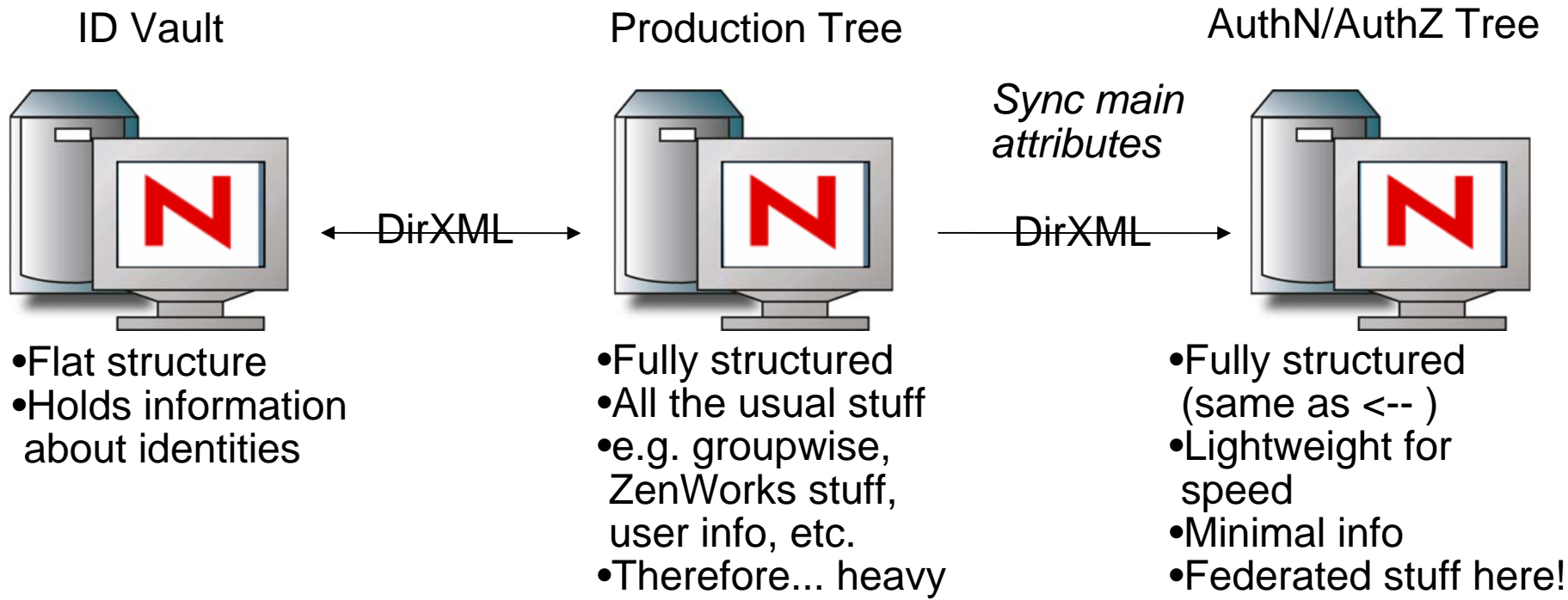
- Cardiff's practise re: Directory Services – hopefully best practise – feel free to argue!
- Identity Management
- General issues
- eDirectory specific issues

# general issues

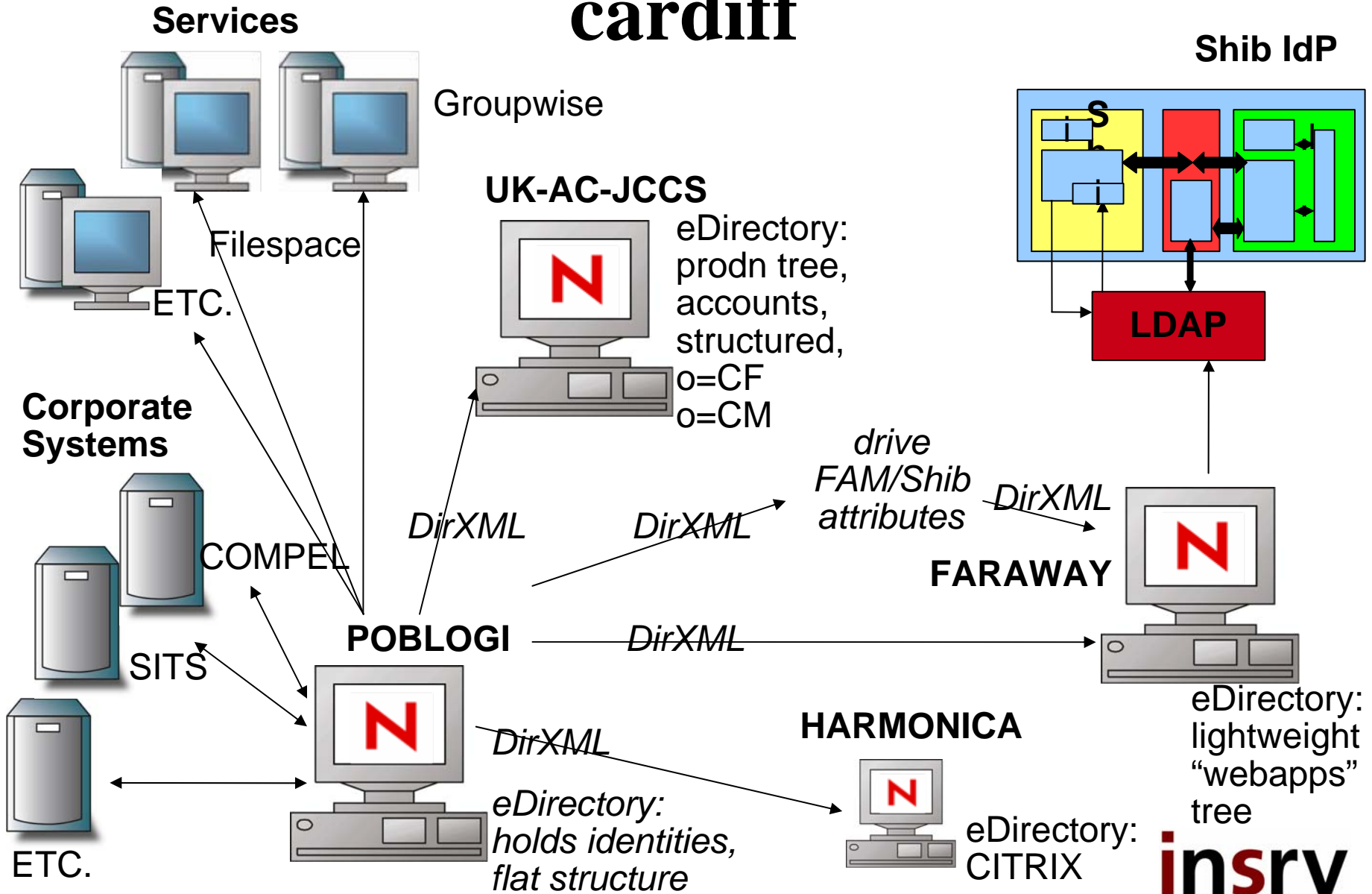
- Identity Management very important
- Needs:
  - Accurate data (good data authorities!)
  - Timely data (good links to data authorities)
- Leads to need for good control:
  - Control over who can edit what, when and how

# structure of directories

- Seperate Identity Vault, Production tree and AuthN/Z tree



# cardiff



# structure

- Consider how to structure your tree carefully
- Ours is structured by Department/School
- Both good and bad...
- Problems
  - e.g. Where does head of a department go? The VC?
- Don't have multiple bases, it's a PITA – (trust us, we have 2 bases! o=CF, o=CM)

# schemas

- e.g. eduPerson schema, POSIXUser schema
- Instead of adding schema to tree, each as new object...
- Register a schema prefix for your org:
  - e.g. Cardiff\* (CardiffUserProperties)  
(top -> user -> nds login properties -> person -> x)
- Then add all local attributes to that object
  - e.g. *homedir, login shell, uidnumber, gidnumber (for POSIX user), wifi attributes, FAM/Shib attribs, etc.*
  - *gwuser properties for groupwise, etc.*

# why?

- Lets you keep track of all your local stuff you've added to the standard tree
- Easier to clean tree if necessary (only one class)
- No need to change DirXML driver every time you add a new class to the tree – as you don't add a new class to the tree!
- If tree breaks, less work stitching together classes
- Is this best practise? email [rock@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:rock@cardiff.ac.uk) (our eDir DS guru) if you want to argue!

# conclusions

- Accurate, Timely data needs good links with data authorities, and control over who can edit it
- Consider multiple trees
- Consider structure of tree carefully

# THE END

- For:
  - ▶ more info
  - ▶ a copy of these slides
  - ▶ clarification of any points
  - ▶ meaningful discussion about Shib/DS
  - ▶ meaningless discussion about Stanley Cup final...
- Email: [R.O.Smith@cs.cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:R.O.Smith@cs.cardiff.ac.uk)

