

LDAP-X

A Powerful Development Toolkit For Building LDAP Applications

The rapid acceptance of LDAP as the *de facto* standard access protocol for directories has created an opportunity for software development organisations to create applications capable of interfacing to this new and rapidly growing base of information directories. By its nature, LDAP is a simple protocol, but one that presents problems to applications developers who are not familiar with the complexity of coding at such a low level within their programs. To alleviate these difficulties and to capitalise on the power of Microsoft ActiveX technology, Boldon James have developed LDAP-X.

LDAP-X is a Developer's Toolkit which comprises a number of high-level Active-X Controls that drive the appropriate underlying LDAP protocol commands. LDAP-X includes a comprehensive set of controls (such as Display, Tree, Search, Filter, Modify etc.) which allow the application developer to concentrate on the application requirements and avoid getting bogged down in protocol details. ActiveX as a technology provides a basis for rapid application development, in some instances, development can be as simple as a point and click operation.

LDAP-X is supplied with simple source code examples to illustrate how to use the product and build applications. A companion Professional Resource Kit (available separately) contains fully working source code examples of LDAP applications, including an LDAP Browser, a full DUA and a web-based DUA written in various languages.



► Figure 1: Typical Web-Based LDAP Browser

Technical Details

This product provides the programmer with a set of ActiveX controls for accessing and modifying data via the Lightweight Directory Access protocol (LDAP). LDAP-X is supplied as a single OCX, which contains all the licenced ActiveX controls and may be used by any container that supports ActiveX controls, including Visual Basic 4, 5, Visual C++, Borland Delphi, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator with the Ncompass plug-in for ActiveX controls, and Office 97 applications.

Typical Applications

LDAP-X has many possible applications. Typical systems developed are:

- ▶ Simple telephone directory look-up.
- ▶ Integration of Microsoft Word with LDAP directory.
- ▶ DUA in a browser.

ActiveX Controls

The following lists the ActiveX controls and summarises the services provided by each one:

Control	Function
Session	Binds and Unbinds from the directory; holds all session parameters for the other controls.
Tree	Allows a user to display the hierarchy of the directory in a tree. The user can also walk the tree, expanding and collapsing directory nodes, or search the directory and display the results in the same tree.
Attribute	Allows a user to display the Attribute Types and Attribute Values for a given Directory object in a tabular form.
Value	Allows the user to intelligently display the values of a given Attribute Type, i.e. it will display a jpeg Photo correctly.
Filter	Allows the user to define an arbitrarily complex LDAP filter for use in a subsequent search operation.
Search	Allows the programmer to access the search functions of LDAP and provide their own UI to the display the results.
Edit	Allows the programmer to access the Add, Modify and Delete functions of LDAP and provide their own UI for the input of parameters.

LDAP-X Professional Resource Kit

A series of fully working source code examples are provided for copying, amendment and distribution throughout the licenced corporation. Samples included in the kit are:

Sample	Language
LDAP Directory Browser	Borland Delphi, Microsoft Visual Basic 5
LDAP DUA	Borland Delphi, Microsoft Visual Basic 5
Web Directory Browser	Visual Basic Scripting
Web DUA	Visual Basic Scripting

When compiled, these samples produce high quality directory applications and, with the ability to tailor these applications to suit individual requirements, offer extremely cost effective alternatives to traditional rigid applications.

LDAP-X Design and Build Services

To complement the Toolkit and Professional Resource Kit, Boldon James offer a comprehensive Design and Build Service, making full use of our in-house development expertise and our familiarity with LDAP, and the toolkit itself.

Packaging and Licencing

LDAP-X is provided in two basic versions: LDAP-X Read Only and LDAP-X Full. The difference between the two versions being omission of the Edit Control, supporting the Add, Delete and Modify functions, from the Read Only version of the product. Each version of LDAP-X (Read Only and Full) is licenced as a toolkit with unlimited, royalty-free client licences. A separate Professional Resource Kit containing a number of fully-working applications (including source code) is available for a one-off licence charge.



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System Requirements

LDAP-X is a 32 bit product and will only operate on Windows 95 or Windows NT. It will not run under Win32s on Windows 3.1.

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