COGNITUM Software

go:Roles - An efficient solution to analyze entitlements and design roles

Benefit from the advantages of an automated solution

The Problem

Who owns which permissions? Why? Today, in many organizations entitlements are assigned to users based on one's best knowledge.

Even with an Identity and Access Governance solution in place, entitlements and permissions are presumably assigned without best practices.

Furthermore, some organizations have de-ployed role-based access management based upon existing entitlements and permission assignments. This situation results from uncontrolled growth over the years, which leads to data security risks.

The Challenge

Requirements from Management, Data Protection and Auditors

The introduction and deployment of a role-based access concept is typically effective after go live.

In most cases existing entitlements and permission assignments are either revised superficially or transformed into business roles with a great deal of time and effort. With these general assumptions, we are left asking how standard processes can be implemented in a simple and cost-effective manner.

Constantly evolving regulatory requirements force reconsideration of legacy access assignment methods to a more flexible and agile role model concept.

Roles – a definition

- Roles are a logical reference between users and IT resources. A role defines tasks, properties and primarily permissions of a user
- A role describes why certain resources are required
- Instead of assigning permissions directly to a user, roles are defined to assign permissions to multiple users for the same purpose
- Roles are defined and configured independent from users
- Role management is essential to comply with the many regulations that manage governance and risk-management
- SoD (Segregation of Duties) Rules usually refer to functions or roles
- Roles are required to improve administrative efficiency in access management
- Roles are required to determine the responsibilities for certification of permissions
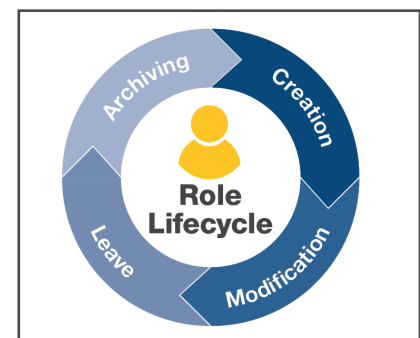- Roles are the basis for structured Identity and Access Governance

The Solution

A comprehensive, complete and centralized role management

go:Roles is a comprehensive tool to design, control and maintain business role models, which supports the concept of Identity and Access Governance (IAG). During an initial permission and entitlement assignment analysis, **go:Roles** helps to prepare role modelling. Role modelling simplifies the introduction and ongoing operation of an IAG solution with role-based access management.

go:Roles provides the foundation for Segregation of Duties (SoD). It is a standalone solution that can be implemented independently from any IAG solution.

go:Roles provides a central interface for role management. It is able to analyze individual applications, to inspect permissions and assigned accounts.

go:Roles supports the downstream certification process in 3rd party IAG solutions for entitlement objects (single and cumulative), and for permissions assigned to accounts through roles.

Core Features

Support in all phases and processes

- During data collection for organizations, identities, target system accounts and target system entitlements
- During initial role modelling, enhanced by smart role mining methods

- During deployment of an IAG solution
- During an as-is-assessment of target systems
- During the periodic maintenance of the role models

- During constant changes of the organizational structure and IT infrastructure

User Interface

Intuitive and user-friendly User Interface

Figure: go:Roles displaying organizational structure, identities, roles and permissions

- Clearly arranged and performant display of the relations between Organization ⬌ Identity ⬌ Roles ⬌ Entitlements
- Quick filtering of relevant information
- Mass operations on multiple roles
- Role comparison

Figure: Role comparison based upon included permissions

- Illustration of role differences
- Cross-system search
- Task oriented access management
- List dialogs allow individual selections from displayed lists

Figure: Role assignment recommendations

One or multiple elements can be selected, displayed elements can be filtered.

Figure: Role Mining – Recommendations to enhance permission assignments

Role Modelling (Role-Mining)

- Free selection of organizational factors in a role model
- Support of inheritance upon hierarchical role modelling
- Top-down- und Bottom-up-Method
- Proven and optimized methods for role analysis
- Smart recommendations for creation and modification of candidate lists
- Organization and function-oriented role modelling

Role Definition

- Includes rules and policies for a recipient and requestor focused role assignment
- Expert and best practice role attributes
- Creation of role catalogues

> Authorizations and assignments can be consolidated, analyzed and evaluated from different target systems. Likewise, organizational information can be imported to put it in context with the permissions, thereby automatically suggesting a role concept whose parameters can be adjusted.

Role Maintenance

- Role versioning
- Role status labelling to support approval workflows
- Role archiving
- Identification of possible duplicate role definitions with permissions and identity assignments

- Identification of roles contained in other roles
- Identification of unused roles
- Identification of speculative role assignments

Validation of Roles and Assignments

Figure: Validation of roles and role assignments

- Current state (Target Systems) to desired state (**go:Roles**) analysis

- Templates for reassessment of entitlement assignments

More Functions

- Clearly arranged and performant display of role and entitlement assignments
- Focus on organization, branches and units
- Convenient filtering and sorting
- Support for validity periods (start/end dates)
- Export function (e.g. Role definitions)

go:Roles Technical Information

The application is based upon a Client-Server-Architecture and is

- Independent from existing Identity and Access Governance solutions
- Windows based
- MS SQL Database
- Multi-User-aware
- Auto-Update-aware

go:Roles Workshop

We provide a deployment workshop for **go:Roles**, to achieve optimal results:

- Step 1: Role concept, agreement on objectives and procedures
- Step 2: Design a role model basis
- Step 3: Data collection, data integration and data clearance
- Step 4: Determine role candidates
- Step 5: Definition and certification of roles
- Step 6: Go-live
- Step 7: Role management

go:Roles Workshop Method

- Think big, start small
- Combine Top-Down and Bottom-Up approach: Which roles are required by business (Top-Down) and which roles are derived from user privileges (Bottom-Up)?
- Roles and role models are multi-level and hierarchical.
- Roles allow more flexibility. Use it and constantly challenge the role model.
- Roles are designed to be re-used.
- Who has what responsibility? Only a clear definition of responsibilities will support long-term success.
- Always use current and valid data, which includes continual review and clean-up of source and target systems.
- Business and IT have to work together and drive the project to achieve the best results!

go:Roles

Benefit from an intuitive and automated entitlement analysis solution

✓ **go:efficient** – Reduce human workload

✓ **go:cost-effective** – Quick results

✓ **go:simple** – Resolve entitlement complexity

✓ **go:integrative** – Interoperate with any IAG solution

COGNITUM
Software

go:Roles

COGNITUM Software combines long-term Identity and Access Governance expertise for the development of standard software.

Identity & Access Governance is a key component in building a secure IT infrastructure. With our comprehensive practical experience in consulting, implementation and our expertise in identity and access governance solutions, we have developed our software that is deployable rapidly and cost effective - for any business, regardless of industry and size. COGNITUM Software emerged from ITConcepts group, a leading, global IT service provider and agnostic system integrator.