

LDAP Subentry Schema

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2. Abstract

This document describes an object class called ldapSubEntry which MAY be used to indicate operations and management related entries in the directory, called LDAP Subentries. This version of this document is updated with an assigned OID for the ldapSubEntry object class.

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)]. The sections below reiterate these definitions and include some additional ones.

3. Definition

3.1 ldapSubEntry Class

```
( 2.16.840.1.113719.2.142.6.1.1 NAME 'ldapSubEntry'
  DESC 'LDAP Subentry class, version 1'
  SUP top STRUCTURAL
  MAY ( cn ) )
```

The class ldapSubEntry is intended to be used as a super-class when defining other structural classes to be used as LDAP Subentries, and as the structural class to which Auxiliary classes may be added for application specific subentry information. Where possible, the use of Auxiliary classes to extend ldapSubEntries is strongly preferred.

The presence of ldapSubEntry in the list of super-classes of an entry in the directory makes that entry an LDAP Subentry. Object classes derived from ldapSubEntry are themselves considered ldapSubEntry classes, for the purpose of this discussion.

LDAP Subentries MAY be named by their commonName attribute [[LDAPv3](#)]. Other naming attributes are also permitted.

LDAP Subentries MAY be containers, unlike their [[X.501](#)] counterparts.

LDAP Subentries MAY be contained by, and will usually be located in the directory information tree immediately subordinate to, administrative points and/or naming contexts. Further (unlike X.500 subentries), LDAP Subentries MAY be contained by other LDAP Subentries (the way organizational units may be contained by other organizational units). Deep nestings of LDAP Subentries are discouraged, but not prohibited.

LDAP Subentries SHOULD be treated as "operational objects" in much the same way that "operational attributes" are not regularly provided in search results and read operations when only user attributes are requested).

LDAP servers SHOULD implement the following special handling of ldapSubEntry entries:

a) search operations which include a matching criteria
"objectclass=ldapSubEntry" MUST include entries derived

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from the ldapSubEntry class in the scope of their operations;

b) search operations which do not include a matching criteria "objectclass=ldapSubEntry" MUST IGNORE entries derived from the ldapSubEntry class, and exclude them from the scope of their operations.

The combination of SHOULD and MUST in the special handling instructions, above, are meant to convey this: Servers SHOULD support this special handling, and if they do they MUST do it as described, and not some other way.

4. Security Considerations

LDAP Subentries will frequently be used to hold data which reflects either the actual or intended behavior of the directory service. As such, permission to read such entries MAY need to be restricted to authorized users. More importantly, IF a directory service treats the information in an LDAP Subentry as the authoritative source of policy to be used to control the behavior of the directory, then permission to create, modify, or delete such entries MUST be carefully restricted to authorized administrators.

5. References

[LDAPv3] S. Kille, M. Wahl, and T. Howes, "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (v3)", [RFC 2251](#), December 1997

[X.501] ITU-T Rec. X.501, "The Directory: Models", 1993

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7. Acknowledgements

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