

Grouper LDAP provisioner

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The info on this page applies to Grouper v4 and above. See Also [Grouper Provisioning Framework](#)

- [Exposing Groups Through Shibboleth](#)
- [Grouper LDAP Group 'hasMember' Provisioner Example](#)
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- [Grouper LDAP provisioner startWith scaffolding](#)
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- [Grouper LDAP provisioning with DN override](#)
- [Grouper provisioning AD rename DN of entity test POC workaround](#)

The LDAP provisioner in Grouper v4+ replaces the old [PSPNG](#).

The major differences from PSPNG is how groups are identified as provisionable, bulk operations for performance, using sync objects for caching and performance, configuration using the UI, etc.

High level summary

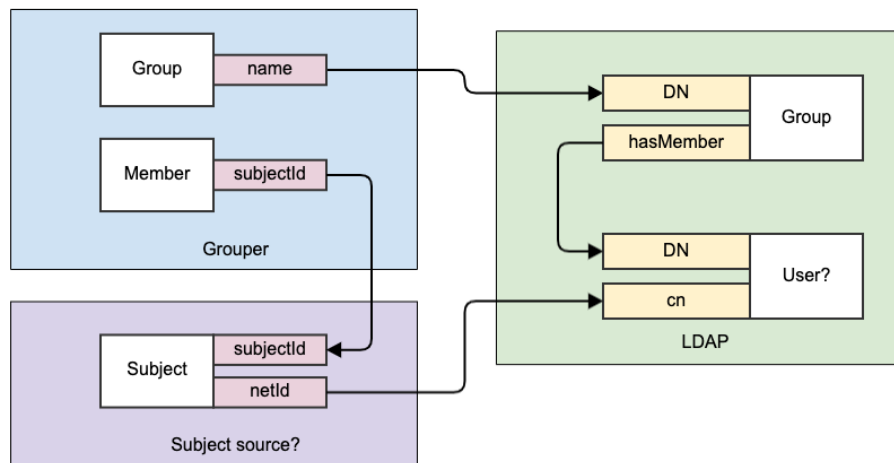
- First configure an external system for the target LDAP.
- Supports both memberships in groups (e.g. using the member attribute) and memberships in entities (e.g. using the memberOf or eduPersonEntitlement attributes). Also referred to as groupAttributes vs entityAttributes.
- Groups can be flat or bushy in LDAP.
- Configure a "name" field in the object model to represent the LDAP object DN for groups and entities.
- All other attributes in the LDAP object are attributes (rather than fields) in the object model.
 - For example, for groups, you may have attributes such as:
 - cn
 - objectClass (based on staticValues)
 - gidNumber (could be configured as the matching id and search attribute)
 - description (optional)
 - member (configured as the membership attribute if groupAttributes)
 - And for entities, you may have attributes such as:
 - uid (could be configured as the matching id and search attribute)
 - memberOf or eduPersonEntitlement (configured as the membership attribute if entityAttributes)
 - If creating entities, then you may have several other attributes such as givenName, sn, objectClass, etc.
- If you need to lookup an object in LDAP to get the DN, use a "group link" or "entity link"
 - Also store the DN in the groupTold2 sync bucket or the memberTold2 sync bucket

FAQ

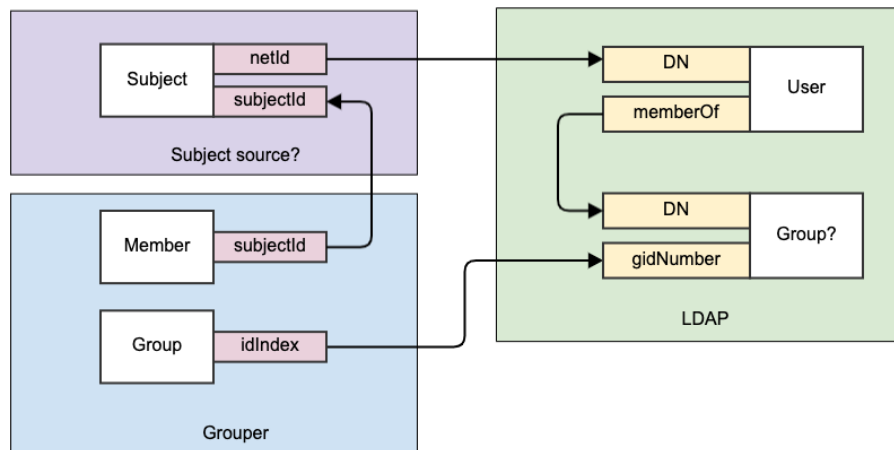
How can I provision a boolean to LDAP

- Use a string with TRUE or FALSE

LDAP provisioning types



Type: groupAttributes



Type: entityAttributes

Default Translations

- The "name" field for groups and entities is the DN of the LDAP entry. For groups, the DN is generated by default if the translation type is grouperProvisioningGroupField
 - If an override DN is configured for a group, then that will be used.
 - Otherwise for flat provisioning, it will be in the format: `cn=<fieldValue>,baseDN`
 - `cn` is the default RDN attribute for groups but you can change this.
 - The grouperProvisioningGroupField field for the name field is usually expected to be "name" to allow the DN to be generated using the group name. This is the fieldValue.
 - The grouperProvisioningGroupField field for the RDN attribute (usually `cn`) is usually "name" as well.
 - The baseDN is the Group search base DN.
 - For example the Grouper group `app:service1:testGroup` might be `cn=app:service1:testGroup,ou=groups,dc=example,dc=edu`
 - Otherwise for bushy provisioning, it will be in the format: `cn=<cnValue>,ou=<parentFolderExtension1>,ou=<parentFolderExtension2>,...,baseDN`
 - `cn` is the default RDN attribute for groups but you can change this.
 - `ou` is the default RDN attribute for folders but you can change this as well.
 - The grouperProvisioningGroupField field for the name field is usually expected to be "name" to allow the DN to be generated using the group name.
 - The grouperProvisioningGroupField field for the RDN attribute (usually `cn`) is usually "extension". This determines the `cnValue`.
 - For example the Grouper group `app:service1:testGroup` might be `cn=testGroup,ou=service1,ou=app1,ou=groups,dc=example,dc=edu`
- If you allow DN overrides, the RDN attribute for groups (usually `cn`) will be automatically computed for groups with an override DN.

Translation examples

RDN value adjusting group name (remove prefix)

```
{edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.util.GrouperUtil.ldapEscapeRdnValue(edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.util.GrouperUtil.stripPrefix(grouperProvisioningGroup.name, 'w:e:'))}
```

DN adjusting group name (remove prefix)

```
{edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.util.GrouperUtil.ldapBushyDn(edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.util.GrouperUtil.stripPrefix(grouperProvisioningGroup.name, 'w:e:'), 'cn', 'ou', true, false) + ',ou=groups,dc=school,dc=edu'}
```

LDAP specific configuration

- Ldap provisioning type
 - **groupAttributes** - group ldap object has attribute to hold memberships (e.g. member)
 - **entityAttributes** - user ldap object has attribute to hold memberships (e.g. memberOf, eduPersonEntitlement, etc)
- Group search base DN
 - Base DN containing groups
- Group search filter
 - Find a single group. You can use the variable 'targetGroup'. e.g. (&(gidNumber=\${targetGroup.retrieveAttributeValue('gidNumber')})(objectClass=groupOfNames))
 - Note, if the search filter is simply the search attribute, then you can leave this blank.
- Group search all filter
 - Find all groups filter. If you leave this blank it will default to searching for containing the search attribute and if there is an objectclass attribute then those will be included in the filter too. e.g. (&(gidNumber=*)(objectClass=posixGroup)(objectClass=top))
- Allow DN override
 - When marking a group as provisionable, allow the DN to be set to a different value than the default (to point a Grouper group to an arbitrary LDAP group as a one-off).
 - Default value is 'false'.
- RDN attribute for groups
 - The RDN attribute for group objects in LDAP.
 - Defaults to cn.
- Group DN type
 - flat for bushy
- RDN attribute for folders
 - The RDN attribute for folder objects in LDAP.
 - e.g. If the RDN attribute for folders is "ou" and the RDN attribute for groups is "cn", then the DN for the Grouper group app:foo:service:policy:foo_user would be cn=foo_user,ou=policy,ou=service,ou=foo,ou=app,<group base DN>.
 - Only applicable if provisioning type is bushy
 - Defaults to ou.
- Object classes for folders
 - The objectClass values (comma-separated) to add to folder objects in LDAP.
 - Only applicable if provisioning type is bushy
 - Default value is 'top, organizationalUnit'.
- Entity search base DN
 - Base DN containing entites
- Entity search filter
 - Find a single entity. You can use the variable 'targetEntity'. e.g. (&(employeeId=\${targetGroup.retrieveAttributeValue('employeeId')})(objectClass=eduPerson))
 - Note, if the search filter is simply the search attribute, then you can leave this blank.
- Entity search all filter
 - Find all entities filter. If you leave this blank it will default to searching for containing the search attribute and if there is an objectclass attribute then those will be included in the filter too. e.g. (&(employeeId=*)(objectClass=eduPerson)(objectClass=top))

Default values

Fields and attributes can have default values. This is particularly important for some LDAP products that always require a member for groups. In other words, if you have a group in Grouper with no members and that is provisioned to LDAP, the LDAP group must have a member. You can have a default value for the member attribute that could either be some DN in your LDAP system. Or if supported by your LDAP, you could use <emptyString> if the default value should be an empty string.

Best practices

Lets craft some best practices

Best practice	Description
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If using AD, use bushy provisioning	CN in AD can only be 64 which the group name frequently is longer than
If bushy provisioning, provision the group name somehow	An attribute could hold the group name, or sAMAccountName could hold group name with colons as underscores
Should put gidNumber or Grouper UUID in an LDAP attribute	Helps with renaming
If you want to track which groups are from which provisioners you could provision the provisionerId to an attribute	Could be used in a filter or so its easy to see which grouper provisioner created/or/manages that group Note: you dont need this if all groups for provisioner are in a dedicated OU

Supported LDAP DAO Operations

These are the supported LDAP DAO operations. The operations that are actually called are based on how you've configured the provisioner. For example, you may or may not want Grouper to insert entities to LDAP.

- retrieveAllGroups
 - Used to retrieve all groups from LDAP during a full sync.
 - Query based on the "Group search all filter" configuration. If blank, the query is generated based on the search attribute and object classes defined.
- retrieveGroups
 - Retrieve a list of groups from LDAP in batches of 100 (by default).
 - Query based on the "Group search filter" configuration. If blank, the query is generated based on the search attribute.
- insertGroup
 - Add a group to LDAP
 - The DN is based on the "name" field in the targetGroup.
 - Attributes in the targetGroup are set as attributes in LDAP. This includes an attribute you may be using to store memberships in the group (e.g. member). But also other attributes such as objectClass, description, gidNumber, etc.
 - For bushy provisioning, this will create parent OUs.
- deleteGroup
 - Delete a group in LDAP
 - For bushy provisioning, this will delete empty parent OUs.
- updateGroup
 - Update a group in LDAP. For example, update memberships or other attributes.
 - Supports DN renames.
 - Updates are made in LDAP in batches (default batch size is 100). So if you're adding 1000 members to a group, that would be 10 updates.
 - If there's a failure in a batch, then the updates are done individually.
- retrieveAllEntities
 - Used to retrieve all entities from LDAP during a full sync.
 - Query based on the "Entity search all filter" configuration. If blank, the query is generated based on the search attributes and object classes defined.
- retrieveEntities
 - Retrieve a list of entities from LDAP in batches of 100 (by default).
 - Query based on the "Entity search filter" configuration. If blank, the query is generated based on the search attribute.
- insertEntity
 - Add an entity to LDAP
 - The DN is based on the "name" field in the targetEntity.
 - Attributes in the targetEntity are set as attributes in LDAP. This includes an attribute you may be using to store memberships in the entity (e.g. eduPersonEntitlement or memberOf). But also other attributes such as objectClass, givenName, sn, etc.
- deleteEntity
 - Delete an entity in LDAP
- updateEntity
 - Update an entity in LDAP. For example, update memberships or other attributes.
 - Supports DN renames.
 - Updates are made in LDAP in batches (default batch size is 100).
 - If there's a failure in a batch, then the updates are done individually.
- retrieveMembership
 - Retrieve a single membership from LDAP (based on either a group or entity).
 - The base DN of the query is the DN of the group or entity. And the search checks to see if the membership is in the object. e.g. (member=something) or (eduPersonEntitlement=something)
- retrieveMembershipsByGroups
 - Just calls retrieveGroups

Low level logging

If you are troubleshooting issues, you can enable low level Ldapactive logging in the Advanced configuration to get details about the actual operations sent to LDAP and the responses. The logs will go to the container logs.

- Log target commands always
 - Log the low level commands to the target for all commands (successes and failures). This should only be enabled while troubleshooting.
 - Default value is 'false'.
- Log target commands on error
 - Log the low level commands to the target for errors. This should only be enabled while troubleshooting. This has performance implications even for non error transactions.
 - Default value is 'false'.

Example:

```
2021-11-04 15:28:40,182: [Thread-21] INFO  GrouperProvisioningLogCommands.infoLog(25) - - Command log for
provisioner 'ldapProvTest' - 'u5vmmuhb', retrieveAllEntities: Ldapactive searchRequest: [org.ldapactive.
SearchRequest@-349354149::baseDn=ou=People,dc=example,dc=edu, searchFilter=[org.ldapactive.
SearchFilter@1043503778::filter=(&(objectClass=person)(uid=*)), parameters={}, returnAttributes=[cn,
objectClass, sn, uid], searchScope=SUBTREE, timeLimit=0, sizeLimit=0, derefAliases=null, typesOnly=false,
binaryAttributes=null, sortBehavior=UNORDERED, searchEntryHandlers=null, searchReferenceHandlers=null,
controls=null, referralHandler=null, intermediateResponseHandlers=null]
```

GSH troubleshooting

Run an ldap filter

```
import edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.ldap.*;
GrouperSession grouperSession = GrouperSession.startRootSession();
List<LdapEntry> ldapEntries = LdapSessionUtils.ldapSession().list("personLdap", "ou=People,dc=example,
dc=edu", LdapSearchScope.SUBTREE_SCOPE, "uid=", (String[])(Object)GrouperUtil.toArray("uid"), null);
System.out.println(GrouperUtil.length(ldapEntries));
```

Migrate from pspng

Run this:

```
./gsh.sh -pspngAttributesToProvisioningAttributes pspngConfigId provisioningFrameworkConfigId
readonly|notReadOnly deleteOrphans|dontDeleteOrphans
```

deleteOrphans means remove provisioning framework provisionable assignments that do not exist in pspng. dontDeleteOrphans means leave those alone and the provisioning framework provisionable assignments are potentially a superset of pspng

Once the new provisioner is provisioning the data, turn off the pspng jobs

Caching

Sync objects can cache information in LDAP. The cached data below are examples. You can cache whatever data you want. Synced from full sync (if doesnt exist or if errors), incremental (if doesnt exist or if errors), and the nightly (scheduled) subject resolution daemon (full refresh)

Object	Field	Cached data
gcGrouperSyncGroup	groupTold2	group DN
gcGrouperSyncGroup	groupTold3	whatever attribute value the user attribute refers to
gcGrouperSyncGroup	groupFromId2	ldap group object attribute value that looks up group
gcGrouperSyncMember	memberTold2	user DN
gcGrouperSyncMember	memberTold3	whatever attribute value the group attribute refers to users as

gcGrouperSyncMember	memberFromId2	ldap person object attribute value that looks up user
gcGrouperSyncMember	memberFromId3	subject attribute value that helps look up user

Developer Documentation Below (old documentation)

Configuration

Common config attributes for LDAP are below.

Config	Example	Description	Notes
class	edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.app. ldapProvisioning.LdapSync	Class extends the base provisioner class	This class informs configuration decisions. Required. Read-only.
hasSubjectLink	true false	If the subject API is needed to resolve attribute on subject	required, drives requirements of other configurations. defaults to false.
hasTargetUserLink	true false	If subjects need to be resolved in the target before provisioning	defaults to false. required. show if groupMemberships
hasTargetGroupLink	true false	If groups need to be resolved in the target before provisioning	defaults to false. required. show if userAttributes
subjectSourcesToProvision	pennperson	subject sources to provision	required. defaults to all except g:gsa, grouperExternal, g:isa, localEntities. comma separated list. checkboxes.
createMissingUsers	true or false		defaults false. required. show if userAttributes or hasTargetUserLink
createMissingGroups	true or false		defaults to true. required. show if groupMemberships or hasTargetGroupLink
deleteInTargetIfInTargetAndNotGroup	true or false	if groups in full sync should be deleted if in group all filter and not in grouper or for attributes delete other attribute not provisioned by grouper	default to false
deleteInTargetIfDeletedInGrouper	true or false	if groups that were created in grouper were deleted should it be deleted in ldap? or for attributes, delete attribute value if deleted in grouper	default to true
membershipFields	members read,admin update,admin admin	if provisioning normal memberships or privileges	default to "members" for normal memberships
userSearchFilter	ldap example: (&(objectClass=person) (uid=\${targetEntity. retrieveAttributeValue('uid')}))	how to find a user	optional. show if userAttributes or hasTargetUserLink
userSearchAllFilter	ldap example: (&(objectClass=person)(uid=*))	filter users when searching all	optional. show if userAttributes or hasTargetUserLink
groupSearchFilter	ldap example: (&(objectClass=group) (gidNumber=\${targetGroup. retrieveAttributeValue('gidNumber')}))	find a single group (other than by DN)	optional. show if groupMemberships or hasTargetGroupLink
groupSearchAllFilter	ldap example: (&(objectclass=group)(gidNumber=*))	find all groups	optional. show if groupMemberships or hasTargetGroupLink
refreshGroupLinkIfLessThanAmount	20	refresh target group link if less than this amount	show if hasTargetGroupLink
common.groupLink.groupFromId2	\${targetGroup.getName()}	Target group link - groupFromId2	show if hasTargetGroupLink

common.groupLink.groupFromId3		Target group link - groupFromId3	show if hasTargetGroupLink
common.groupLink.groupTold2		Target group link - groupTold2	show if hasTargetGroupLink
common.groupLink.groupTold3		Target group link - groupTold3	show if hasTargetGroupLink
refreshEntityLinkIfLessThanAmount	20	refresh target user link if less than this amount	show if hasTargetUserLink
common.entityLink.memberFromId2	`\${targetEntity.getName()}`	Target user link - memberFromId2	optional show if hasTargetUserLink
common.entityLink.memberFromId3		Target user link - memberFromId3	optional show if hasTargetUserLink
common.entityLink.memberTold2		Target user link - memberTold2	optional show if hasTargetUserLink
common.entityLink.memberTold3		Target user link - memberTold3	optional show if hasTargetUserLink
refreshSubjectLinkIfLessThanAmount	20	refresh subject link if less than this amount	show if hasSubjectLink
common.subjectLink.memberFromId2		Subject link - memberFromId2	optional show if hasSubjectLink
common.subjectLink.memberFromId3		Subject link - memberFromId3	optional show if hasSubjectLink
common.subjectLink.memberTold2		Subject link - memberTold2	optional show if hasSubjectLink
common.subjectLink.memberTold3		Subject link - memberTold3	optional show if hasSubjectLink
groupAllowedToAssign	(group name)	group allowed to assign only grouper system admin is allowed when no specific group is allowed to assign the given target	optional
allowAssignmentsOnlyOnOneStem	true or false	allow assignment only on one stem	default to false
readOnly	true or false	read only	default to false
debugLog	true or false	enable debug log	default to false
logAllObjectsVerbose	true or false	log all objects verbose	default to false
targetEntityAttributeCount	5	number of attributes for users	default to 0 Should be 0-20 show if userAttributes or hasTargetUserLink
targetGroupAttributeCount	5	number of attributes for groups	default to 0 Should be 0-20 show if groupMemberships or hasTargetGroupLink
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].name	uid	name of the attribute	required
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].isFieldElseAttribute	true or false	is field else attribute?	default to false
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].valueType	string	value type	required Should be string or int or long
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].insert	true or false	insert attribute?	default to false
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].update	true or false	update attribute?	default to false
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].delete	true or false	delete attribute?	default to false
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].select	true or false	select attribute?	default to false
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].matchingId	true or false	matching id attribute?	default to false

targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].multiValued	true or false	multi-valued attribute?	default to false
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].membershipAttribute	true or false	is this the membership attribute?	default to false
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].translateExpressionFromMembership	`\${gcGrouperSyncGroup.getGroupTold2()}`	translate expression from membership	show and require if membershipAttribute
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].translateExpressionCreateOnly	`\${grouperUtil.toSet('top', 'person')}`	translate expression when creating objects only	show if not membershipAttribute and insert = true
targetEntityAttribute.[0-19].translateExpression	`\${grouperProvisioningEntity.getSubjectId()}`	translate expression otherwise	show and require if not membershipAttribute
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].name	gidNumber	name of the attribute	required
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].isFieldElseAttribute	true or false	is field else attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].valueType	long	value type	required Should be string or int or long
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].insert	true or false	insert attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].update	true or false	update attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].delete	true or false	delete attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].select	true or false	select attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].matchingId	true or false	matching id attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].multiValued	true or false	multi-valued attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].membershipAttribute	true or false	is this the membership attribute?	default to false
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].translateExpressionFromMembership	`\${gcGrouperSyncMember.getMemberTold2()}`	translate expression from membership	show and require if membershipAttribute
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].translateExpressionCreateOnly	`\${grouperUtil.toSet('top', 'posixGroup')}`	translate expression when creating objects only	show if not membershipAttribute and insert = true
targetGroupAttribute.[0-19].translateExpression	`\${grouperProvisioningGroup.getIdIndex()}`	translate expression otherwise	show and require if not membershipAttribute

Discussion topics

- Should we use DAO for LDAP so we can unit test everything but the LDAP stuff? Also for dry run? 😊
Yes
- User cache / group cache / subject cache
 - Need a provisioner col for last retrieved
Update cache with nightly full sync, on error, refresh subject and ldap user from target, and try again
 - How daemon works
syncing and the cache updating. Note: it can use the subject source data from the nonblocking state inside the blocking state
1. Nonblocking, unless over a threshold. Few changes, start blocking after know changes, get the state from both sides for those changes, make the changes, unblock.
2. If over a certain threshold (need algorithm for number of objects: groups or users), block, and recalculate and sync
 - How cached fields stored in db? JSON? cols?
Keep a col for the lookups to query on, and a col for json representation of group and user
 - Store subject attributes? use member table? add a couple cols? identifier1, identifier2..5? update periodically?
Lookup attributes will be in the sync tables
- Pulling data from grouper, only certain columns?
Dont pull from hibernate, just use simple query like grouper_memberships_lw_v but without distinct (maybe groupId and memberId)
- User sync?
Yes, we should plan for this
- Folder sync
Do individual groups if its inside a threshold or full refresh from outside the threshold. If group deletes in ldap are needed, a full sync is needed
- Selecting subjects
 - Use the subject cache, and tune that as needed to fully prime
 - If errors resolve subjects without cache
- Batch size, should be at ldap or provisioner level? do we need different for users and groups? e.g. userSearch_batchSize
Default batch size at LDAP level, override for provisioner. If over threshold, get all, otherwise, cycle through. Could leave "all" filter blank if known not to provision a lot of groups
 - Need a batch size for updates? How do batches work?
Theres no batch size for objects, one at a time. Attributes have batch size with default at ldap level
 - Can this be in the LDAP framework (and it will batch things up, thats what we do for jdbc) yes

- Supports empty groups, at ldap or provisioner level?
Could have null member, could delete group if no members. Default at ldap level.
- Should errors be stored in the sync objects so they can be absorbed? yes
 - Message for processing errors? yes and timestamp
 - Group, user, membership errors? yes, list the error and skip (based on configuration)
- Search result paging is at ldap or provisioner level? defaults at ldap level
- Do we need an isActiveDirectory flag? keep this, TODO add back in
- Support dry run?
For grouper admins to test what will happen if configuration changes.
For a single group, do a "pretend is provisionable" in ui jvm...
For single group or user, this would just happen synchronously in ui, or have the ajax updating screen thing (upcoming)
- Assume gid will not change? name? dn? How do we track groups that move? i.e. in the grouper_sync_group table?
The cached DN needs to not change until the provisioner can make sure theres a way to reference the old object to do updates and not delete /insert
- Ldif templates, lets change the config of this. maybe json? or at least user \$newline\$? Need for jexl things? Escaping?
Yes, do this, and use \$newline\$
- Replacing grouperIsAuthoritative to be more explicit
Yes do this
- Logging like change log consumer or database provisioning
Yes
- Does memberOf and hasMember always use the DN of the user or group? generally yes
- Do we need to support updating group and user or will updating the group handle it? this is an attribute provisioner
- Convert to some simple object structure from ldap? or use the ldap objects for jexl? do we need these with the sync groups? We have a low-memory object structure
 - Single valued attributes strings unless configured attributes are multivalued (use arrays since lightweight) Yes, single valued objects or array of strings
 - Last updated columns in ldap? numbers: number of millis from epoch Not used
 - User
 - Bean with single and multivalued attribute Similar to pspng, bean with dn and name/value pair attributes
- Can we support getting memberships or privileges (e.g. ADMIN/READ) Yes, interface to get memberships
- Option to constrain to subject source? Yes
- Do we know the types of ldap attributes? Is there a metadata schema query? Shilen says generally strings
- Group DNs, can it be dynamic? Can it be handled upstream in provisioning framework? We would like it to happen in the provisioning framework. Note, complicates the all group filter
- Is memberOf or hasMember the only multi-valued attributes? do types of attributes matter? e.g. integer vs string? objectclass is multivalued, and memberships, other attributes are arrays of strings

Translation example

Make a bushy DN and take off a prefix

```
${edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.util.GrouperUtil.ldapBushyDn(edu.internet2.middleware.grouper.util.GrouperUtil.stripPrefix(grouperProvisioningGroup.name, 'org:something:'), 'cn', 'ou', true, false) + ', OU=Grouper,DC=else,DC=something,DC=net' }
```