

Advantec: Upgrading Identity Services in the Cloud

Advantec helps businesses manage their human resources needs, offering a combination of on-demand, in-the-cloud applications with expert administrative services and consulting. When the company needed federation and single sign-on, they chose myOneLogin Identity Services for its SaaS-based architecture, multi-protocol federation, and low cost of ownership.

Challenges:

- Secure authentication
- Single sign-on within online properties
- Identity federation with partners

Solution:

myOneLogin Identity Services

Benefits:

- Seamless single sign-on
- Secure, flexible authentication
- Simple partner integration

Advantec integrates, develops and supports human resources business solutions. Its adaptable tools and technologies, combined with its consolidated service providers and on-demand consulting services, enable Advantec's clients to concentrate on their top business priorities. As part of a major upgrade to its technology stack, the company needed to re-address how it authenticates users within its own application and with partners.

Requirement: Secure, easy-to-deploy authentication and federation

Like most web application providers, Advantec initially wrote its own basic authentication routines in its client-facing software. But as the company upgraded its infrastructure, running different applications in parallel through the transition, it needed to be able to seamlessly move users between the applications, without requiring users to log in multiple times. To accomplish this, Advantec needed to re-think how it managed user authentication. For CIO Bradley Rhine, this presented an opportunity to upgrade its authentication logic, de-coupling authentication from the application logic, and simplifying user identity exchange with partner applications.

The company needed to address several identity-related challenges:

- Secure authentication for its more than 30,000 users
- Single sign-on within its own properties
- Single sign-on with partners
- Evolving authentication best practices to address emerging threats

In evaluating alternatives, Rhine dismissed traditional, on-premise enterprise solutions. Says Rhine, "I've used the heavyweight SSO and federation products from traditional vendors, and they have been costly and complicated to deploy and maintain."

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Choosing myOneLogin Identity Services

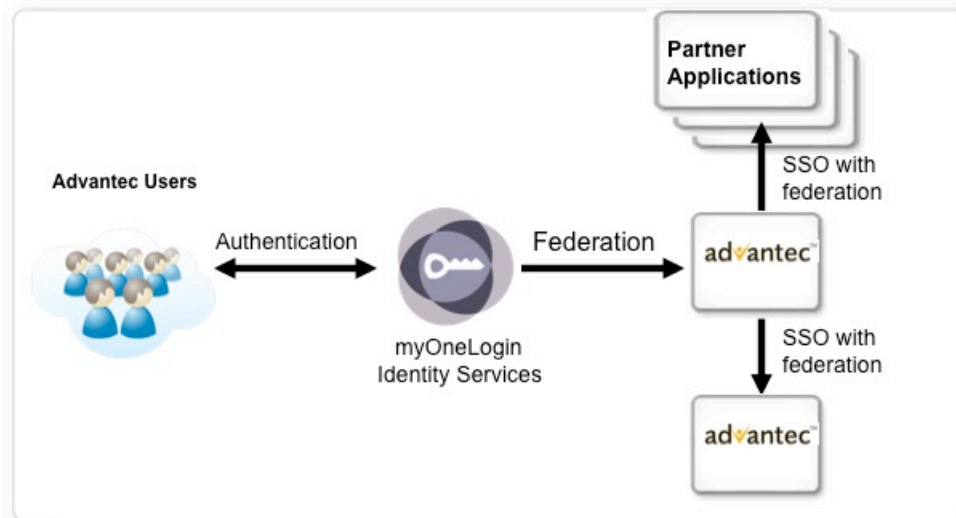
The company wanted to move away from writing its own authentication routines, including password reset and forgotten passwords functions that increasingly must defend against opportunistic attackers. In addition, they wanted to avoid negotiating specific one-to-one authentication relationships for each new partner application that they added to their service.

Advantec chose myOneLogin Identity Services, which offers single sign-on, multi-protocol federation, and strong authentication as on-demand services using standard web services SOAP interfaces.

myOneLogin's on-demand delivery model was an important factor. Says Rhine, "myOneLogin has a clean, thin architecture, with a simple, non-invasive integration model. And because it is in the cloud, myOneLogin gives us highly-reliable, secure, evolving and standards-based authentication and federation without the cost or effort of deploying and maintaining heavyweight identity management."

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Advantec integrates myOneLogin Identity Services to provide single sign-on as part of its core customer-facing application, replacing its home-grown authentication with calls to the myOneLogin service. The strong authentication capabilities of myOneLogin provide a means to stay current with industry best practices and help Advantec's customers address HIPAA and other regulatory compliance issues as well.



myOneLogin provides authentication and federation for Advantec's on-demand applications

Moving forward: Federation with partners

Advantec is always looking to expand the services it offers to its customers, either by building their own applications or, where appropriate, forming partnerships with other companies that provide the right applications and content expertise.

Advantec wants customers to be able to access these integrated applications seamlessly from their on-demand environment. In the past, the company has negotiated and built identity integration on a case-by-case basis with each partner. Says Rhine, "These cost me significant time, money, and increased maintenance complexity for each new integration point."

Rather than building one-to-one integration with each partner, Advantec can now offer its partners the multiple federation standards supported through myOneLogin, including SAML, ADFS and OpenID. For Advantec, this means that they can add new partners with a few simple federation calls, rather than negotiating and building a "one of a kind" interface each time. Because myOneLogin supports multiple federation standards, it acts as a 'federation hub' between companies using different federation protocols, translating seamlessly between them.

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Rhine expects that new partners, and perhaps even existing ones, will be happy to move to a simpler, standards-based approach that does not involve deep federation expertise. Says Rhine, "I'll tell partners that our single sign-on model uses a highly secure, standards-based, on-demand solution, and that they can take advantage of the same thing elsewhere. I think most would be thrilled to have something that they can re-use with other partners."



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