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2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of maintaining a plurality of role definitions that define access permissions for specific entities comprises:

an act of the role definition corresponding to the requesting entity using at least one access permission that is specific to the requesting entity, wherein the at least one access permission for the requesting entity is defined by the one or more role templates that are used by the corresponding role definition as well as the access permission that is specific to the requesting entity.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the request includes an identification of credentials used to authenticate the requesting entity, wherein the role definition corresponding to the requesting entity is identified using the credential identification, wherein different role definitions may apply depending on the credentials.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of maintaining a plurality of role templates that define basic access permissions comprises the following:

an act of maintaining the at least one role map documents that contains all of the role templates for a particular service.

5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the act of maintaining a role map document that contains all of the role templates for a particular service comprises the following:

an act of defining one or more scopes that describe views on a data structure, the one or more scopes being defined independent of the plurality of role templates; and

an act of defining a role template by associating a method type with one of the one or more scopes.

6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the act of maintaining a role map document that contains all of the role templates for a particular service comprises the following:

an act of maintaining a role map document as a hierarchical data structure.

7. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the act of maintaining a role map document that contains all of the role templates for a particular service comprises the following:

an act of maintaining a role map document as an XML document.

8. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of maintaining a plurality of role definitions that define access permissions for specific entities by using one or more of the role templates comprises the following:

an act of maintaining one or more role list documents that contain all of the role definitions for requesting entities that may attempt to access data structures belonging to an identity.

9. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein the act of maintaining a role list document comprises the following:

an act of defining a role definition by referencing a role template included in a role map document, the role map being distinct from the role list.

10. A method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the act of maintaining a role list document comprises the following:

an act of maintaining a role list document as a hierarchical data structure.

11. A method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the act of maintaining a role list document comprises the following:

an act of maintaining a role list document as an XML document.

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12. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to perform at least one of the command methods comprises the following:

an act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to insert a portion into the data structure.

13. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to perform at least one of the command methods comprises the following:

an act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to delete a portion from the data structure.

14. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to perform at least one of the command methods comprises the following:

an act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to update a portion of the data structure.

15. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to perform at least one of the command methods comprises the following:

an act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to replace a portion of the data structure.

16. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to perform at least one of the command methods comprises the following:

an act of receiving a request from the requesting entity to query regarding a portion of the data structure.

17. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more command methods comprise a set including insert, delete, query, update, and replace.

18. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data structure represents in-box information.

19. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data structure represents calendar information.

20. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data structure represents document information.

21. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data structure represents notification information.

22. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data structure represents content information.

23. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data structure represents role list information.

24. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data structure represents system information.

25. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of identifying a role definition corresponding to the requesting entity comprises:

an act of identifying the role definition by searching a database.

26. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of identifying a role definition corresponding to the requesting entity comprises:

an act of identifying the role definition based on authorized role information provided within the request.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the authorized role information includes an identification of a role template.

28. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the authorized role information further includes an identification of at least one refined, local scope for modifying the role template.

29. In a computer network that includes different types of data structures of one or more specific entities, a method for