

Whether an appliance or a software install, this year's crop of identity management tools continue to seek an identity of their own, says **Peter Stephenson**.

Identity management has been a sort of fuzzy term encompassing a lot of different functionality. That said, the functionality that ID management products include has been increasing, and a picture may be emerging that illustrates what really is meant by the term identity management.

We saw products ranging from simple single sign-on to full-featured appliances that cover all of the functionality currently thought of as required for a solid ID management product. However, the down side is that the nature of the functionality still seems loosely defined. For example, some prod-

ucts included provisioning, single sign-on and authentication, while others added session managers and a shared account manager.

Once you understand the environment in which you will implement ID management, ask the really tough question: do you need to automate ID management at all?

v-GO Access Accelerator



Vendor Passlogix

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Certain parts of the suite require that others be installed first so administrators need to carefully plan the installation beforehand. All administration is done through web-based management consoles. These consoles are easy to use and intuitive to navigate. Overall, we found this product easy to use, but we would like to see it better integrated with itself. It has a very sectional feel.

The suite is well designed to leverage the existing infrastructure and adds some very solid functionality. Along with integrating into an existing Active Directory or LDAP structure, this product allows the sharing of privileged accounts without giving up security. We found this tool to go beyond simple account and user management, and to go more in the direction of password management and privileged account management across the enterprise.

Documentation consists of several PDF manuals. Each component of the v-GO Access Accelerator Suite has its own installation and administration guide.

Support options include phone and email technical support, as well

as a web-based support portal.

At a cost starting at about \$237 per user for the whole suite, this product can become quite expensive in large environments. However, there is a lot of functionality that could raise the value significantly if products from multiple vendors were used. We find that the v-GO Access Accelerator Suite is a good value for the money. While it does have standout features, as a suite it is a bit piecemeal and can be challenging to manage at first.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★☆
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★☆

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

Strengths A lot of functionality in one suite of products, with the added ability of privileged account management.

Weaknesses Can be complicated to manage.

Verdict Tight integration makes this a solid product, but it requires dedication to get the entire suite up and running. Once implemented, though, it provides real benefits. We rate this product as Recommended.



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The Passlogix v-GO Access Accelerator Suite includes in one group the full gamut of the v-GO line. This suite includes six components that work together

to provide a solid infrastructure in which administrators can manage users through what they can and cannot access, and users can manage themselves through password reset and single sign-on.

Installation is comprised of setting up all the individual modules in the suite. This is a long process which can be quite time consuming.