



CUSTOMER STORY

Granular Access Control for a Complex Business Model

Modernizing Access Control in a B2B2C Organization with Dynamic Authorization

Executive Summary

The Company needed to securely share data throughout the complex delivery layers of a “B2B2C” model. The Company contracts third party organizations that perform sales, marketing, and product installation. Due to the unique nature of their financing product, The Company’s decision logic, workflow, reporting and permissioning schemes can be challenging at times. The Company deals with several different entities and roles within entities.

The organization had outgrown its homegrown authorization system, affecting how they managed user access. Their existing logic was complex - in addition to being role-based - the permissions had been pieced together from multiple user issues over time. The Company wanted to ease the end user purchase process and enhance the overall customer experience through a new customer portal. In addition to these combined challenges, they needed to adhere to current - and be prepared for - future regulatory compliance requests. To solve these challenges, The Company was introduced to Axiomatics Authorization Management Platform.

Customer Background

Our customer is a clean energy finance company, offering financing products for home improvements, unsecured loans, utility on-bill financing, and other financial solutions for the renewable energy market. In addition to renewable energy, The Company offers solutions for energy efficiency, water efficiency, and safety and resiliency projects. They service contractors, government, and homeowners across several states.

Industry: Finance, Energy

Solution: Axiomatics Authorization Management Platform

Lines of Code Replaced: 2000+



Challenges

Secure collaboration and enhanced customer experience

As a first step, The Company wanted to replicate their existing permissions in the API Gateway. They needed to move the user store out of being hard-coded in the API Gateway because the logic was complex and the components were assembled over different projects, leading to:

- Access control delegation issues
- Many “Toxic Combinations”
- Inaccuracy, inadequacy of legacy permissions

Knowing this, the organization first wanted to audit the process with the API Gateway, and then implement a solution. This change was the groundwork needed for a new type of end-user facing customer portal that would improve the customer experience. The existing in-house legacy authorization was simply not enough to tackle their unique business model:

- The Company supports multiple layers, including third-party sales, contractors, and marketing agencies
- Certain users should only have access to view specific parts of an order that pertain to their channel involvement; no access to edit, but to view enough data to fuel business for the contracting agencies

Auditing and compliance

Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (FICAM) compliance was a big internal driver for this project. The goal of the FICAM committee is to improve identity management standards and security for the U.S. government. Its mission is to close security gaps in user identification and authentication, encryption of sensitive data, and logging and auditing while providing for future identity management needs.

Using a policy-based approach provides visibility and auditability into authorization. Conformance with applicable business rules and regulatory mandates are tested and verified at the level of the authorization engine. As a result, the externalized authorization policies become more transparent and easier to verify.

“The idea that a role is an attribute was a new concept for us; once that mind shift happened, the ability to manipulate data and policies to get the access control desired was extremely powerful.

- Enterprise Architect for the project



ABAC in a Ruby on Rails environment

The development team at The Company has transformed to the “Ruby Way” - and uses this as a way to spur speed and quality of development. The team started by building a custom ABAC-Ruby gem for the application developers. This means an easier and faster way for developers to write the code that handles authorization and ensure that the authorization is enforced within the applications or API's.

The solution

After careful consideration and evaluation, The Company chose a policy-driven approach to access control with Axiomatics Authorization Management Platform:

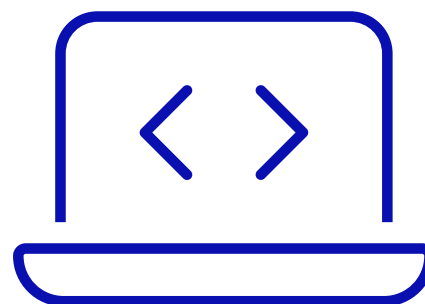
- Centralized, externalized, and dynamic
- Uses a policy-based approach to provide visibility and auditability into authorization
- Securely share data with third parties that are vital to their business (contractors, third-party sales, third-party marketing, etc.)
- Defines roles as attributes; no more “Role Explosion”
- Transforms regulations into policies that can be applied at any or every level of the organization, including FICAM and other regulatory and compliance issues
- Eliminates “Toxic Combinations”: The move from roles to rules allows the implementation of precise and fine-grained authorization. This in turn also lays the foundation for dynamic and context-aware authorization. Rules are interpreted in real-time while considering context-related attributes such as risk indicators, time and location, user behavior patterns, the relation between the user and the information asset, etc.

Collaboration often comes at a cost to security or business development. Axiomatics' platform eliminated this cost by allowing The Company to collaborate effectively while ensuring its information was secure.

Take the next steps

Learn how a security vendor can help secure your access control while allowing you to focus on your core business initiatives.

[Meet with our solution experts for a demo](#) of our Axiomatics Authorization Management Platform and discuss how our approach can save your organization time and money.



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Axiomatics - a Leonardo Company is the originator and leading provider of runtime, fine-grained authorization delivered with attribute-based access control (ABAC) for applications, data, APIs, and microservices.

The company enables enterprises to effectively and efficiently connect Axiomatics' award-winning authorization platform to critical security implementations, such as Zero Trust or identity-first security. The world's largest enterprises and government agencies continually depend on Axiomatics' award-winning authorization platform to share sensitive, valuable, and regulated digital assets – but only to authorized users and in the right context.

Follow us on LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/company/axiomatics>

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