

Products in the identity management category are still seeking an identity, reports **Justin Peltier**.

This month we looked at one of the hot-button products from the 2006 landscape — identity management. For years identity management has been defined by the triple A acronym:

**Authentication:** confirmation that a user is truly tied to the

username provided;  
**Authorization:** granting access to specific services based on the authentication;

**Accounting:** a process for logging access and authorization.

For submissions to this review, we required that the products exhibit the following characteris-

tics: password management, user provisioning, and enterprise access management. Additionally, it had to be enterprise-centric. Some products were complex and would be required only in the largest enterprises. Some were software-only, while others were appliance-based.

## M-Tech ID Synchron and P Synchron



<b>Vendor</b>	M-Tech
<b>Price</b>	\$50/user
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="http://www.mtechit.com">www.mtechit.com</a>

M-Tech ID Synchron and P Synchron are two companion programs that are available to perform identity management. The ID Synchron package performs most of the identity management tasks including provisioning, workflow creation, distributed administration and reporting. The P Synchron package performs the single sign-on component of identity management. The ID Synchron package is primarily a web-based package that uses SSL for protecting the data during transmission.

Installing the M-Tech products was the easiest of any of the prod-

ucts we tested in identity management. The products were both wizard-driven and were straightforward and easy to understand during the installation.

The web-based configuration of the M-Tech product suites felt intuitive and easy to understand. For example, each of the major headings in the menus reflected commonly used terms in the field of identity management.

Documentation for this product is in the form of several PDF files that are indexed. The beginning pages of each PDF file explain which PDF covers which components of the product. Creating a web-based front-end to direct the reader directly to the correct file would be a nice feature to have. The installation guide is particularly well written and it performs a more than adequate job of leading the installer through the process. The PDF files are large and a more advanced search function could also help speed the reader's search to find the correct passage.

M-Tech offers different support options for its products. The M-Tech website does not have an easy to find support section, but

the product documentation is readily available online.

Priced in the middle range of the products that we tested, the ID Synchron product offered a large number of features for the money. For its rich feature set, performance and ease of use we rate this our Best Buy.

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★☆
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★☆
Support	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★★
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★★</b>
<b>Strengths</b> Of the full featured identity management products, this product was the easiest to install and configure, and the web-based interface was the most intuitively laid out.	
<b>Weaknesses</b> Understanding how the proxy server component fit into the product was confusing.	
<b>The Verdict</b> For full-featured identity management, the M-Tech products were among the best that we tested. For small- to medium-sized enterprises, the packages are intuitive enough to not create needless administrative overhead. We rate this product our Best Buy.	



Of the full featured identity management products, this product was the easiest to install and configure, and the web-based interface was the most intuitively laid out.

Justin Peltier



**M-TECH™**  
Identity Management Solutions

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