

# adaptTo()

APACHE SLING & FRIENDS TECH MEETUP  
BERLIN, 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2015

A case of keys – how to use ACLs effectively  
Mateusz Chromiński, Cognifide



# Dictionary

Identity	Principal	Group	Grant	Deny	Access	Permission	Action	JAAS	AuthInfo
Login	User	Group	admin		Impersonation	Effective	Applicable		

# Authorization

System user	Membership	anonymous	Privilege	LoginModule
Subject	Permission store		Allow	
Restriction	Credentials	Policy	Permission discovery	

# Authentication

Privilege LoginModule  
Allow  
Policy Permission discovery  
administrators

# What is this talk about?

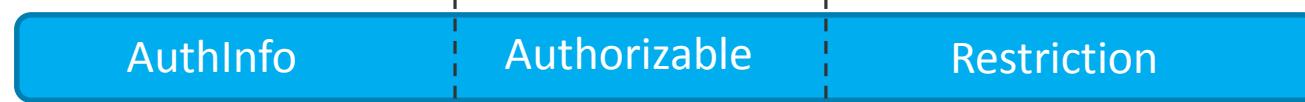
- ACLs
  - mainly...
- AEM 6.1 is the Oracle
- Examples, solutions, tools



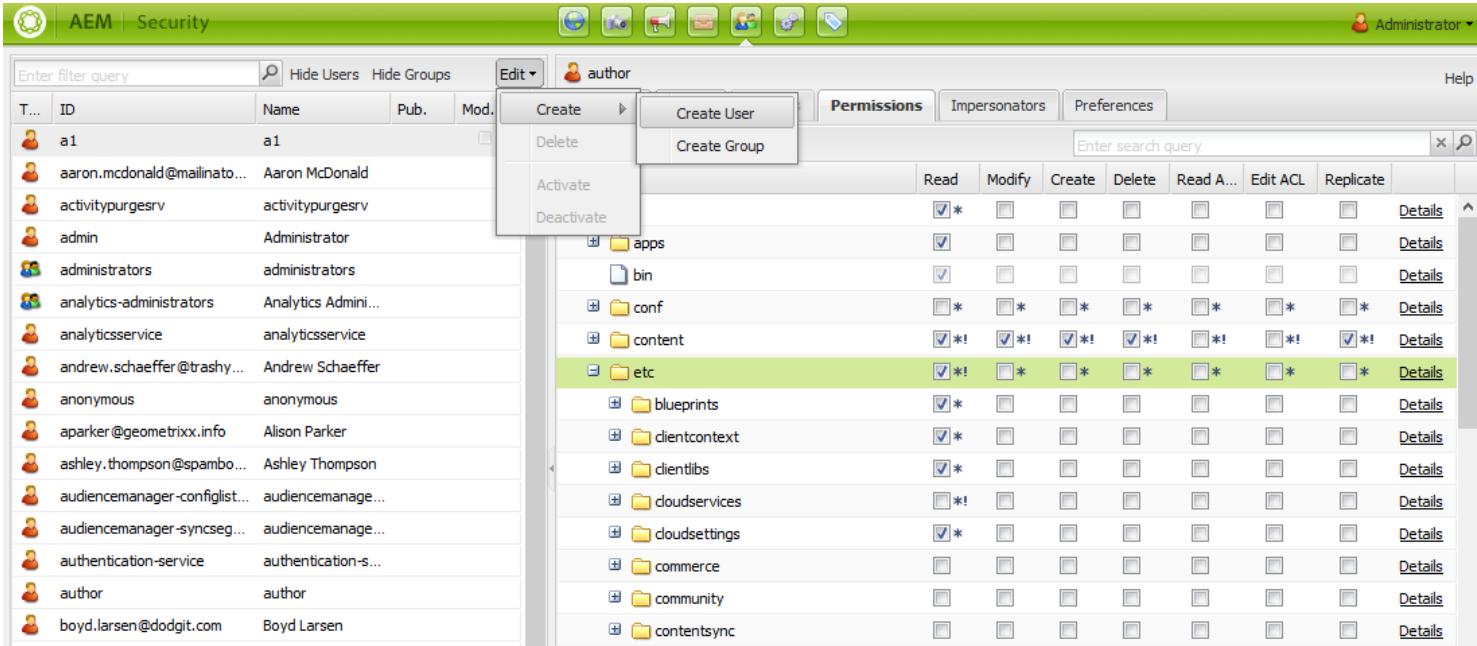
# Architecture



JCR



# Useradmin console



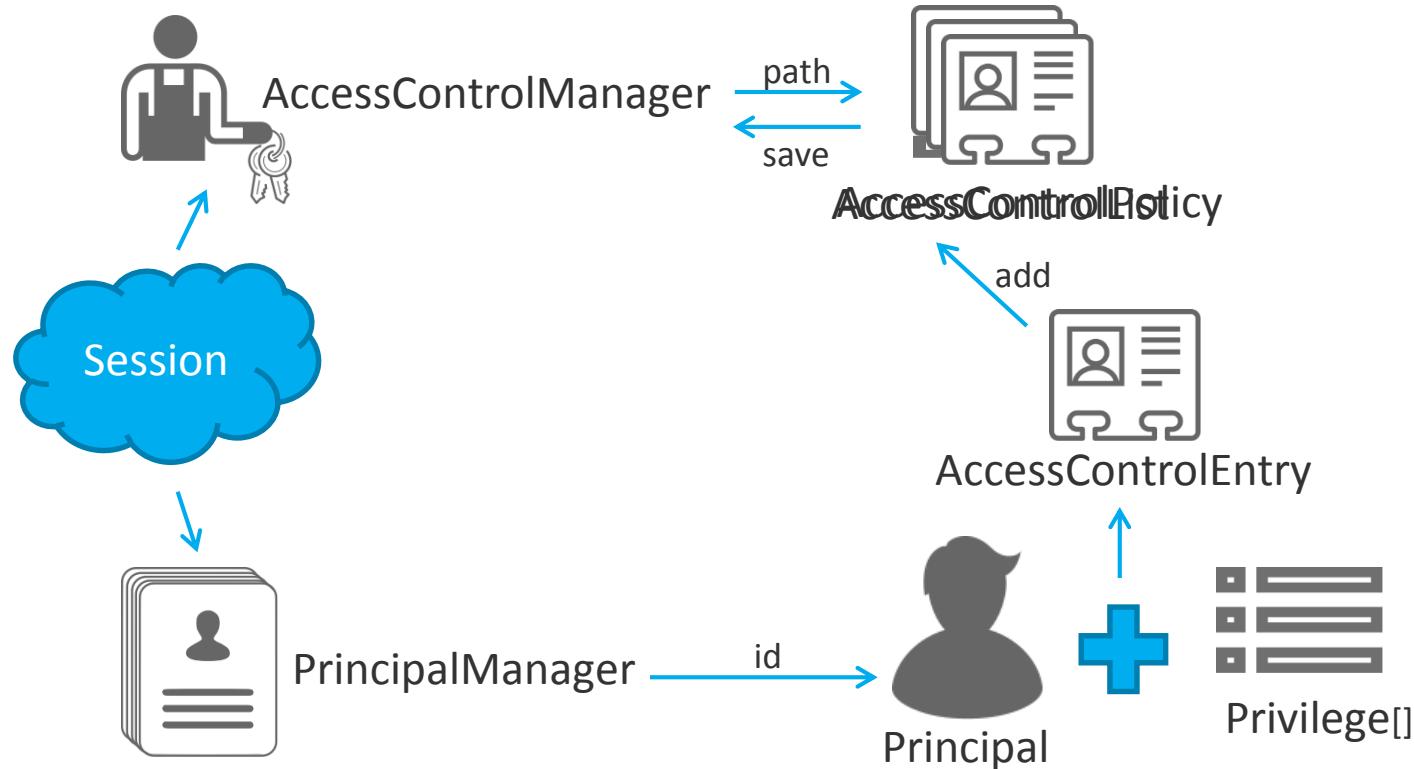
The screenshot shows the AEM Useradmin console interface. The top navigation bar includes links for AEM, Security, and Help, along with a user dropdown for Administrator. The main area has tabs for Create, Permissions, Impersonators, and Preferences. The Create tab is active, showing sub-options for Create User and Create Group. The Permissions tab is selected, displaying a grid of permissions (Read, Modify, Create, Delete, Read A..., Edit ACL, Replicate) across various system folders like apps, bin, conf, content, and etc. The 'etc' folder is highlighted in green. The bottom left shows a list of users with columns for ID, Name, Pub., and Mod.

ID	Name	Pub.	Mod.
a1	a1		
aaron.mcdonald@mailinator...	Aaron McDonald		
activitypurgesrv	activitypurgesrv		
admin	Administrator		
administrators	administrators		
analytics-administrators	Analytics Admini...		
analyticsservice	analyticsservice		
andrew.schaeffer@trashy...	Andrew Schaeffer		
anonymous	anonymous		
aparker@geometrixx.info	Alison Parker		
ashley.thompson@spambot...	Ashley Thompson		
audencemanager-configlist...	audencemanager...		
audencemanager-syncseg...	audencemanager...		
authentication-service	authentication-s...		
author	author		
boyd.larsen@dodgit.com	Boyd Larsen		

# Open Source tooling

- ACS AEM Commons - **ACL Packager**
  - <https://adobe-consulting-services.github.io/acs-aem-commons/features/acl-packager.html>
- Citytech's AEM Groovy console
  - <https://github.com/Citytechinc/cq-groovy-console>
- Netcentric's Access Control Management Tool
  - <https://github.com/Netcentric/accesscontroltool>

# API objects relationship





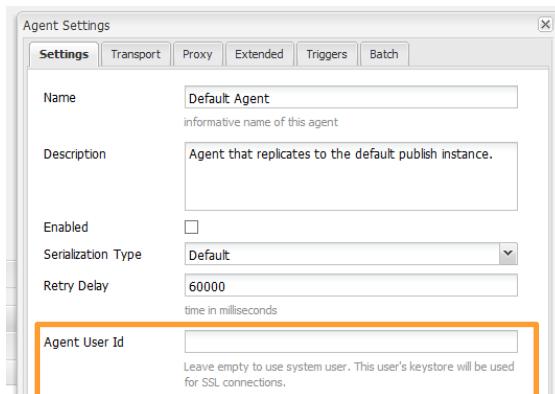
## Case 1: Sharded publishes architecture

# Requirements



- One author instance
- Multiple, colocated publishes
- Each publish handles a subset of sites

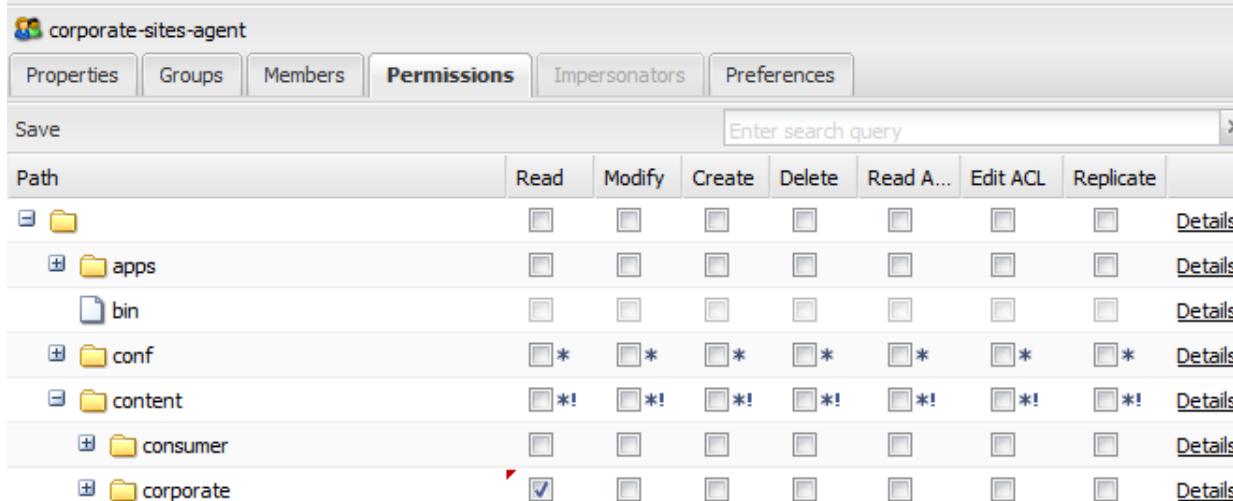
# Replication agents



- Agent replicates content that's visible for him
- Agent User Id can be „used as a mechanism for selecting specific content for replication”
  - source: <https://docs.adobe.com/docs/en/aem/6-1/deploy/configuring/replication.html>

# ACL inheritance

- „[...] permissions are inherited throughout the item hierarchy”
  - source: <http://jackrabbit.apache.org/oak/docs/security/permission/evaluation.html>



The screenshot shows the 'corporate-sites-agent' node in the Oak UI. The 'Permissions' tab is selected. The table lists paths and their permissions across various security operations: Read, Modify, Create, Delete, Read A..., Edit ACL, and Replicate. The 'Details' link for each row provides more information about the specific permissions assigned at that path level.

Path	Read	Modify	Create	Delete	Read A...	Edit ACL	Replicate	
apps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Details</a>
bin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Details</a>
conf	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<a href="#">Details</a>
content	<input type="checkbox"/> *!	<input type="checkbox"/> *!	<input type="checkbox"/> *!	<input type="checkbox"/> *!	<input type="checkbox"/> *!	<input type="checkbox"/> *!	<input type="checkbox"/> *!	<a href="#">Details</a>
consumer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Details</a>
corporate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Details</a>

# ACL Packager

## AEM Packager

### Replication agents rights

#### Preview

The following filter paths will be used in the package definition:

- /content/consumer/rep:policy
- /content/corporate/rep:policy
- /home/groups/-/-ogIRAc7elrpL7LXyuvc
- /home/groups/g/g91SGjN0TB0cEL9tjuUW
- /etc/acs-commons/packagers/replication-agents-rights

If the above filter paths appear satisfactory, press the "Create Package" button below to create the actual package definition in [CRX Package Manager](#).

[ACL Packager Configuration](#) | [Edit](#)

#### Package definition

- Package name: Replication Agents ACL
- Package group: com.adaptto
- Package version: 1.0.0
- Package description: ACL Package for Replication Agents

## Case 2: Out of AEM reviewers

# Requirements



- AEM based users
- Access to documents under a page
- No authoring required
- Rather static content

# Solution

```
- group_config:  
  - pdf-reviewers:  
    - name : Page PDF reviewers  
      path : /home/groups/acme  
- ace_config:  
  - pdf-reviewers:  
    - path: /content  
      permission: allow  
      actions: read
```



YAML

<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/15ad7ddcbfd9af7eb94c>

# Solution - refined

```
- group_config:  
  - pdf-reviewers:  
    - name : Page PDF reviewers  
      path : /home/groups/acme  
- ace_config:  
  - pdf-reviewers:  
    - path: '/content/*//print.pdf'  
      permission: allow  
      actions: read
```

Better!  
somehow...

<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/84e7aaa29d754e020a6a>

# Purging

- rep:policy nodes stored under the content tree
  - /jcr:root/\$path//rep:policy
- ACL nodes use custom primaryType
  - SELECT \* FROM [rep:ACL] WHERE ISDESCENDANTNODE (\$path)
- Permission store
  - /jcr:system/rep:permissionStore/crx.default

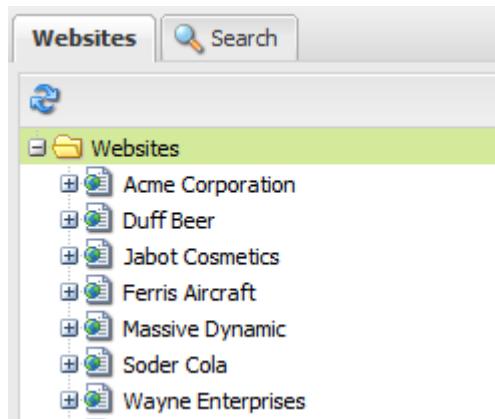
consider applying index

<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/26768994c7026bf9c850>

<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/99172f8725972855a757>

## Case 3: Multi-tenant architecture

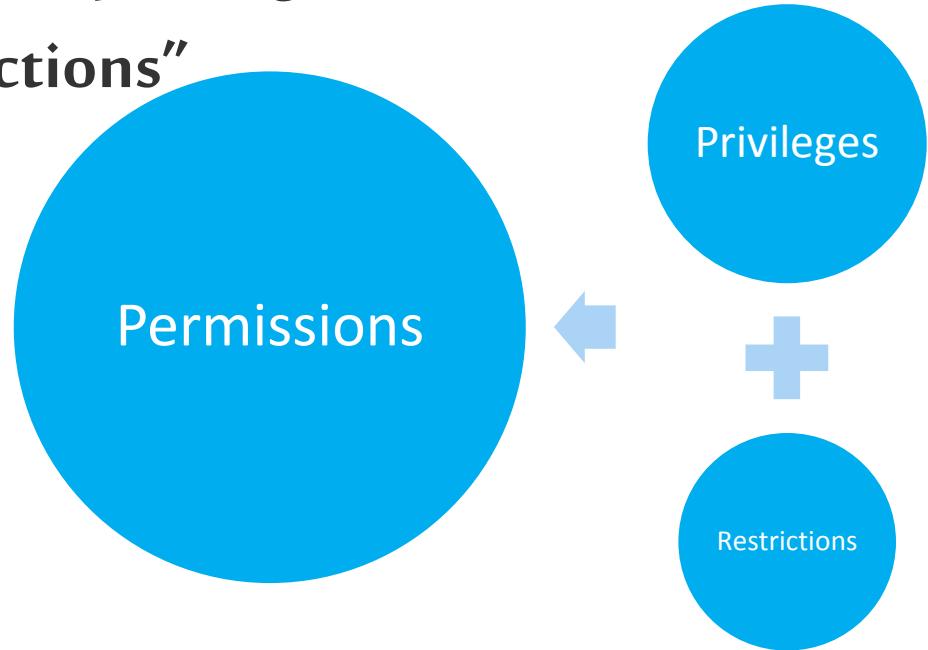
# Requirements



- Single instance used by multiple brands
- Brand authors are independent and should work in isolation
- Tenants come and go

# Privilege vs Permission

- „**permissions** encompass [...] **privileges**, but also [...] finer-grained access **restrictions**”
  - Source: JSR-283, 16.6.2



# Restrictions

- „Restrictions aim to allow for custom extensions of the default access control implementation to meet project specific need”
  - source: <http://jackrabbit.apache.org/oak/docs/security/accesscontrol/restriction.html>
- Built-in
  - rep:ntNames
  - rep:prefixes
  - rep:glob



# Solution

```
- ace_config:  
  - massive-dynamic-authors :  
    - path: /content  
      permission: allow  
      actions: read  
    - path: /content  
      permission: deny  
      actions: read  
      repGlob: '/*'  
  - path: /content/massive-dynamic  
    permission: allow  
    actions: read
```

Be positive

„Always **use Allow** statements to specify the group's rights (wherever possible). Avoid using a Deny statement.”

Source: AEM Security Best Practices

<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/7d84e8b2d3bd57d817bc>

# Mixing deny and allow

- „The individual access control entries are evaluated in strict order”
  - source: <http://jackrabbit.apache.org/oak/docs/security/accesscontrol.html>
- ACTool does not preserve the order

```
AcHelper.getPathBasedAceMap(aceMapFromConfig, AcHelper.ACE_ORDER_DENY_ALLOW);
```

- Easy to accomplish with AEM Groovy Console

```
def globRestrictions = new HashMap<String, Value>();  
globRestrictions.put("rep:glob", valueFactory.createValue("/**"));  
acl.addEntry(principal, privileges, false, globRestrictions);
```

# Solution - refined

```
- ace_config:  
  - massive-dynamic-authors :  
    - path: /content  
      permission: allow  
      actions: read  
      repGlob: ''  
    - path: /content/massive-dynamic  
      permission: allow  
      actions: read  
      repGlob: ''  
    - path: /content/massive-dynamic  
      permission: allow  
      actions: read
```

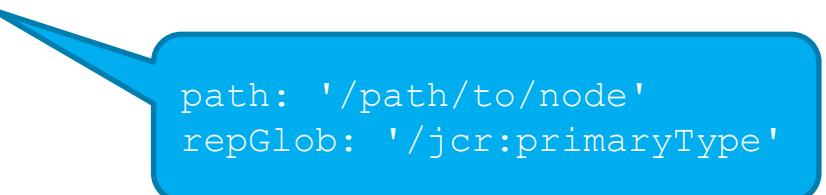
STRICT repGlob

<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/8e8e640c185ae86af3f8>



## Nodetype info access issue

- Permission evaluation process calls `Node.getPrimaryType()`
- Compatibility issue wrt OAK:
  - JCR2 returned proper node type
  - OAK requires access to `jcr:primaryType` property
- Remember to maintain access to `jcr:primaryType`

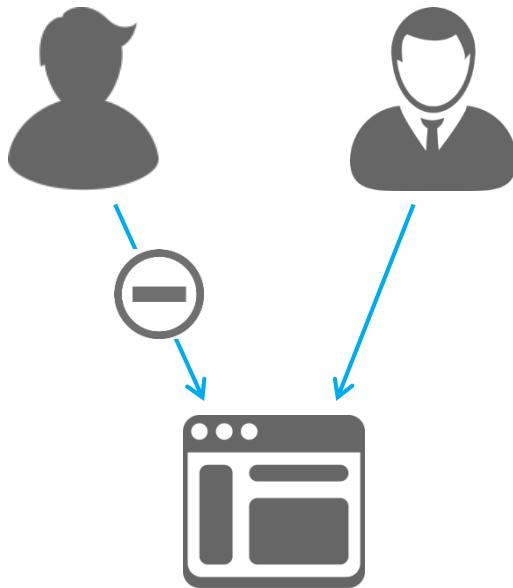


```
path: '/path/to/node'  
repGlob: '/jcr:primaryType'
```



## Case 4: Limiting superuser options

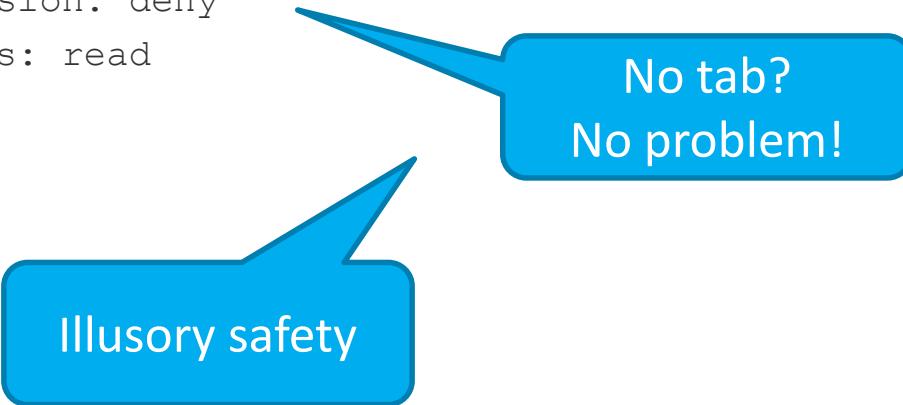
# Requirements



- A page dialog is customized to provide the ability to manage the HTML
- Only a superuser can edit aforementioned dialog tab

# Dialog access limiting

- Limit the access to a single tab
  - acme-corporate-authors:
    - path: /apps/acme/core/components/page/dialog/items/tabs/items/headTab
    - permission: deny
    - actions: read



No tab?  
No problem!

Illusory safety

# Safe solution

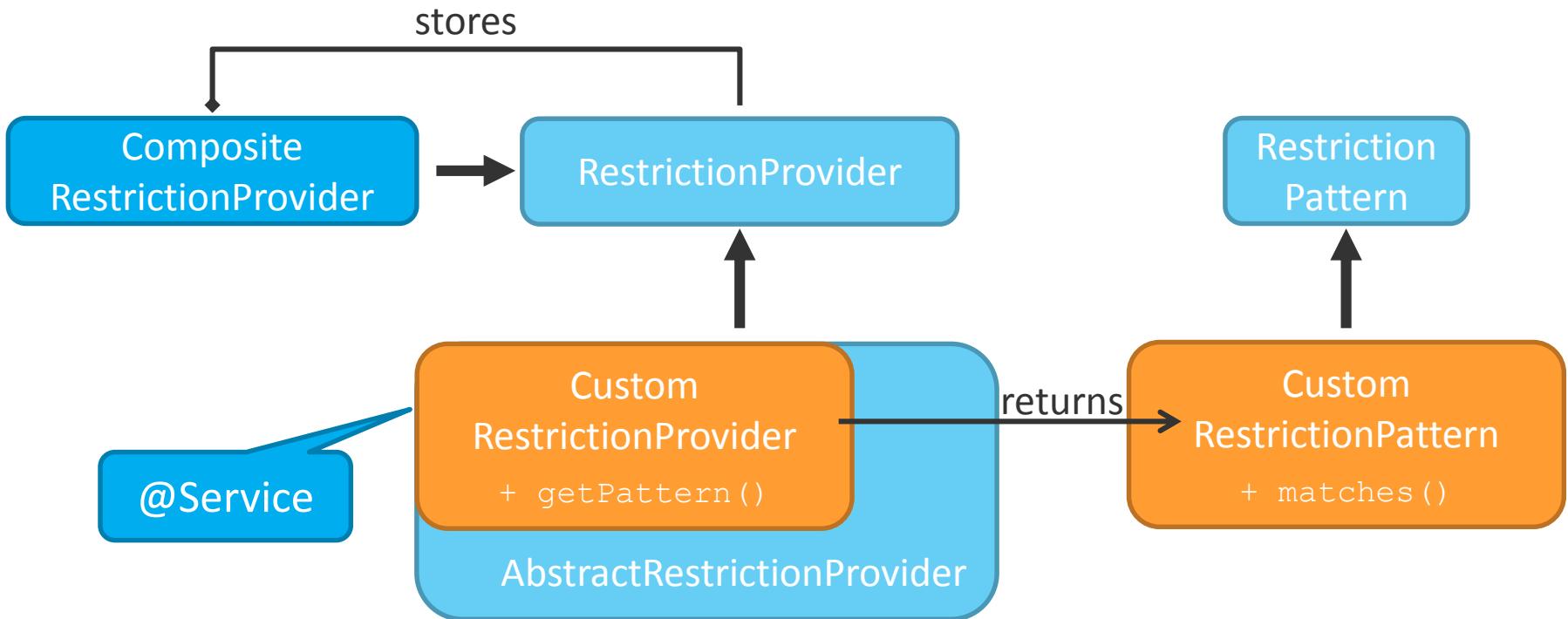
- Use prefixes restriction

```
def restrictions = new HashMap<String, Value>()
def values = new Value[1]
values[0] = session.getValueFactory().createValue("su")
restrictions.put("rep:prefixes", values)
acl.addEntry(principal, privileges, false, emptyMap, restrictions)
```

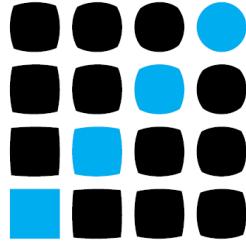
- Store data under properties with selected namespace

<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/84b887223d6d35806cd2>

# Custom restriction implementation



<https://gist.github.com/mchrominski/8ad8975d916ac24dca25>



# adaptTo()

APACHE SLING & FRIENDS TECH MEETUP  
BERLIN, 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2015

Thank you  
[mateusz.chrominski@cognifide.com](mailto:mateusz.chrominski@cognifide.com)