



HOW IS FACTORY MODEL ENABLING BUSINESSES TO ONBOARD LARGE SET OF APPLICATIONS?


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Overview

In the post-Covid era, enterprises are increasingly facing application integration challenges with dynamic changes in their business requirements and IT ecosystem. With organizations focusing on implementing diverse applications for their varied needs, they are also prioritizing faster turn-around time and efficient integration systems. The challenge is to create an agile app on-boarding process, while maintaining the essential security posture, especially while integrating a large number of apps.

Reason why, there is a need to pivot from typical IAM implementation approach for app onboarding to a factory model approach, which focuses on automating repetitive processes, undertaking continuous integration, while providing consistent results and lowering capital expenditures. At Avancer, we undertake a five-pronged process to onboard a large set of applications using a cookie-cutter Factory Model approach. The process includes Prospecting, Readiness Assessment, Integration – Inbound, Integration – Outbound and Transition Support.

This white paper explores how leveraging Factory Model could enable businesses to onboard large set of applications in a seamless and agile manner.



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Defining Factory Model

At Avancer, we have extended the factory model approach to creating a proven, cost-effective, and agile process for onboarding a large number of applications for our client companies.

Largely used in manufacturing assembly lines, the factory model approach is being increasingly applied in the software development process too, particularly in DevOps. Such as model focuses on creating a software development process that is massively scalable and standardized. At Avancer, we have extended the factory model approach to creating a proven, cost-effective, and agile process for onboarding a large number of applications for our client companies.

We have developed a set of resources to quickly and constantly on-board applications by collaborating with internal client team to understand their requirements, and implement apps through our automated process, influenced by the factory model approach. Such a standardized process ensures that a consistent and wider on-boarding of apps could be undertaken, thereby, providing the entire process at a lower cost, with reduced effort and quicker turnaround time. Further, such a technique helps in onboarding applications in a reliable manner, accelerating deployment, while improving access to data and providing significant functionalities.

Increase in demand for Factory Model

It has been seen that many organizations undertake lengthy and tedious process, with manual intervention from technical team, to onboard apps.


Such dated approach results in errors and bugs. Thus, it is essential to create an effective and structured application onboarding process, as per your business goal.

A repeatable framework and automated process could be the key to scale up onboarding of large number of apps. Such a method not only helps in reducing time to onboard apps in the initial implementation phase, but also enables businesses to add any further apps in future by using this tried and tested method, in an agile manner.

Implementing a standardized process such as factory model to onboard large number of apps is required at technical as well as business levels. While it helps reduce repetitive tasks and manual intervention at technical level, such large scale integration enables enterprises to function in an agile and seamless manner, with minimal business disruption.

The Factory Model helps...

- To scale-up process of onboarding large number of apps across numerous functions and domains
- To initiate digital transformation in a faster and efficient manner
- To reduce implementation cost
- To onboard apps in a reliable manner
- To improve access to data in a secure manner



Factory Model process flow

The basic premise of this model is creating a framework for onboarding applications with a factory approach for more efficient and agile integration process. Here's how:

- Creating an integration plan for designing, building and testing the integration process in an effective and predictable way.
- Defining metrics and standardized processes to help integrate applications across all the domains in an enterprise.
- Deploying process that is proven over time for being highly reliable and cost-effective.
- Providing support to the internal client team with various skill sets and resources.

Five-pronged Factory Model process

- **Prospecting:** The process is initiated with Prospecting, wherein our experts reach out to the application owners to understand the various provisioning and certification requirements. Thereafter, detailed interviews are undertaken with the stakeholders to help in prioritizing the apps and categorizing them as Critical, High, Medium or Low.
- **Readiness Assessment:** Here, the applications are analyzed in an in-depth manner to find out any vulnerability. Further, comprehensive data analysis is also undertaken to understand the usability of the app and whether it requires further enhancement for improving user accessibility. In this process, the connector type is also identified.
- **Integration:** This process is further divided into inbound and outbound integration. The inbound integration process focuses on designing, configuring and building certifications, along with aggregating data and testing and deploying integration. Outbound integration emphasizes on connected and disconnected provisioning, along with access requests.
- **Support:** At Avancer, we provide robust support to our clients post integrating the SailPoint solution. We not only monitor the integration process, but also extend ongoing support to the IT team.

- Outreach to application owners for certification & provisioning
- Prioritize application (Critical, High, Medium, Low) & interview the stakeholders

1

Prospecting

Readiness
Assessment

2

- Application analysis for build out
- Data Analysis
- Identity Correlations and connector type

- Design, configure & build certifications
- Data Aggregation
- Test & deploy integration

3

Integration -
Inbound

Integration -
Outbound

4

- Connected & disconnected Provisioning
- Access requests
- Test & deploy integration

- Monitor integration
- Ongoing support

5

Transition
Support

Division of apps in T-shirt size model

At Avancer, we also assess the applications as per its size. Such a concept of application sizing based on data source footprint, business unit usage, internal and external applications, and varying degree of complexity. We categorize the apps using the metaphor of t-shirt sizes.

Size	Description
XL	This set of applications contains any 4 or more combinations of application, database, server, privileged, etc. One example would be an application entitlement store and database entitlement store and server entitlement store and privileged entitlement store to use for an application review
L	This set of applications contains any 3 combinations of application, database, server, privileged, etc. One example would be an application entitlement store and database entitlement store and server entitlement store to use for an application review
M	This set of applications contains any 2 combinations of application, database, server, privileged, etc. One example would be an application entitlement store and database entitlement store to use for an application review
S(Internal)	This set of applications contains an application or database or server entitlement source. One example would be only an application entitlement store or application entitlement store and groups from AD
XS	This set of applications contains uses AD entitlement store only
S(External)	External applications that need to be integrated with Identity Now.

How Avancer helps?

Avancer has been able to successfully plan and onboard various large applications for client companies. We have consolidated the knowledge into a framework that allows us to align processes, people as well as technology. This helps in meeting the goals provided by the organization. The framework is inclusive of quick start assets for designs, patterns, and standards together with code templates for shortening delivery time. We also deploy a comprehensive team of experts to help companies leverage Factory Model for onboarding large number of applications.

Recently we assisted a large US-based insurance company in onboarding T-shirt size 122 applications in their existing SailPoint IdentityNow environment. The team focused on helping the client attain a strong, secure, sustainable, and compliant IAM process, resulting in better business performance.

Highlights

Project: IAM Application Integrations using our Factory model

Industry: Insurance

No. of Identities: 7800+

No. of Sources: 232

Our Role: System Integrators, Implementation, and support

Key Technologies

- SailPoint IdentityNow, JDBC, UNIX connectors, applications connectors, webservices connectors etc.

Challenges

- Non-utilization of the IAM system to its full potential, thereby, disabling the client to efficiently review or monitor user access, creating a substantial amount of risk
- IAM IT processes not streamlined and automated
- Challenges in identifying the access models implemented in each of the applications
- Each application had its own security model. It was difficult to understand each of their access model and identify the entities that needed to be certified in order to be compliant
- Integrating various applications using different technology stacks

Benefits

- Integrate all applications on the identityNow tenant of SailPoint using connectors available
- Well defined certification process that could be regenerated easily
- Bulk certifications that could be generated quickly using scripts, which are reusable across their entire applications landscape
- Improved compliance, audit performance and audit reporting
- Review access quickly and effectively offering business-friendly access certifications, with complete visibility of access and audit reporting

Avancer's Solutions

- Accurately scoping with an agile delivery model focused on rollout
- Integration of applications on to SailPoint platform using different connector types
- Onboarding applications using a Factory Model that enables applications to be onboarded at a very fast pace
- Certification generation was automated by writing a tool and passing parameters to the tools according to their compliance needs
- Assisted the client in deployment of applications and generating certifications in production

AVANCER'S EXPERTISE IN IAM



CONSULT IT SECURITY ADVISORS AT AVANCER

Allow us to serve you, reach out to IT Security and IAM experts to strategize your IT Ecosystem

At Avancer, we understand that one of the compelling factors for organizations to bring in technical solutions is to adhere by existing compliances. However, there is so much more to technical solutions, and these add on benefits help in bringing efficiency, security and operational automation. We add an edge to solutions in Identity and Access Governance, IT Security and Big Data by closing any loopholes, and tailoring the solutions as per the needs of the business, industrial standards and regulatory considerations.

For more information on how we can make a difference in your organization, drop us a request [here](#) or directly contact our IT Security Leaders

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