

## The Cybersecurity Readiness Podcast Series

<b>Episode Title</b>	Streamlining and Improving Security by Standardizing Identity Management
<b>Podcast Series</b>	The Cybersecurity Readiness Podcast Series  <a href="https://www.dchatte.com/podcast/">https://www.dchatte.com/podcast/</a>  <a href="https://the-cybersecurity-readi.captivate.fm/">https://the-cybersecurity-readi.captivate.fm/</a>
<b>Host and Producer</b>	Dave Chatterjee, Ph.D.  <a href="https://dchatte.com">https://dchatte.com</a>
<b>Guest</b>	<a href="#">Gerry Gebel, Head of Standards at Strata Identity</a>
<b>Summary Pitch</b>	While cloud computing has become a great digitization enabler to enterprises, multiple clouds—especially when intersecting with on-premises systems and one another—can produce some challenges. Many organizations can end up with an " <a href="#">identity gridlock</a> " of competing identity systems and protocols since each cloud platform cannot exchange access policy data with other cloud providers. It was a real pleasure to have <a href="#">Gerry Gebel, Head of Standards at Strata Identity</a> , join me to discuss the significance of standardizing identity management.
<b>Time Stamps</b>	00:02 -- Introduction  02:09 -- Gerry Gebel's Professional Highlights  04:15 -- Role of Standards in Identity and Access Management  08:14 -- Avoiding Identity Gridlocks  11:38 -- Competing Interests in Developing Standards  14:49 -- Role of Standards in Achieving Fine-Grained Access Controls  18:25 -- Rationale Behind Having Numerous Standards

	<p>21:02 -- Senior Leadership Involvement in Standards Setting Process</p> <p>25:39 -- Streamlining and Standardizing Security</p> <p>28:07 -- Final Thoughts</p>
<p><b>Memorable Gerry Gebel's Quotes/Statements</b></p>	<p>"Standards allow for interoperability between domains that different organizations run, and this can provide the user with a lot of convenience."</p> <p>"Each of these cloud and computing platforms has its own way of defining and configuring access to resources. That's where the gridlock comes in because they're not interchangeable; they are not interoperable."</p> <p>"Realize that you're not standardizing the whole offering; you're standardizing different pieces that have maybe become a commodity."</p> <p>"It really comes down to having customers involved in the process, because they're the ones who ultimately, will, or will not purchase products. If there's a lock-in, or there's a lack of interoperability, the customer may choose to stay away from that product or solution."</p> <p>"You can be an active participant (in the standards-setting process) and look out for your own interests, rather than delegating that to someone else who may not represent the same point of view."</p> <p>"What is the purpose of creating these standards? And we've sort of alluded to that a couple of times here. I think that's where the enterprise perspective is very important. Because, as a programmer, as a developer, we can easily get lost in the weeds of the technology, you know, how do I write this Go routine? Or how do I write this API? And I think the enterprise perspective keeps the focus on what's the real business purpose for doing this. Does it enhance security? Does it give us vendor independence? Does it reduce risk in some way? Or does it</p>

	<p>enable new business? So I think it's important to have that [customer] voice in the conversation."</p> <p>"I would say from the enterprise administrative perspective, there's more capability to properly govern the deployment, the configurations, if you have standards involved, because it gives you more visibility of exactly what is connected to what and who has access to what. It gives you better visibility or reporting capability to show, "Oh, well, I'm compliant with these HIPAA rules, or I'm compliant with, you know, some of their financial rules." So, that's where the standards can be of great benefit in overall governance."</p>
<p><b>Discussion Summary and Key Messages</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Standardizing identity management in multi-cloud environments.</b> <a href="#">0:02</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Dave Chatterjee discusses identity management challenges in multi-cloud environments with Gerry Gable.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Identity standards and gridlock in a multi-cloud world.</b> <a href="#">2:07</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gerry shares his professional journey in identity and access management, highlighting his experience in implementing standards such as XACML, an OASIS standard.</li> <li>○ Gerry explains the role of standards in identity and access management, using examples from daily life to illustrate their importance.</li> <li>○ Gerry explains how identity standards enable seamless access to multiple websites without reentering credentials, improving security and usability.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr. Dave Chatterjee agrees, highlighting how standards can prevent identity gridlock and make it easier for users to access different sources without reentering credentials.</li><li>○ Gerry Gebel discusses identity gridlock in multi-cloud environments, where different business units or acquisitions have chosen different cloud platforms, leading to complexity and security risks.</li><li>○ The IDQL (Identity Query Language) standard aims to provide a neutral format for defining access policies that can be translated into different runtimes, simplifying management and reducing security risks.</li><li>● <b>Standards for seamless access and security in technology. <a href="#">11:38</a></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr. Dave Chatterjee questions the commitment to developing standards that make access seamless across different ecosystems.</li><li>○ Gerry acknowledges the competing interests of standard development, but emphasizes the need for compromise and customer involvement to drive to a solution.</li><li>○ Gerry explains fine grained access control as matching an individual's job responsibilities with only the access they need to perform those tasks, similar to least privilege.</li><li>○ Gerry connects fine grained access control to standards, such as Zero Trust, to enable greater control and validation of access.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Standards and interoperability in identity and access management. <a href="#">17:38</a></b></li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Gerry explains that there are multiple identity and access management standards, such as AAA SAML, IDQL, and Open ID Connect, due to competing interests and the need for interoperability.</li><li>○ Dr. Dave Chatterjee agrees, citing the example of SAML and its duplication with other standards in the early 2000s, and how Open ID Connect is the next generation of these standards.</li><li>○ Gerry Gebel explains why senior executives should get involved in standard setting, despite it seeming more suited for technologists, as it can provide opportunities for enterprises to influence the standards building process and enhance their overall awareness.</li><li>○ Gerry Gebel emphasizes the importance of an enterprise perspective in standards development, citing examples from his experience at Chase Bank.</li><li>○ Gerry highlights the need for a business value focus in standards development, rather than solely relying on technical expertise.</li><li>● <b>Standardizing identity management for security and convenience.</b> <a href="#">24:40</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dr. Dave Chatterjee highlights the importance of standards in streamlining and improving security, citing convenience and single sign-on capabilities as key benefits.</li><li>○ Standard setting is crucial for compliance with security regulations, benefiting both technologists and business leaders.</li></ul></li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Gerry Gebel emphasizes the importance of enterprise involvement in standards making processes.</li></ul>
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