

# AXI ITS, a ForgeRock partner, Implements a Federated SSO Architecture for PLUS Retail



## About PLUS Retail

PLUS Retail is a subsidiary of Sparrowhawk Group, an organization run by and for independent supermarket managers. There are 255 PLUS supermarkets in the Netherlands, managed by 216 independent entrepreneurs. For more info: [www.plus.nl](http://www.plus.nl).

## New Challenges

PLUS provides a wide range of applications to external users through a self-service portal and to its own staff through the Service Office. While these applications are offered over a private network, they are increasingly also being accessed through the cloud. For that reason, end-users indicated that there was a need for access to applications based on SSO.

## High Availability Solution

By launching a federated SSO solution, PLUS Retail has been able to offer single sign-on for the users of web and cloud applications, streamlining the authentication and authorization process for the users. PLUS Retail created the solution using role-based access control (RBAC) and attribute-based access control (ABAC) in combination.

The user authorization is processed centrally by using data stored deep within the LAN in the central directory servers. This data is made securely accessible in the cloud.

AXI ITS created a high availability solution by setting up a geographically separated SSO cluster based on open-source software: ForgeRock OpenAM as access manager and OpenDJ as directory server.

All end-users are stored in a separate OpenDJ directory server and a link has been created with the end-users at the Service Office for authentication on the existing Windows domain.

In addition, AXI ITS developed various custom authentication plugins, thereby creating different authentication options (e.g., Radius, x509 client certificate authentication).

AXI ITS also provided integration with the existing Oracle SSO server; this involved using the necessary load balancers and reverse proxies.

Thanks to the introduction of the new SAML standards, AXI was able to offer reliable support to third parties developing cloud applications. Very rapid, cloud applications were integrated, which use various technologies such as MS Azure, .net, J2EE and PHP.

“The open source solution developed by AXI gives us four advantages: robust security, flexible management, versatility and a realistic price. Thanks to the integration with the existing Oracle SSO server and the federated SSO in **ForgeRock OpenAM**, end-users can log in to the web and cloud applications with full transparency, and without credentials growing out of control.”

**RUUD STROET**, ICT ARCHITECT AT PLUS RETAIL

## State-of-the-Art Single Sign-On Solution



As a ForgeRock partner, AXI ITS provided a state-of-the-art single sign-on environment, ready for all future challenges.

Thanks to integrations with the existing Oracle SSO server and the federated SSO in OpenAM, end-users have a transparent way to log on to internal and external applications without uncontrolled growth of credentials.

Since open-source components were used throughout, the decision was made early on to open the new, faster OpenDJ directory servers for other applications, including the Zarafa mail platform and Oracle OBIEE 11g.

The open-source nature of the solution also has a positive impact on the IT budget. The SLA aspect was kept under control by making use of the 24-7 support subscription from ForgeRock.

Diagram of the Federated SSO environment at PLUS Retail

