

ITS Technical Notes

Iowa State University Windows Enterprise Announcement

November 29, 2007 – LDAPS Enabled on Windows Enterprise Domain Controllers

LDAPS (“LDAP over SSL”) has been enabled on the four Enterprise Windows domain controllers. This process involved installing a digital certificate (from Thawte) on each domain controller. Approximate times when these certificates were installed are:

WINDC1 – Nov 27, 2007 – 09:00

WINDC2 – Nov 27, 2007 – 09:45

WINDC3 – Nov 27, 2007 – 13:20

WINDC4 – Oct 30, 2007 – 09:00

The enabling of LDAPS is in preparation for the disabling “LDAP simple binds” (which is insecure in that it uses clear-text passwords for authentication). See the following WinAdmin Meeting notes for more detailed information:

<http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.08.10.07.pdf>

Section “Shutting Down LDAP Simple Binds on Enterprise AD”

<http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.10.12.07.pdf>

Section “Enterprise Domain”

<http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.11.09.07.pdf>

Section “Progress on Active Directory LDAPS”

For the time being "LDAP simple binds" are still allowed. Monitoring of systems contacting the Windows Domain controllers using "LDAP simple binds" is in progress. System managers who know their systems are using "LDAP simple binds" (typically third-party "non-modern-Microsoft" software) should begin researching how to convert their application to "LDAPS" for SSL-TLS LDAP communications. ITS will contact system managers that have not converted over the coming weeks, notifying them of the need for a change and assisting in the conversion. LDAP "simple binds" will be disabled after a suitable transition period (watch the WinAdmin and CCSG mailing lists for more announcements).

It is important to note that modern Microsoft operating systems using Microsoft certified products will NOT be using LDAP "simple binds" (they will use Kerberos credentials). Only third-party apps (or mis-configured apps) will be using the insecure "LDAP simple binds".

ITS currently has received conversion instructions for "Moodle" (a courseware management system). It has also been learned that the latest version of Samba on RedHat 5.1 needs to be rejoined to the domain (further info available on the redhat@iastate.edu mailing list) following this change.