ITS Technical Notes

Windows Enterprise Announcement

April 3, 2008 – Simple LDAP Binds to Domain Controllers To Be Disabled May 13

ITS is announcing May 13, 2008 as the date on which LDAP "simple binds" will be disabled on the Enterprise Windows Domain controllers (WINDC1-4).

If you are aware that you are connecting to a Windows Enterprise domain controller (WINDC1-4) and using "simple bind" authentication, you should be converting your applications as soon as possible. On May 13, LDAP queries that provide a username and password and do not use LDAPS will cease to function.

At the August 2007 WinAdmin meeting ITS announced that "simple binds" to LDAP service on the Windows Domain controllers would be shut down in the future. LDAP "simple binds" are a very insecure way of authenticating to Windows using "clear text" username/password transmission. Since that time ITS has installed digital certificates on all four domain controllers (WINDC1-4) which enabled "LDAPS" (SSL-TLS authentication) on port 636 (standard LDAP uses port 389). Contacting system owners and converting as many applications as possible has been going on since that time.

In general, if you are using "modern" (Windows 2000 and later) Windows operating systems that are members of the Enterprise Windows Domain you need not worry about this change (they use secure Kerberos authentication for "domain-member activities"). However, if you have installed third-party Windows software that does LDAP authentication using "simple binds" or are using software on UNIX, Macintosh, or other operating systems that perform LDAP authentication using "simple binds" you need to begin converting as soon as possible. Refer to your software configuration documentation for options available to you.

For WinAdmin Meeting Notes where shutting down "simple binds" (and conversion to LDAPS) was discussed, see:
http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.08.10.07.pdf
http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.11.09.07.pdf
http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.12.14.07.pdf
http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.2008.02.08.pdf
http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.2008.03.14.pdf

This will also be a topic of discussion in the April 11 WinAdmin meeting.