Windows Enterprise Announcement

May 11, 2009 – Active Directory DC Upgrade Rollout Schedule

The upgrade of the Windows Enterprise domain controllers (WINDC1, WINDC2, WINDC3, WINDC4) begins with the end of the Spring 2009 semester. The upgrade involves replacing all four production domain controllers with new hardware running Windows Server 2008 (the current DCs run Windows Server 2003 R2 and have been in service since summer of 2003).

Advance TEMPORARY DC for Testing

The Enterprise Admins anticipate few problems with this upgrade. However, as with all Microsoft upgrades there is a focus on "enhanced security" which can affect the wide mix of third party (and older Microsoft) software present in our environment. To allow IT admins to confirm there are no issues with their particular software ITS will offer a fifth TEMPORARY domain controller running on Windows Server 2008 in advance of upgrading any current production DC. This temporary DC will be in place several weeks and will have an LDAPS certificate installed. The sole purpose of this DC will be to allow IT admins with SAMBA, Moodle, Macintosh, and other apps using AD for LDAPS searches and authentication to test and verify their systems will work when WINDC1-4 undergo upgrades at a later date. The temporary DC will be called "WINDC1A" (windc1a.iastate.edu - 129.186.6.7) and will be available sometime on May 18 (watch for further announcements).

IMPORTANT! The hardware to run the temporary WINDC1A will upgrade WINDC1 (in July). After sufficient testing (and prior to July) WINDC1A will be removed from service and used to upgrade WINDC1 in July. DO NOT configure any systems to permanently use WINDC1A as an authentication/LDAPS search target! Any Microsoft domain members which may be using WINDC1A for authentication will automatically convert to another DC when they detect it gone. Third-party apps typically cannot do this and must be manually configured. The date of the withdrawal of WINDC1A will be announced at a later date.

Rollout Dates

The upgrade has some firm and some tentative dates at this point. It will proceed in the following steps on the following dates:

* May 14, 2009 (Thu)
  - Schema updates for W2K8 DCs
  - Forwarding of two new DNS Zones to DC DNS
    (DomainDNSZones & ForestDNSZones)

* May 18 (Mon)
  - TEMPORARY Test DC (WINDC1A) introduced
    (For public testing of 3rd party apps)

* May 27 (Wed)
  - Upgrade WINDC4

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* June 9 (Tue)
  - Upgrade WINDC3

* June 23+ (Tue)
  - Upgrade WINDC2

* July 7+ (Tue)
  - Upgrade WINDC1
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<u>Questions</u>

Send comments/questions/concerns to the Windows Enterprise Admins at
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