Windows Enterprise Announcement

June 1, 2009 – Progress Report – Active Directory DC Upgrade Rollout – WINDC1A Available

The rollout of the upgrade for the Windows Active Directory Domain Controllers is progressing again.

The TEMPORARY Test Windows Domain Controller WINDC1A (windc1a.iastate.edu, 129.186.6.7) has been introduced to the Windows Enterprise Domain. WINDC1A is running Window Server 2008 on new hardware. The purpose of this temporary DC is to allow IT admins to confirm there are no issues with 3rd-party software (such as SAMBA, Moodle, Macintosh, and other apps using AD for LDAPS searches and authentication). The sole purpose of this DC is to allow IT admins to test and verify their systems will work when WINDC1-4 undergo upgrades at a later date.

IMPORTANT! The hardware to run the temporary WINDC1A will be used to 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.

The revised rollout dates for the upgrades of the production domain controllers (WINDC1-4) will be announced in a few days.

Questions

Report any problems/concerns to the Windows Enterprise Admins at its-ad-admins@iastate.edu. Discussion of issues is always encouraged in the WinAdmin and CCSG support lists so other IT admins can be made aware of them and possibly assist in solving any problems.