Windows Administrators Meeting
March 9, 2007
Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- The Daylight Saving Time switch for 2007 happens this Sunday (March 11, 2007). You still have time to patch your systems as necessary. See http://www.it.iastate.edu/dst/ for ITS information about this important issue.
- Account suspensions happened March 5. Email was sent to the account holders on February 6. About 5,000 NetID-based accounts were suspended. As a reminder, remember that you should not simply re-enable a NetID-based user object under your control. You should always have the NetID re-enabled at the Enterprise level. Contact the Solution Center if you have any questions.

WSUS Load

Kunz talked about his analysis of high load on the Enterprise WSUS server from certain client systems. Some systems on campus are currently contacting the WSUS server from 10,000 to 400,000 times a month (much greater than the average 400-600 times a month that the default policy settings will cause). Since the Enterprise WSUS server only contacts Microsoft for updates once a day (at approximately 4:00 PM each day) and Microsoft only issues updates once a day (about mid-day) there is little point for client systems to check for updates any more than once or twice a day. The default policy settings for frequency of checking are preferable.

Kunz and Pruski (the ITS Enterprise WSUS admins) will continue monitor and track WSUS usage and work with OU admins to resolve excessive connection counts. There may be other issues going on here that we are unaware of and ITS will continue to work to resolve them.

Open Discussion

Rich Jones [ITS] asked about what experiences people were having with Windows Vista.
- Web Wilke [RES H] commented that AFS seems to work fine if you get the latest kit from OpenAFS. Beata Pruski [ITS] indicated that OpenAFS for Windows was a "constantly moving target" at the current time, with many versions coming out as various problems are patched. ITS has been waiting for a bit of "stability" before releasing a current version as "read for production". She will check into it again.
- Beata Pruski [ITS] asked people to remember that the "integrated login" feature on Windows Vista will not be available. The "integrated login" kit is the Scout-Kit that allow you to get SideCar/Lease tickets on desktop login.
- Kunz [ITS] commented people should remember that that Cisco VPN is still not available for Windows Vista. Cisco is very much behind on porting such products to new operating systems.
- A comment was made that the new Scout 8.0 (the current version which works on Vista) can be confusing to users when it announces it "needs to be run under

administrator privileges". Many users are not aware they need to "right-click" the launch-icon and select "Run as Administrator" to launch it on Windows Vista. Kunz indicated that Scout 8.1 (release date unknown) would function like other Windows Vista applications and ask permission to continue with admin privileges (if the user has them).

Chris Thach [CIRAS] asked if there was a solution to an old problem of roaming profile saves being aborted. Another person commented this is due to some "IE history URLs" being too long for Windows. The solution is to exclude (via policy) the storage of IE history URLs in the roaming profile storage.

Jim Wellman [AER E] asked if anyone knows what "TCM" (which comes on new Dell laptops) is useful for. It may be a "drive encryption" security package, but nobody new what it exactly did. Wayne Hauber [ITS] will try to find time to learn more about it.

Meeting Adjourned (9:40)

Next meeting is scheduled April 13, 2007