

Windows Administrators Meeting

September 8, 2006

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- In another step toward increasing the security of IT at Iowa State, IT Services has decided to apply a “five strikes and you are out for one minute” account lockout policy to the Windows Enterprise Domain. This same policy was applied on July 25, 2006 to the Unix Kerberos servers. While no date have been set as of yet, it is anticipated this policy change will happen fairly soon after a formal announcement is made and any feedback has been considered.

The settings that will be used will be similar to the Unix settings. An “Account lockout threshold” of “5” and “Account lockout duration” of “1 minute” will be used.

As on the Unix side, most users who know and can type their passwords will see little effect. Attempting to log into a desktop that is a member of the Windows Enterprise Domain with a bad password five times in a row will result in a long (~30 sec) pause followed by the message “Unable to log you on because your account has been locked out, please contact you administrator”. A wait of one minute will allow login with a correct password.

New Products Coming Soon

Kunz (ITS) once again encouraged IT admins to become familiar with the next generation of software coming from Microsoft. One good place to start may be: <http://www.microsoft.com/industry/government/launch.mspix>

Open Discussion

Jim Wellman (AER E) asked about WebMail problems that several students were having. Apparently there are some mail headers that WebMail cannot handle correctly that result in a WebMail session going to a “white screen”. A call to the Solution Center is necessary to set the preferred display format back to a mode that the user can use. Frank Poduska (ITS) said the Solution Center and WebMail technical staff are aware of the problem and looking into it.

Steve Kovarik (E CPE) talked about a problem the College of Engineering was seeing with roaming profiles and WebCT. Apparently WebCT has a very long title (>255 characters) associated with a URL that is attempted to be saved in the “recent address” links. This long title creates errors when it is stored in the roaming profile storage area. Circumvention is to apply group policy to prevent the storage of these URLs. Steve Kovarik will email Randy Dalhoff with the details to see if the issue can be addressed in WebCT.

Meeting Adjourned (9:45)

Next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2006