

Windows Administrators Meeting

January 9, 2004

Minutes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:05)

Announcements

- The Jan 6, 2004 security tightening “happened”. The Kerberos 4 authentication port was disabled (only “Kerberos 5 authentication” is now supported). Frank Poduska (AIT) indicated the Solution Center logged 755 phone calls on Jan 6. Nearly all were from people who had done nothing to prepare in advance. We expect another “busy day or two” when the students return this weekend.

Kunz commented that on Macintosh systems the “system time of day” is now important. The system time needs to be within 5 minutes of the correct network time (and be configured for the correct time zone). This was the issue on several Macintosh problems reported to AIT.

Frank Poduska asked that any departmental IT managers make sure their faculty/staff are aware of the new FTP restrictions. Other people on and off campus have not realized the implications of “no clear-text FTP authentication” until the switch occurred. This change only deals with authenticated FTP services to Vincent servers supported by AIT (normal anonymous-FTP is not affected, nor FTP to non-AIT FTP services).

Wayne Hauber (AIT) commented that some off-campus ISPs (Iowa Telecom is one) have been blocking port 4444 UDP, which causes problems with the Kerberos authentication process. Port 4444 **TCP** probably SHOULD be blocked since it was used by the Blaster worm. Port 4444 **UDP** should be open. If an ISP will not comply with the port unblock request a VPN connection is probably the best solution.

Open Discussion

Kunz indicated he wanted to start the new year out by continuing the solicitation of ideas on topics that could be discussed in future WinAdmin meetings, documentation needed, or problems that need to be solved.

At the last meeting the request for documentation on how to re-direct the IE “Favorites” into AFS space for public labs was received. This request resulted in Al Day (AIT) providing information for a document which is now on the AIT Windows Domain support page at:

<http://www.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/RedirIEFavs.pdf>

Another suggestion from last month was for information on using Dell “OpenManage” (for server monitoring/management). Nobody so far has stepped forward as an “expert” on this topic. Kunz commented that the Acropolis class/dept list population project (“list-o-matic”, a popular “must have” request) will hopefully get done relatively soon.

Kunz indicated he is going to put some work into the AIT Windows Enterprise Domain support web pages (www.ait.iastate.edu/win2000) and wondered how people felt about the current format. Several people commented they liked the current “flat” format (as opposed to “drill down”) and the lack of graphics. Kunz indicated he was going to “brand” the main pages with a few AIT logos, but would leave the basic “mostly text” format alone.

Several people discussed possible ideas for documentation, presentations, or new services. Among them were:

- Use of wireless devices in the Windows Enterprise Domain
- Tips on using “keychain drives” on systems with mapped drive-letters.
- Startup or Login scripts that may benefit others
- Inter-departmental “information sharing” using enterprise credentials (possibly web-based). This would be a “larger project”.
- Tips on using campus services through firewalls (an Outlook client accessing AIT’s POP-3 services was the specific example).

As mentioned at the last meeting, any IT admin functioning in our forest/domain that feels they have a procedure or technique from which others could benefit can provide documentation or be provided some time in future meetings. Just send email with your offering to skunz@iastate.edu. Use the same email address for requests for better documentation, etc.

Meeting Adjourned (about 10:00)

Next meeting is February 13.