

Windows Administrators Meeting

November 10, 2006

Notes (taken by Beata Pruski and Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- Internet Explorer 7.0 will be approved for installation on the Enterprise WSUS server (sus.iastate.edu) on December 19, 2006. See: <http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/Announce.11.03.06.pdf>
- Eudora Pro 7.1 is currently available as an “Advanced” Scout-kit. It is also available on www.sitelicensed.iastate.edu. After a week or two it will move to the “Current” Scout-kit list.
- The McAfee VirusScan scan engine was released October 12 via the McAfee update process.
- McAfee VirusScan Enterprise 8.5i is coming soon. The current release candidate (Beta 4?) was made available on the McAfee site November 9. Departments are *strongly* advised to test this product soon. ITS testing has uncovered significant “expanded protection features” that may interfere with many tasks (such as TCP/IP setting changes, Internet Explorer option changes, registry setting changes, etc). The latest beta is available from McAfee at: <http://www.mcafee.com/us/enterprise/downloads/beta/index.html>

Windows Vista Preparations (Beata Pruski – ITS)

Availability

We currently understand the Windows Vista OS software will be distributed to MCA sites late in November 2006. At that point we anticipate it being available via the normal MCA distribution methods.

Software

ITS has been testing Windows Vista for some time. ITS has a current list of tested software available online at the following location:

<http://bapruski.public.iastate.edu/Vista/ISU-WhatWorksWhatDoesNot.pdf>

This document is a “work in progress” and may be updated at any time. If anyone has other software tests that would be of interest to the WinAdmin group please feel free to send the testing information to Beata Pruski (bapruski@iastate.edu).

Licensing and Activation

Windows Vista will require product activation. There are 3 types of activations: retail, OEM and volume. Software bought “off the shelf” requires activation the same way it was done in the past. Vista installed on a new computer sold by OEMs also requires activation. The OEM may activate the software at the factory before delivery to the end user. Once activation is completed, most users will never have to activate their installation again (significant hardware changes require reactivation).

Starting with Windows Vista, there will be two types of Volume License Keys: Multiple Activation Keys (MAK) and Key Management Service (KMS). Vista distributed to the Volume License participants will not require product key to be entered manually during setup. Client machines have a 30-day grace period, during which they must activate. Clients not activated during the grace period fall into Reduced Functionality Mode (RFM). In RFM no logins are allowed. The desktop is not visible and the only task users can perform is to select one of the presented to him/her four activation-related choices. After one hour, user is logged off. The system becomes fully functional after it is activated. If either of the keys, MAK or KMS, is compromised, all Vista clients can be forced (by Microsoft) to enter the “Reduced Functionality Mode”.

MAK Activation

The Multiple Activation Key activates computer or a group of computers via direct one time connection to Microsoft over the Internet or by telephone (significant hardware changes require reactivation). Each institution participating in Volume licensing via MAK will receive 1 MAK key which can be used a limited number of times. Every time a computer activates using MAK, the count of available activations is decreased by one. This has to be taken into account in environments where machines are being imaged. The re-imaged machines will require reactivation.

KMS Activation

The KMS is designed to activate machines in managed environment with at least 25 machines always connected to the network. Vista client machines self-activate by connecting to the KMS. Once activated using KMS, clients have to periodically renew their activations once every 180 days. By default, each machine will try to renew their activation every 7 days. Each institution participating in Volume Licensing via KMS will receive 1 KMS key. The key can be activated on at most two KMS hosts. The KMS servers have to be placed on secured network no allowing unauthorized machines to activate. ITS has ordered two systems to be used for Iowa State MCA licensing requests.

Useful links:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/windowsvista/plan/volact.mspx>
<http://www.microsoft.com/desktopdeployment>

Open Discussion

Many questions were asked relating to Windows Vista volume activation.

The question was asked “What if a KMS-registered system leaves for an extended period of time before converting to MAK licensing? Can the conversion to MAK licensing be done over the phone from a distance?” This is a question for Microsoft.

The question was asked “Will root-kits or malware invalidate registration?” We feel “probably”, but again, a question for Microsoft.

The question was asked “Will Windows Vista install on Intel-based Macintosh systems (using “Boot Camp”)?” This is a question for Microsoft.

Microsoft Representatives Here for December 8 WinAdmin Meeting

Deb Best and Troy Sharp (both from Microsoft) will attend the December 8 meeting to answer further questions on Windows Vista (the product and licensing issues) and Office 2007. This will be an expanded meeting of 2 hours (from 9:00-11:00 AM, Durham 206). If people have any other topics they would like to see addressed, please send email to Beata Pruski (bapruski@iastate.edu) well before the meeting (so we can pass them on to the Microsoft presenters in advance).

Meeting Adjourned (10:00)

Next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2006