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Windows Administrators Meeting
February 13, 2004
Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

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Meeting Started (9:05)

Announcements

- Bill Hart (AIT) has announced that AIT is looking into a Novell ALA (Academic License Agreement) similar to the Microsoft Campus Agreement. Bill posted information to the CCSG, WinAdmin, and MacOS mailing lists this week. Please provide any interest/feedback to Bill (wish@iastate.edu).

- Critical Patches (MS04-007) are available for Microsoft systems. Bill Frazier (AIT) indicated that exploits to published vulnerabilities may come out within as early as two weeks, so it is important to apply these patches ASAP. Kunz also commented that news reports are out today that portions of the Windows NT and Windows 2000 source code have been posted on the network, leading to fears of even more exploits in the future.

- Dan Carlisle, the new Assistant Director of AIT for Customer Services, was introduced.

Schema and DC Updates

The lab testing of the schema updates for the domain controller upgrades and Exchange 2003 updates are progressing. It was hoped the lab "dry run" could be completed by this meeting, but problems (which have been solved) prevented that. The "dry run" should be completed in a few days. We will have a better handle on the timeframe to roll out the rest of the upgrade after that is done. The date of production schema updates will be announced in advance.

OU admins should read the parts 1a and 1b of the first section ("Domain And Forest Inventory") of the following article:

http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=325379

This relates to the effects of moving to Windows Server 2003 domain controllers on Windows 9x and NT 4 clients.

Active Directory Connector (Exchange 2000)

Vince Oliver (ATS) announced that we intend to have the "Active Directory Connector" (used during Exchange 5->2000 transition) shut down prior to the schema

updates being installed on the production domain. This service was running on WINDC3. After Monday night all Exchange mail boxes will have been migrated and the ADC can be shut down.

"Distributed Link Tracking Service" Turned Off on Domain Controllers

Kunz indicated that during the lab prep for the schema updates a step in the process indicates "Disable the DLT Service" on the domain controllers. A Microsoft KB article 312403 (http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?kbid=312403) indicates this service is recommended to be disabled on domain controllers (and it is disabled by default on Windows Server 2003 domain controllers). Having this service enabled on domain controllers results in increased replication traffic and Active Directory object space. The service has been disabled (effective 2/12/04) on all three production domain controllers and will remain disabled after the upgrades.

Group Policy Object Management

Kunz brought up the topic of "Group Policy Object Management" by OU administrators. Since our philosophy is to allow OU managers free reign on create Group Policy Objects, it should be remembered that there is no "quota" on such objects and OU managers are responsible for their own "garbage collection" (i.e. removing GPOs that you no longer need because they are not linked to any OU). In the interest of AD "space consumption" people should remember to clean up old GPOs. Kunz noted we are not critical on space, and will certainly not be after the domain controller upgrades, but this is still something good to keep in mind.

Open Discussion

(Nobody had any topics to diccuss)

Meeting Adjourned (about 9:30)

Next meeting is March 12.