Windows Administrators Meeting
February 8, 2008
Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- Monthly patches come out next Tuesday (Feb 12). Looks like seven "critical" and five "important" at the current time.
- Windows Server 2008 (a.k.a. "Longhorn") has been released to manufacturing. Will be available mid-to-late March.

Status Report on Kerberos-4 Demise [Kunz]

Steve Kunz [ITS] gave a status report on the demise of the Kerberos-4 authentication protocol supported by ITS. Scout 9.0 (which has the ability to use both Kerberos-4 and Kerberos-5 servers) was released in January. This included a new version of "Kerberos for Windows" (Kfw). A new Kerberos-5 version of PCLPR was also released.

One issue IT admins should be aware of is the reading of email from ITS's kerberized POP3 servers.

- Eudora Pro: If users are using a modern version of Eudora Pro installed by Scout (version 7), this package is already using Kerberos-5 authentication. The only people that will have issues with Eudora Pro are those that are using a very old version or who have manually configured Eudora Pro to use authentication with SideCar (and not Kerberos-5, which it is capable of).

- Other POP3 Clients: People using non-kerberized POP3 email clients other than Eudora Pro (such as Outlook, Outlook Express, and others) have been using SideCar. Since SideCar is a "Kerberos-4 only" application these users MUST convert to "kpoprelay" prior to the shutdown of the Kerberos-4 authentication protocol. The "kpoprelay" package is available as a "Current" Scout-Kit.

Current work is being done on:

- Zephyr: A Kerberos-5 version of the WinZephyr client is being worked on. No estimated time for completion yet.

- Scout System and Site-Licensed Software Server: A new server ("ftp.sitelicensed.iastate.edu" a.k.a. "scout.iastate.edu" a.k.a. "www.sitelicensed.iastate.edu") is being prepared.

As the time for the Kerberos-4 protocol demise approaches, ITS staff will analyze the Kerberos-4 logs to determine which systems have not performed the necessary Kerb-4 to Kerb-5 conversion. An attempt will be made to contact the owners of the systems to impress the importance of the application upgrades prior to the date Kerberos-4 is turned off.

Progress on Active Directory LDAPS [Kunz]

Steve Kunz [ITS] reviewed the progress being made on the LDAPS project on the Enterprise Active Directory domain

ITS has been contacting system admins that are doing "LDAP simple binds" to Active Directory. At the current time the number of systems has dropped from 410 to 128. ITS will continue encouraging quick conversion. It is currently anticipated that the date of making domain policy changes (so that the Enterprise Domain Controllers will no longer accept a "simple bind" form of LDAP authentication) will occur between the spring and summer semesters. A more formal announcement will be coming.

Upcoming Windows Service Packs [Kunz and Pruski]

Steve Kunz [ITS] and Beata Pruski [ITS] talked about upcoming service packs for Windows XP and Windows Vista. Both service packs will be "approved for installation" as soon as they hit the Enterprise WSUS server (sus.iastate.edu).

First to arrive (in mid-March) will be Windows Vista Service Pack 1. This Service Pack is touted by Microsoft to have a large number of performance and security enhancements. It is very large (over 560MB for the 32-bit version). Read more about it here: http://support.microsoft.com/kb/936330

Next to arrive (by July) will be Windows XP Service Pack 3. This Service Pack will introduce no significant changes as far as the "user experience" is concerned. It is about 350MB in size for the 32-bit version. Read more about it here: http://support.microsoft.com/kb/936929 (download the whitepaper in the "Summary" section for the most detail).

Purchasing Devices

Steve Kunz [ITS] talked about the importance of proper research before purchasing devices for use on the Enterprise Windows Domain (such as SAN or NAS network storage devices). Be aware that there are "consumer class" devices and "enterprise class" devices (the former being much cheaper). Many "consumer class" devices will not authenticate correctly/safely with the Enterprise Windows domain. In some cases devices may be made for older NT4 Windows domains and not function in our "Enterprise Server 2003 native-mode" environment. Read the technical document carefully to determine proper domain compatibility (including NTLMv2 or Kerberos-5 authentication capability) and understand that the device needs to be installed by privileges allotted to an IT admin at the OU level (not an "enterprise administrator"). The Enterprise Windows Domain admins can help advise you if you are unclear on the terminology or techniques described in the technical documentation.

Dave Orman (CNDE) asked if there was a list of devices that did/did-not work. Kunz replied such a list was hard to keep current. Orman suggested the TechWiki would be a good place to maintain such a list. He has put up a starting framework for such a list in the TechWiki (Thanks, Dave). ISU IT admins are encouraged to provide

information on the devices they have had good (or bad) luck with at:
https://techwiki.it.iastate.edu/wiki/NAS_and_SAN_devices

Open Discussion

Jim Wellman [AER E] asked when Microsoft would stop shipping Windows XP. It was thought "June 30, 2008". See the following for Microsoft's format support policy on various products: http://support.microsoft.com/select/?target=lifecycle Note that "mainstream support" ends for Windows XP Professional 4/14/2009.

Jim Wellman [AER E] asked about the availability of a Cisco VPN client for Windows Vista. Darin Dugan [C EXT] said that the current "version 5" product worked on 32-bit Vista systems with only the loss of some functionality (related to "start before logon"). [On a side note, there NO 64-bit versions of Cisco VPN available for either XP or Vista]

Meeting Adjourned (9:50)

Next meeting is scheduled for March 14.