

Windows Administrators Meeting
May 13, 2011
Notes (taken by Steve Kunz [ITSYS])

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- **Anti-virus Software:** ITS has changed the anti-virus product it licenses for Windows systems. The current McAfee VirusScan license will expire July 1, 2011. Systems with an ISU-licensed copy of McAfee VirusScan should convert to another product by that time. ISU-owned Windows systems can install Microsoft Forefront. Privately owned Windows systems are NOT covered by the Forefront license but can install other free anti-virus packages (Microsoft Security Essentials is recommended). For the complete announcement see: <http://www.it.iastate.edu/news/showitem.php?id=428>
- **OU Manager's Handbook Updated:** The "OU Manager's Handbook" has been updated. Find the latest copy at: <http://www.tech.its.iastate.edu/windows/admin/OUHandbook.pdf>

Status Report – Exchange Issues [Mike Lohrbach - ITSYS]

Mike Lohrbach [ITSYS] gave a status report on the Exchange issues we are having with the "extra login prompt" required after starting Outlook on a domain-member system. ITS Exchange staff have been putting in long hours with Microsoft Premier Support to resolve the issue. The Critical Event Log has a record of progress on the problem here: <http://www.it.iastate.edu/cel/detail.php?id=1123> Currently some changes recommended by Microsoft (implemented early today) seem to have drastically reduced the problem calls to the Solution Center. However, they are not all gone (2-3 people in the meeting reported seeing the extra login prompt upon starting Outlook this morning after the change). ITS will continue to work with Microsoft Premier Support and keep people posted of the progress via the Critical Event Log and emails to the CCSG mail list.

Digital Certificates and LDAPS [Steve Kunz - ITSYS]

Steve Kunz [ITSYS] talked about the plan to convert the digital certificates used on the domain controllers from Thawte to InCommon. These digital certificates activate the LDAPS (secure LDAP) port/protocol. The plan is purchase one InCommon certificate, install it on WINDC4, and do some testing to assure that both Thawte and InCommon certificates can be used at the same time. At that point the Thawte certificate will be allowed to expire (in the fall). Windows domain-member systems do not need to worry about any of this. The only people who should care are those with non-Windows (or non-domain members) systems that had to perform some special "public cert" activity on their end to get the Thawte-based LDAPS communication to work. These people will have to redo their setup for the new InCommon certificates. As this project moves along we will keep everyone posted

via the WinAdmin and CCSG mail lists and meetings. Send any questions/concerns to skunz@iastate.edu.

Need for Federation Services [Steve Kunz - ITSYS]

Steve Kunz [ITSYS] asked what the needs are for “federation services” (both immediate and upcoming). The Windows Enterprise Admins have already had one question about ITS running an “ADFS farm” (an Active Directory Federation Services cluster) for campus needs. Anyone can bring up a federation server (either a stand-alone Windows ADFS system or a Shibboleth open-source system). For ADFS, however, it appears that once you have a stand-alone system you cannot move later to a centrally-supported farm. It may be best for ITS to implement a small (extensible) farm (honoring federation setup requests from colleges/departments). Darrin Dugan [C EXT] commented that the first big item to need ADFS may be the SharePoint project. If you have any feedback on this topic send email to Steve Kunz [ITSYS] at skunz@iastate.edu.

HP Desktop Provider Information [Mike Lohrbach - ITSYS]

Mike Lohrbach [ITSYS] said that ITS has negotiated with Hewlett Packard as a second desktop vendor. The MU Bookstore should have systems available “real soon”. The website should also be up soon. ISU pre-builds (like the Dell “ImageDirect” capability) will be available on departmental-order systems. Mike Lohrbach has a few sample systems available on loan from HP for a few weeks (at least until the May CCSG meeting). Contact Mike at mlbach@iastate.edu if want to see some HP systems that will be available.

Open Discussion

Dave Orman [CNDE] asked about the status of the SharePoint project. Mike Lohrbach [ITSYS] said we may be ready to go semi-production in a month or two. ITS will be providing more information in an upcoming CCSG meeting. Areas of work being done are with the orgfiles/CyFiles integration and the setup of a SharePoint farm. Questions/comments can be sent to Mike Lohrbach at mlbach@iastate.edu.

A question was asked as to who our current Microsoft reps are. Mike Lohrbach [ITSYS] said he would send out info to the mailing list.

Steve Heideman [CHEM] asked about the status of the CyFiles project. Mike Lohrbach [ITSYS] and Steve Kunz [ITSYS] said that work has been completed on provisioning CyFiles space for every NetID-based AD user. The space can be used if you know the file-system mapping (which can be seen with ASW right now). Next steps are to assign a home directory drive letter and mapping to the CyFiles space on the AD user object (but only to those users that don’t already have a home directory mapped). Discussions still need to be done on what specific drive letter to use (university-wide). Following that a decision will be made on whether to support

roaming profiles. A question was asked as to whether or not the CyFiles “speed” issue had been resolved. The answer was “Yes – it was drive-hardware related and new drives have been purchased.”

Beata Pruski [ITSYS] noted that sometimes people have problems with the KMS servers honoring requests for Microsoft products that need license servers (such as later versions of Microsoft OS products and Microsoft Office). License legalities dictate that only ISU-owned systems can contact the KMS license servers so they are firewalled so that only certain subnets can get in. Occasionally subnets change and the firewall rules need to be altered. Contact Beata Pruski at bapruski@iastate.edu if you have problems getting your products to use KMS. Jim Wellman [ENGR] noted that the KMS servers will not work via VPN connections. Again, this is “by design” because anyone could then activate licenses for privately owned machines via the VPN.

Meeting Adjourned (10:00)

Next meeting is scheduled for June 10 (provided a sufficient agenda exists).