

## **Windows Administrators Meeting**

March 11, 2005

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

### **Meeting Started (9:05)**

#### **Announcements**

- A Moira outage will occur next week (during spring break) as announced in a post on March 7 to the CCSG and WinAdmin mailing lists. The outage will be Tuesday, March 15, from 8:00-11:00 AM. During this time, machine registrations will not be available (NetReg), account registrations will not be available, print accounting will be unavailable, and netprint will be slowed, as well as list changes being unavailable.
- There will be an “Exchange Admin” meeting Friday, March 25 from 9:00-10 AM in Durham 144. This meeting is for those departmental Exchange admins with Exchange servers in the Enterprise Domain (or anticipating having departmental servers in the Enterprise Domain). More details on this meeting will be posted to the WinAdmin mailing list in the near future.

#### **Status Report – MarketScore**

Mike Bowman (AIT) gave a status report on the MarketScore cleanup project. On March 8th we attempted to redirect MarketScore traffic and discovered the network “packet shapers” cannot do it. Traffic of a certain type (SSL) cannot be selectively redirected. In addition, it was discovered that MarketScore servers have their traffic “split” in that it appears to go “in” and “out” different host IPs. At this point we can “block” or “redirect” all outgoing or incoming traffic from MarketScore. Mike asked for opinions on whether inbound or outbound blocking/redirection were preferred. There was no strong opinion from the group expressed.

Jim Wellman (AER E) commented that his experience was that the email sent to the system owners (for those systems that appeared to be infected by MarketScore) was not clear enough for some people as to what was wrong and how to fix it.

Dave Orman (CNDE) indicated the email might be more helpful if it referred to both the NETBIOS and DNS name, since many people know their systems only by the NETBIOS name (and it sometimes does not match any term in the DNS hostname).

Jim Wellman (AER E) asked what the remediation was available for MarketScore-infected faculty and staff home systems. AIT responded that the Solution Center remediation for student systems was covered by CAC funds, but that faculty/staff home systems would probably have to be charged the normal rate of \$52 per hour.

#### **Status Report – ISU Computer Inspector Extensions**

Wayne Hauber (AIT) provided a brief description of the ISU AIT Computer Inspector. He also talked about a new test for open file shares that will be added in the near future. Shares that are “world read-only” will be flagged as a “warning” and shares that are “world writable” will be flagged as “errors”. Printers shared to

everyone will also be flagged as “errors”. While the first rollout of the ISU Computer Inspector was targeted to residence hall systems, anyone can test their system ISU Computer Inspector via the following URL:

<https://asw.iastate.edu/cgi-bin/acropolis/inspect>

Wayne commented that the Inspector could be seen to fit in as a “self help” tool for everyone. A couple people commented that there should be more promotion of this tool for the faculty/staff community to examine their systems (particularly home systems used to connect to on-campus servers, etc).

During the discussion Wayne brought out the fact that approximately 4,000 systems were brought into the Solution Center for cleanup/repair work since the start of Fall semester. Roughly half of these were student residence hall systems. Of these student residence hall systems, well over half were shown to have failed ISU Computer Inspection (and never later passed). The presumption is that these systems “opted out” of the ISU Computer Inspection process at NetReg time and later had to be brought in for hours of cleanup by Solution Center staff.

### **Proposed Enterprise Domain Policy Change - DDNS**

Kunz asked if there was any additional feedback on the proposal to apply a domain policy to the Enterprise domain that suppressed Dynamic DNS (DDNS) registration attempts to the campus DNS servers. This proposal was posted to the CCSG and WinAdmin mailing lists on Feb 28 with the subject “Proposed Windows Enterprise Domain Policy Change - DNS” as follows:

AIT is proposing a change to the Default Domain Policy in the Windows Enterprise Domain (iastate.edu). The proposed change would set "Dynamic Update" to disabled, so Enterprise Domain member systems will not attempt to register their DNS address via "dynamic updates" to our DNS servers.

Dynamic DNS is not a service of our core (BIND) DNS servers. Observations on the DNS servers indicate tens of thousands of dynamic DNS updates attempted daily from Windows systems. This policy would eliminate some of this unnecessary traffic and reduce the load on the DNS servers.

AIT has already tested and implemented this policy on AIT systems with no ill effect.

The proposed domain policy is "Computer Configuration/Administrative Templates/Network/DNS Client", setting "Dynamic Update" to disabled (0x0). For complete information see:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;294785>

Please post comments to this list (as a reply). If you prefer a private comment send your reply to skunz@iastate.edu.

No detrimental side-effects were presented either on the email lists or during the WinAdmin meeting. Some OU Admins are already enforcing the Group Policy

within their own OUs. Kunz commented that if any OU Admin strongly objected to the policy they could always override it.

The next step is to discuss the Windows Domain Group Policy change in the next CCSG meeting and set a date. A preliminary date discussed in the WinAdmin meeting was sometime during the first week after the Spring 2005 class session ends.

### **Open Discussion**

Web Wilke (RES H) complimented the group on what is apparently an appropriate Active Directory design for now and the future. A general discussion of some pointed presented by Ken Schuetz of the University of Colorado (Boulder) followed.

Wayne Hauber discussed more possibilities of spreading the ISU Computer Inspector to a wider audience and enforcing more “mandatory compliance”. The “politics” of “allowing dirty systems on the network” verses “instant easy network access” is a balancing issue that must be considered.

### **Meeting Adjourned (about 10:00)**

Next meeting is scheduled April 8.