

Windows Administrators Meeting

April 8, 2005

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:05)

Announcements

- DDNS Policy Change has been approved and is scheduled for May 11. More announcements will be going out early next week to the WinAdmin and CCSG mailing lists.
- Microsoft released Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1. This was announced 03/31 in the Windows support mailing lists (subject "IMPORTANT! Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 Information"). As per the announcement, we will delay approving the service pack on the SUS servers until the week after the current session ends. An additional announcement will go out to the Windows support mailings lists next week.
- The "OU Manager's Guide" was released. Some changes were made after the original announcement, so if your footer day is earlier than "4/12/2005 02:14 PM" you should get a new copy at <http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/OUHandbook.pdf>
- The next ExchAdmin meeting is April 22 (9:00 AM, Durham 144). The agenda will be announced in an email to the ExchAdmin mailing list prior to the meeting.
- Kunz gave an "XP SP2 logon delay" status update. AIT has put quite a bit of time researching this problem and found that the problem is in a DLL supplied by MIT for Windows Kerberos 5 support. A bug report has been submitted to the development team. No indication as to when the code will be fixed has been given.
- The "XP SP2 update blocker" (supplied by Microsoft) becomes ineffective April 12. This was announced 03/21 in the Windows support email lists (forwarded from Microsoft, subject "FW: Microsoft - Automatic Update Blocker for Windows XP Service Pack 2 ends April 12, 2005").

Open Discussion

Kunz solicited class-list testers. More public "testing" is desired before "class-lists synced as Global Security Groups" are ready for production. If you would like to participate by having one or two class-lists pushed down to Active Directory for your department, send email to Steve Kunz at skunz@iastate.edu. Custom simulated class-lists are also possible. These "simulated" items will have a "class-list type" security group created with membership you specify. They will temporary (only for testing purposes). FERPA compliance and usability are key concerns.

Kunz solicited topics for Microsoft on-campus seminars. We have not scheduled the next seminar but need to come up with topics. Two topic ideas mentioned so far are SQL Server 2005 and SharePoint services. Send email to either Dan Carlile (dcarlile@iastate.edu) or Steve Kunz (skunz@iastate.edu).

Chris Thach (CIRAS) asked about VPN clients and logoff scripts. Problems arise if the VPN session shuts down during logoff before logoff scripts have executed from a network location. Discussion led to the suggestion that the Cisco VPN Client's "Options/Windows Logon Properties" settings be experimented with. There is a default option to "Disconnect VPN Connection When Logging Off" that may be unchecked (although the user would have to manually disconnect the VPN session later).

Beata Pruski (AIT) announced she is working on the next version of OpenAFS for Windows. This is version 1.3.8002 (our current version is 1.3.77). More on this as the product becomes available.

Dave Orman (CNDE) wondered if many people knew that Windows Terminal Server 2003 is covered under the campus agreement for up to 100 users. Contact the MPC for more info (and needed keys). Al Day (AIT) indicated that licensing on this is changing, and if you don't do this before Dec 2005 it may not be free after that.

Steven Spencer (PSYCH) asked if there were any tools/tricks available for migrating an existing NT forest running its own DNS servers into the Enterprise Domain. Bill Frazier (AIT) pointed out that it is against campus network policy run alternate DNS servers for on-campus systems. Another meeting attendee mentioned "there was a way" but it involved a certain amount of work (and the two were referred to each other).

Jim Wellman (AER E) asked is anyone had any experience with Dell EM64T systems. Nobody had.

Mike Long (CARD) asked about the central IT reorganization and how it might affect the WinAdmin and other such groups. Kunz indicated he had heard of no immediate changes. He also commented that the first changes would probably follow what the CIO had already said publicly in that the user support areas would be more consolidated, communication would be improved, etc. Bill Frazier (AIT) said he felt the "OS focus groups" (like the WinAdmin and MacOSX groups) would probably not change in the immediate future.

Chris Thach (CIRAS) asked about an email delay (about 20-30 mins) they were seeing when mailing from an Exchange server. Discussion originally centered on the fact that gray-listing will table and reject the first attempt, passing the second one through after the Exchange server retried sending the item (which might account for the 20-30 minute delay). However, Chris contended it was an on-campus Exchange server mailing to an on-campus email address (so gray-listing should not enter the process). Kunz and others indicated that a detailed examination of the email headers as received at the client (after the delay) should tell where the problem is. Frank Poduska (AIT) said the Solution Center would assist in analyzing the headers if a copy were forwarded to them.

Russ Hoffman (STAT) asked if anyone could help with some Mac OS X issues. Kunz commented that there was a Mac OS X group (contact Sly Upah, supah@iastate.edu for more information). See also <http://www.ait.iastate.edu/itspecialists/groups.html>

Steve Kunz commented that he may be contacting OU admins about certain domain controller event log entries. It appears they may relate to “imaged systems” being made members of the domain. Like the DDDN error messages, it would be desirable to get to the source of the problem and figure out how to reduce the errors.

Someone asked whether or not central IT services would provide some sort of “system monitoring” service like Microsoft’s “MOM” product for departments. Kunz indicated AIT and ATS were already looking at MOM and a second product called “Aelita InTrust” for their own use. Vince Olive (ATS) talked about the resources required to support MOM for even a small number of servers (ATS had looked into MOM 2000 in the past). Kunz commented such an (optional) central service would be good, but could not comment on such an offering until we had more experience with MOM 2005.

Dave Orman (ATS) asked when the Enterprise forest would be going to “Server 2003 Functional Mode”. Kunz indicated “summer”. He also indicated there were probably some schema updates that would go in at the same time (specifically for SMS). Vince Oliver (ATS) mentioned that SMS is being actively investigated for use by ATS.

Meeting Adjourned (about 10:10)

Next meeting is scheduled May 13