

Windows Administrators Meeting

August 12, 2005

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:05)

Announcements

- Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 has been applied to three of the four Enterprise domain controllers. The last will be upgraded early next week. By the beginning of “Dorm Storm” (Aug 16) all infrastructure servers will be at current service pack and hotfix levels.
- New hardware for replacement WINS servers (WINS-1 and WINS-2) has arrived. These are replacements for the existing five-year-old servers. The new systems will be installed using the techniques used for the last upgrade (when we moved from NT4 to Windows 2000 operating systems). No client system changes will be needed. The upgrade process will be transparent to all systems using Enterprise WINS services. A schedule will be announced in the future.
- The new versions of the Kerberos support libraries (called “Kerberos For Windows” or “KFW” now) and OpenAFS are in early “alpha test”. These versions allow OpenAFS to use Kerberos 5 authentication (rather than back-level-converted Kerberos 4 credentials). More information will be available as these products near “public beta testing” phases.
- Microsoft has informed us we have a new Microsoft Higher Ed representative (filling Casey Niemann’s old position). Deb Best is our new rep. Kunz will try to schedule a visit to campus by her at an upcoming WinAdmin meeting.
- Paul Lustgraaf (IT Services) announced that significant work on the network has been done in the past weeks. Backbone upgrades have been completed, more Internet capacity will be added in September, and better “load isolation” has been added (to keep residence hall traffic from affecting the main campus network).

SMS 2003 in the Enterprise Domain

Vince Oliver (ITS) talked about work done by IT Services to support SMS 2003 in the Windows Enterprise Domain. SMS 2003 is a Microsoft product used to manage large numbers of desktops, including software distribution and inventory tracking and control. The work by ITS in the area as resulted in a design in which SMS functions in “islands” of administrative control, so other colleges or departments can have their own SMS servers to manage their own departmental systems. There is a “hierarchy” associated with SMS 2003, with a top-level “central site” from which peer “child sites” are attached. ITS currently will manage a child site for its purposes, but other departments can run their own SMS.

Requirements for SMS participation by a department or college would be that an SMS server (and probably a separate SQL server) would have to be configured by the department and made a member of the Enterprise domain. Each such SMS server would have to be admitted to a special “System/System Management” container in

AD by an Enterprise Administrator. Once that action is done management of the “SMS island” would be in the hands of the local IT administrators.

An SMS process called “Discovery” was discussed. Originally Microsoft allowed automatic discovery of systems to be managed by SMS by “AD sites” or “network subnets”. Neither of these methods works at all well within our dispersed network single-site structure. However, based on customer requests Microsoft now allows the grouping of SMS managed systems by OU (which will work very well at ISU).

General discussion raised a few topics that were briefly discussed. SMS management of wireless devices should work. Off-campus SMS management via VPM may work (though there may be load issues). Computer based CALs and licensing issues may need more research (SMS licenses are granted by client system). Any department wanting to participate would probably need to supply two systems, one for SMS and one for and SQL server. Each system would need an OS and SMS/SQL product license at a minimum.

IT Services will be producing some online documentation relating to joining an SMS 2003 server to the domain in the near future.

Open Discussion

Dave Orman [CNDE] asked about the status of renaming either the Windows or MIT Kerberos realms. Kunz said that ITS is currently charged with writing a document outlining the reasons for any possible change and the “pain” associated with 1) renaming the Windows Kerberos realm 2) renaming the MIT Kerberos realm and 3) doing nothing. This document will be presented at the CIO level for decision on the proper action.

Meeting Adjourned (about 9:45)

Next meeting is scheduled September 9