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Windows Administrators Meeting
August 9, 2002
Minutes (taken by Steve Kunz)

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Meeting Started (9:05)

Announcements

- Windows Root Domain Controller (WINDC1 and WINDC2) memory upgrade happened on August 8 (for performance). Memory on each controller increased from 392 MB to 1 GB.

- WINS upgrade next week. As announced in a previous mailing, the WINS servers will be upgraded from Windows NT 4 to Windows 2000 next week. Every effort has/will be made to minimize any disruption. The WINS service has been configured to cause clients to refresh their entries every 1-2 hours (as opposed to 3-6 days). When the WINS systems are upgraded (Aug 13 and Aug 14 at 4:00 AM) all entries should be refreshed by 5:00-6:00 AM. No WINS client configuration changes are necessary.

- Status of MCA software distribution by DFS file shares (Troy Frette, AIT)

  AIT is providing MCA software via secure shares accessed via a root DFS tree. TechNet information is also available.

  \\iastate.edu\ait\mca   Access by members of "mcacor" list.
  Email to mca@iastate.edu to add/remove/verify list membership.

  \\iastate.edu\ait\technet   Access by members of "ccsg" list.
  Email to mbowman@iastate.edu to add/remove list membership.

  Send email to aitlabs@iastate.edu for technical issues regarding using the DFS shares.

- Active Directory Schema modification for Exchange 2000 will take place Sunday, August 11 starting at 10:30 AM. This is supposed to take about 45 minutes, with no service disruption.

- Service Pack 3 (SP3) has been released by Microsoft for Windows 2000. Some problems have been reported on a few web discussion lists. Microsoft has some problem reports in their Knowledge Base (http://support.microsoft.com). Enter the area to "Search the Knowledge Base" and use the words "hotfix conflict sp3" to see some articles (probably doesn't effect many). Several people in the audience indicated they had installed SP3 with no problems. Kunz indicated he was going to wait "a few weeks" before applying it to the domain controllers.

Greg Wilson (Foundation) reported BackupExec 8.6 had an MS Hotfix break it. SP3 fixes it.

Domain Password Age Setting (Kunz)

Kunz indicated no email responses at all to the proposed change in the default domain password expiration value from "42" to "180" days (agreed to in the last meeting, documented in the minutes). Date for the change was set as Monday, Aug 12. Email notification will be sent out to the WinAdmin list when the change is done. This will NOT affect accounts based on ISU NetIDs, only those "exception accounts" created by OU admins who have not checked the "password does not expire" box when they created the account.

Exchange 2000 Status (Kevin DeRoos, ADP)

- New ADP Exchange servers are in-house and being burned in by ADP (for their Exchange 2000 departmental service). This will be the initial Exchange 2000 "pilot project" in production.
- Schema changes for Exchange 2000 being made this Sunday (Aug 11)
- Target date for this first Exchange 2000 server is Aug 23.
- Three servers total (Info store, SMTP gateway, Web access)
- Following successful install ADP will then migrate their users over.
- Joining Exchange 5.5 to a common org beforehand (as originally thought) is not necessary.
- Sept time frame is possible for departments to begin conversion.
- Contact Kevin DeRoos, ADP (kderoos@iastate.edu), if your department is interested in joining our enterprise Exchange 2000 organization.

Greg Wilson (Foundation): Asked about "outside" Exchange directories (from different forests) being included in enterprise directory. DeRoos indicated if we looked at that it would be several months down the road. Kunz commented such an action may be technically possible, but is contrary to the Active Directory and Exchange 2000 enterprise designs being implemented.

Open Discussion

Jim Wellman (AE EM): Would like an "installation point" for Microsoft Office. Is also working on a lab with XP clients that are members of the enterprise domain. Trying to solve the problem on storage of the lab-user's "Favorites". Wonders if anyone has gotten this to work. Would also like to see Acropolis lists (such as "class lists") populated into Windows 2000 as "groups" to get used with Group Policy in Active Directory.

Chris Thach (CIRAS) and Greg Wilson (Foundation) both commented that they used login scripts to accomplish loading/saving "Favorites" from online storage to

the local system. We will try to get more information and document in the online "Tips" section in the future.

Kunz commented that the population of Acropolis lists into Active Directory is a planned piece of our design waiting development time.

Meeting on Aug 23 Cancelled

Kunz cancelled the next meeting (Aug 23) due to "Dorm Storm" activity (AIT assist of students moving into Residence Halls).

Meeting Adjourned (about 9:50)

Next meeting is Sept 13. Meetings for the next academic year are scheduled only for the "2nd Friday" of each month. A "4th Friday" meeting will be held only when deemed necessary.