

ITS Technical Notes

Windows Enterprise Announcement

September 8, 2006 – Account Lockout Coming in Windows Enterprise Domain

In another step toward increasing the security of IT at Iowa State, IT Services has decided to apply a “five strikes and you are out for one minute” account lockout policy to the Windows Enterprise Domain. This same policy was applied on July 25, 2006 to the Unix Kerberos servers. While no date have been set as of yet, it is anticipated this policy change will happen fairly soon after a formal announcement is made and any feedback has been considered.

The settings that will be used will be similar to the Unix settings. An “Account lockout threshold” of “5” and “Account lockout duration” of “1 minute” will be used.

As on the Unix side, most users who know and can type their passwords will see little effect. Attempting to log into a desktop that is a member of the Windows Enterprise Domain with a bad password five times in a row will result in a long (~30 sec) pause followed by the message “Unable to log you on because your account has been locked out, please contact you administrator”. A wait of one minute will allow login with a correct password.