

Windows Enterprise Announcement

Feb 25, 2015 – Active Directory Domain Controller Upgrades

ITS will begin upgrading Active Directory domain controllers from Windows Server 2008 R2 to Windows Server 2012 R2 beginning **May 13, 2015** (the Wednesday between Spring semester and Summer session). Upgrades will continue approximately every two weeks until complete and critical event log entries will be posted in advance of each upgrade. This process should be generally transparent to most Windows users. However any systems, applications or processes configured to use a specific domain controller will be impacted during an upgrade outage. It is strongly advised that you do not hard code the name of a specific DC. The DNS round robin name 'windc.iastate.edu' should be used instead. The DC being upgraded will be removed from the round robin pool in advance.

A TEMPORARY domain controller running Windows Server 2012 R2 will be added to service on March 11, 2015, and then removed on March 13, 2015. IT administrators should plan to test relevant third party software on March 12 against this specific domain controller to confirm there are no major compatibility issues prior to the upgrades beginning in May. Prior examples have included Samba, Moodle, and other apps which use AD via LDAPS for searches and authentication. The temporary DC will be WINDC1A (windc1a.iastate.edu). Do not permanently configure any systems to reference WINDC1A, as it will only exist for these few days.