Windows Enterprise Design
Design History

August 7, 2002

The enterprise design for Windows 2000 at Iowa State University was started early. Considerable effort was made to involve the departmental IT community while maintaining core design goals.

During April 1999 to October 1999 an "NT Technical Core" group met to begin preparations for Windows 2000 (then in beta testing). This group was composed of technical people from AIT, ADP, the College of Business, the Extension Service, Telecommunications, and the department of Aeronautical Engineering/Engineering Mechanics (AE EM). Core questions relating to how Windows 2000 and Active Directory might fit into the ISU environment were studied. The end result was a "single sign on" design goal based on a single forest with multiple child domains (one for each department or college participating).

During 2000 and early 2001 a Windows 2000 Implementation Group met on a regular basis with participation open to all ISU departmental Windows administrators. Nearly 50 departmental admins participated in meetings and mailing list discussions on the implementation of Windows 2000 at Iowa State. In April 2000 ISU NetIDs began to be populated as "Windows Accounts" (in Active Directory). Several departmental child domains were created.

During April 2001 to June 2001 AIT and ADP were awarded a "Windows 2000 Active Directory Design Consulting Engagement" grant. Microsoft consultants were on campus for many hours of meetings each week, planning a Windows 2000 enterprise design. ISU staff spent nearly 800 man-hours on this design. Representatives from AIT, ADP, the College of Engineering, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the College of Business, CIRAS, CARD, Extension, and the ISU Foundation participated. The end result was a "single forest, single domain" design, with accounts based on the already existing ISU NetIDs producing a "single sign on" environment. Departmental OUs created distributed management of local computing resources. The departmental child domains began converting to departmental Organizational Units within our single forest, single domain model.

The "single forest/single domain" model is still being enhanced to meet departmental needs. A "Windows Administrator" group (open to all departmental IT admins) has met since July 2001 to discuss all issues relating to Windows system management at Iowa State.