

Windows Administrators Meeting

February 9, 2007

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- Account suspensions will happen March 5. Email was sent to the account holders on February 6. See the following for documentation on this process:
<http://www.it.iastate.edu/pub/ggs317/ggs317.pdf>
In particular, look at the sections “2.4 Exception Accounts”) and “7 Suspensions of Accounts”.

Daylight Saving Time Switch in March 2007

Kunz stressed the importance of reading the Microsoft web pages on the Daylight Saving Time switch that happens next month. The date that Daylight Saving Time takes effect has moved from the “first Sunday in April” to the “second Sunday in March”. The date we go off Daylight Saving Time has moved from the “last Sunday in October” to the “first Sunday in November”.

On February 2 an important email announcement was forwarded by Kunz to the WinAdmin, ExchAdmin, and CCSG mailing lists. This email was from Deb Best (Microsoft) regarding the DST-switch issues. Here is the text of that email:
<http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/MS-DST-2007.2.2.pdf>

Important information regarding DST patches on the Enterprise WSUS server is available here: <http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/Announce.02.09.07.pdf>

Microsoft is providing a web-cast on “The impact of daylight saving time within the Enterprise” on February 16 at 3:00 PM (EventID 1032327824):
<http://msevents.microsoft.com/cui/webcasteventdetails.aspx?culture=en-US&eventid=1032327824>

There was considerable discussion on implications of this change and what needs to be done to prepare for it. Vince Oliver [ITS] indicated that there are patches that are needed on Exchange servers (in addition to the standard OS time patches). These patches adjust times for “repeating meetings” that were scheduled in the past for the “shifted time zone” period. Someone else noted that while that may patch an “Exchange-server based calendar” viewed from Outlook, a “local calendar” within Outlook may not appear correctly unless Outlook itself is patched on the client system. Again, refer to the Microsoft information on the proper patches to apply. Naturally Outlook is only one calendaring system in common use at ISU – other calendar systems may require their own vendor-supplied patches.

IT support staff should be aware that the “registry patch” supplied by Microsoft for Windows 2000 systems (and other systems for which they will not release a patch for) is fairly complex for the “average user” to deploy. People should be aware that even if the “time zone registry edits” are done (or if you use the “tzedit.exe” program supplied by Microsoft) you must either reboot the system or use the “Date Time”

control panel to manually switch the time-zone to a new zone and then BACK to actually implement the changes. This is an obscure step that is easy to forget.

Be aware that “mobile devices” (such as PocketPC and Palm units) have their own class of “time zone” problems. Microsoft’s current information on this is here: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/923953>

In this article they state:

“Note to users of Microsoft Outlook on a Windows Mobile-based device. An update for Windows Mobile will be available on the World Wide Web by February 12, 2007. To download this update, visit the following Microsoft Web site on or after February 12, 2007: www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile “

There is also a lot of “unofficial” information out there. The following information is not to be considered “recommended” (it is certainly not “tested”). However, considering the complexity of manually patching Windows 2000 and Windows Mobile devices, examining additional information in preparation for problems (in advance) is certainly recommended. Just remember “you are on your own” for the following information.

An “unofficial” patch for Windows Mobile” is here: <http://www.edgeblog.net/>
This same site offers links to many other software vendors here:
<http://www.edgeblog.net/2007/daylight-saving-time-the-year-2007-problem>

A site called “IntelliAdmin” offers tools to patch Windows 2000 systems (and even Windows 9x systems):
<http://www.intelliadmin.com/blog/2007/01/unofficial-windows-2000-daylight.html>

Again – the previous two paragraphs are “unofficial” information.

Open Discussion

Jim Wellman [AER E] asked in relation to the “account suspensions” if there would be any way to have certain accounts be “permanent” in the future (so the same list of users does not need to be renewed each year). Frank Poduska (ITS) indicated there is currently no way unless the account is an “emeritus professor” (in which case arrangements can be made through the Solution Center). Rich Jones (ITS) indicated that this issue is one of the issues being looked at as a possible “objective for the future” as ITS addresses the general issue of “identity management” in our environment.

Darrin Dugan [C EXT] asked if anyone else was seeing issues with “time synchronization” on systems that are members of the Enterprise domain. Apparently systems occasionally give a warning that they are unable to synch the time with the domain. Kunz commented that on most systems he manages (including the domain controllers) he uses an alternate method of synching the time. You can manually configure the time service by issuing the following command (as a system administrator):

```
net time /setsntp:"<time-server-1> <time-server-2>"
```

Currently vs-1, vs-2, and vs-3 are all time servers, so a command such as the following would configure a primary and backup time server on a client or server system:

```
net time /setsntp:"vs-1.iastate.edu vs-3.iastate.edu"
```

Note that is a SPACE between the two system names". After setting the values you can query the system setting with:

```
net time /querysnpt
```

It is important to either stop and re-start the "Windows Time" service or reboot the system after making this change.

Jim Wellman [AER E] asked if there was any way to notify a desktop system user that system events were being generated (on the local system log) that indicated disk errors were occurring (giving advance warning of disk failure). Various answers were discussed, including a "Big Brother monitoring system" (quite involved to set up), using Dell OpenManage (or other similar products), or using a local event-log scanner (scanning logs on a regular basis for specific events). Nobody had a good "simple solution".

Jim Wellman [AER E] announced that a site-license for MatLab has been purchased that allows students to install MatLab on their personal systems. Watch for the information posted by Dan Carlile (ITS) to the CCSG mailing list on a "MathWorks Day" next Thursday, February 15, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM in Durham 206.

Meeting Adjourned (10:00)

Next meeting is scheduled March 9, 2007