

Windows Administrators Meeting

February 10, 2006

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- As previously announced, official university address information is being loaded into the Enterprise Active Directory user objects. Departmental OUs have already been processed. The general “Users” container will be done early next week. See: <http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/Announce.01.24.06.pdf>
- Microsoft has announced the availability of Internet Explorer 7 (beta 2) for public testing. See: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/ie7>
- A concern has been expressed relating to ePO and the disabling of NTLMv1 on the Enterprise domain. The limitation is that “JTDS is not able to use NTLMV2 in ePO 3.6 Patch 1”. NAI technical support has been contacted on this issue. We have not heard back from them yet.

Student OU Issues

Kunz talked for some time on the “policy and procedures” issues that need to be addressed with placement of students in a “Student OU” structure (broken down into college OUs within a student OU). The OU structure already exists (“Students/AG”, “Students/BUS”, etc) and we are nearly ready to begin moving students from the general “Users” container into their respective college OU. For the last announcement see:

<http://tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/Announce.01.09.06.pdf>

Student OUs will allow college IT admins to gain control of certain “service oriented fields” in the user object (home directory and roaming profile storage, logon scripts, and Exchange mailbox settings). Newly registered students will be “auto-dropped” into their proper “student college OU” (just like faculty and staff currently are auto-dropped into their departmental OU). Students changing majors between colleges will generate a need for the student user objects to move from one student college OU to another.

When students change majors and move from one unmanaged college OU to another, there are no issues to address. Such students have no server resources allocated in either the old or new college (since they are both “unmanaged”). Such user movements can be automated with no notification being required to either an OU manager or the students. However, when the old or new student college OU is managed, resources have been allocated (or about to be allocated) and a coordinated movement is required. This movement will involve the export, transfer, and import of such items as files in the home directory, files on the desktop (for roaming profiles), and Exchange mail. Policy and procedures must be developed so that the orderly transition of these student resources is done. Some sort of automated notification of the necessary movement must be triggered for student college OU administrators on each end of the move.

Kunz solicited comments and discussion on how people felt this was best accomplished. Dave Orman (CNDE) commented that many departments were already using procedures for such moves. Kunz agreed and indicated ITS would appreciate any written procedures they were willing to share. It has to be remembered that even though a department may have an “exit” procedure to extract data for a user, the “export media” has to be in a format suitable for import by another department (or ITS supported services such as AFS file space and WebMail in the case of moving to an unsupported college OU). The end result of this collaborative process should be a standard set of procedures, scripts, etc. to extract data to a common “transition file space” (a “common ground” secure file system to deposit and pick up user data).

Anyone having comments/ideas/concerns about the policies and procedures for student user object movement is encouraged to email them to skunz@iastate.edu .

Microsoft Offer for Presentations on Special Topics

Michael Green (Microsoft) has once again offered to send speakers for any topic we might be interested in. We will make the next meeting (March 10) available if we can come up with any good ideas on what we would like to hear about. Nobody at the meeting had any ideas. If you have an idea of a topic/product you would like to hear about from Microsoft, send mail to skunz@iastate.edu as soon as possible.

Open Discussion

Chris Thach (CIRAS) asked if anyone else had seen a problem with a Windows print server losing the ability to contact its printers. The server functions normally for some time, then suddenly cannot “see” any of the network printers. It does not appear to be a network issue, since you can “ping” the printers from the print server. File shares on the same server work fine. The only way to recover the unreachable printers is to reboot the print server. Discussion in the room generated no solution. One idea was to analyze network traffic coming out of the print server to see if it was actually trying to contact the printers (i.e. resolve whether the problem was within the print server or outside it on the network or other devices).

Steven Spencer (PSYCH) asked if anyone had been working with the “Microsoft Shared Computer Tool Kit”. This product is targeted to “shared use” or “public use” systems. Nobody else in the meeting had been working with the product.
See: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sharedaccess/>

Meeting Adjourned (10:05)

Next meeting is scheduled March 10, 2006