

Windows Administrators Meeting

August 11, 2006

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- Please upgrade old Windows AFS clients (Transarc, IBM, and OpenAFS) as soon as possible. Continued use of these old clients causes AFS service outages. The AFS server administrators are beginning to monitor which old clients are accessing the AFS server and will be contacting people who need to upgrade. Help will be offered by ITS. An email announcement has gone out to the WinAdmin and CCSG mailing lists.
- Several new college-level autolists are available. The *_faculty, *_staff, *_profsci, *_assist, and *_other lists are provided for each college as Global Security Groups. These lists are not mail-lists by default (to eliminate SPAMing potential).

New Products Coming Soon

Kunz (ITS) encouraged IT admins to become familiar with the following new products coming soon:

- Internet Explorer 7.0 (2006 Q4 release): This product will apparently have a “block from Windows Update” program available to block installation after release from Microsoft. The last product Microsoft did this for was Windows XP SP2, when the enabled firewall was anticipated to cause problems. Apparently this product has a new “anti-phishing” filter that may cause problems with many web sites. ITS plans to release this update “approved for installation” on our WSUS server (with advance warning and instructions on how to block) when the time comes.
- McAfee AntiSpyware: This product is available on the <ftp://sitelicensed> software server and in the “Advanced” Scout-kit area. Be aware that this product has only been licensed for student usage (not faculty and staff). However, should you decide this product is the best for your area, contact Dan Carlile (dcarlile@iastate.edu) with your interest in faculty/staff usage.
- Windows Vista: This “next release of Windows” for client systems is due out early next year. Test if at all possible – this is a “different beast”. ITS is currently testing products we support and offer.
- VirusScan Engine: A new scan engine for VirusScan is scheduled to be released by McAfee next week (possibly August 16). This may have ePO implications. Watch for any announcements.
- WinFLP: “Windows for Legacy PCs” (WinFLP) has been released by Microsoft and is covered under our campus agreement. This is a “stripped down” version of Windows XP that runs well on 300-800 MHz systems (works well on old laptops). Contact Dan Carlile (dcarlile@iastate.edu) for more information.

Group Policy Needs for Roaming Profiles:

The College of Engineering has begun support of roaming profiles for their students. As a result, as their users “roam” from department to department the roaming profile

storage (on the College of Engineering servers) is becoming quite large as new application profile components are picked up in various places. Anyone offering a public access Windows system that is a member of the Enterprise domain (labs, etc.) can help by providing the following Group Policy settings on those systems:

Computer Configuration

Administrative Templates

System

User Profiles

Only allow local user profiles - ENABLE

Prevent Roaming Profile changes from propagating to the server - ENABLE

If you don't already have a GPO applied, then you can just link to the existing GPO that Engineering created and maintains named "Disable Roaming Profiles". Those two settings are the only settings currently in this GPO.

Open Discussion

Beata Pruski (ITS) mentioned that FileZilla had a bug introduced by the author in the last version that broke "global" settings (useful in lab environments). The author has been notified of the problem. Until the problem is fixed in a future version a workaround is available. Contact Beata Pruski (bapruski@iastate.edu) for more information.

Steve Kunz (ITS) talked about an effort to clean up system event log errors on the Enterprise domain controllers. ITS is seeing many event log errors for 5722, 5723, and 5722 events. These errors generally relate to "machine password mismatches". It appears most of these are due to one of three issues: 1) improperly imaged systems (not using "sysprep" properly), 2) dual-boot systems (where the same computer object is used for each boot mode, 3) systems with "drive change lockdown" software installed (such as "DeepFreeze"). Kunz will be contacting individual system owners in the future with event log entries for their respective systems to see what can be done to clean up the event logs. In all cases these errors probably indicate an error on the client system that should be fixed.

Wayne Hauber talked about problems being seen with old (unpatched) systems being recycled into use and causing problems on the network. IT admins are reminded that if you have an old system that has not been on the network for a while and it is put back into use remember to get the system up to current patchlevel and antivirus software before turning it over to a new user.

Meeting Adjourned (9:45)

Next meeting is scheduled for Sept 8, 2006