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Windows Administrators Meeting
February 8, 2002
Minutes (taken by Steve Kunz)

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Meeting Started (9:05)

Announcements

None.

Open Discussion

Steve Kunz (AIT): Mentioned continuing network problems over the past few weeks. Variety of reasons, some "denial of service" attacks, some ICN problems, some independent ISP problems. An email was forwarded this week to the "winadmins" mailing list explaining some of the outages.

Steve Kunz (AIT): Asked about Norton Antivirus port probes (from Norton Antivirus Corporate edition). Personal firewalls are detecting probes from a few areas on campus that apparently have NAV Corporate edition installed and misconfigured to scan the entire campus for NAV clients. People running Norton Antivirus Corporate edition are asked to check their systems to make sure they are not probing outside their scope of administration.

Steve Kunz (AIT): Reported AIT is working on the Scout "JMP" installer problems on Windows XP systems. Fix is close to being done.

Bill Frazier (AIT): Announced that "La Brea" (as in "tarpits") has been found running in several places on campus. This program will respond to pings for all possible IP addresses, making it appear that a system is present on the IP address (but responding very slowly). The desired "good effect" is that scans of the subnet by malicious scanners would be frustrated. The unfortunate "bad effect" is that this technique breaks DHCP (since DHCP pings an address before it give it out in an assignment to be sure it is not in use). People are advised NOT to run "La Brea" (or other such programs) since it interferes with DHCP (a standard that most of campus is being converted to for IP address assignment).

Rich Jones (ADP): Asked if there were any predictions as to whether or not off-campus connectivity would get better or worse in the next year or so. Frazier indicated that attacks on services would probably continue and the battle for reliability would continue, too. He commented that systems used to perform the attacks were faster, and had faster network connections, so the effectiveness of the attacks are becoming more noticeable.

Greg Wilson (ISU Foundation): Commented he found a good book published by IBM on security. Greg will email info on it to the WinAdmins mailing list. Announced a meeting arranged by a group of people for next week with AIT/ADP/Telecomm staff. This meeting regards firewall issues and a proposal the group has put together for running Windows systems behind firewalls. Results of this meeting will be discussed at the next Windows Administrators meeting.

Meeting Adjourned (about 9:20)

Next meeting Feb 22.