

Windows Administrators Meeting

December 12, 2008

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- The latest version of the ePO server (v4) is in production.
- Notification of new Windows Server 2008 license keys (MAK keys) has been sent out to all those who received incorrect keys from the ISU Tech CYte (see “Windows Server 2008 License Keys in <http://www.tech.ait.iastate.edu/win2000/admin/WinAdmin.2008.11.14.pdf>). The old (incorrect) key will not allow new Server 2008 validations as of this week.
- Web-To-Host (for ADIN) has been updated for ITS administrative users. Contact Mark Blank (ITSYS) for more information.

AutoRun Virus Presence on Campus – Wayne Hauber [ITSEC] and Steve Kunz [ITSYS]

Wayne Hauber [ITSEC] warned that an autorun virus has been a problem in at least three areas of the ISU campus. An autorun virus is present in the files used to automatically run an application (such as a software installer, selection menu, etc.) when a CD-ROM, USB key or drive, or other mountable file system is mounted on a computer. When the virus automatically runs, it infects the system and spreads by copying itself to other mountable devices it finds (including network drives) that it can write to). Autorun virus infections spread by mountable network drives and USB keys have been active at ISU recently. Apparently the military had gone so far as to block the usage of all USB mountable devices but has backed away from that more stringent policy.

Two important steps are needed to halt the spread of autorun viruses. First, a good antivirus package with up to date virus definition files is always mandatory. Second, OU admins are strongly advised to disable the autorun feature on ALL mounted drives for systems they manage. A good article from Microsoft on how to do this via group policy is here: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/953252>.

Hauber and Kunz talked about the possibility of changing the Enterprise Domain Policy to disable autorun by default for all Enterprise Domain member systems. Discussion in the WinAdmin meeting was generally positive. Many of the OU managers in attendance had disabled the policy themselves some time ago and felt it was beneficial and that their users could handle the extra steps to launch software on mountable devices themselves. If you have any comments please send them to Steve Kunz at skunz@iastate.edu . There will be more discussion on this in the CCSG meeting and on the WinAdmin and CCSG mailing lists.

The question was asked as to what could be done about various faculty and staff who have systems that are outside of a managed OU (and maybe not even members of the Enterprise Domain). Kunz and Hauber felt that a public awareness campaign combined with a script (run by Scout or off the ITS web page) could disable autorun on those systems.

Eudora Pro Support – Steve Kunz [ITSYS]

Steve Kunz [ITSYS] discussed the possibility that ITS would withdraw support of the email package Eudora Pro. The reason for this possible action is that Eudora Pro has been an “end of life” product for several years by the original manufacturer (Qualcomm). No updates relating to security issues have been coming. Spam and junk mail detection in a rapidly changing email environment continues to be a problem. If support for Eudora Pro were to be withdrawn by ITS it would not happen for a minimum of six months. Even after support is withdrawn current users of Eudora Pro could continue to use the product (the product will not cease functioning after a period of time). However, extended aid in assistance in problems would go away and the promotion of the product as a current email solution would stop.

Members of the meeting asked several questions. David Orman [CNDE] asked what would be the supported POP3 email product if Eudora support was withdrawn. The answer for now is “ITS does not know yet”. Some people are using Thunderbird already (which can do native Kerberos 5). Steve Heideman [CHEM] asked the more general question of where ITS was intending to go with email in general (POP3?, Exchange? Web-based?). The answer to that question could not be provided by anyone in the WinAdmin meeting at this time. Watch for more information on this from ITS as time goes on. Another question expressed concern on how to move email from Eudora (which can be a considerable amount of email for someone using Eudora for many years) to another email system. There are some processes that can generally accomplish this (the Solution Center can help).

If you have comments, concerns, or issues regarding the possible withdrawal of support for Eudora Pro, send email to Frank Poduska [ITCSV] at frank@iastate.edu or Steve Kunz [ITSYS] at skunz@iastate.edu.

Open Discussion

Russ Hoffman [STAT] warned that he was having some issues with the rollout of the new ePO software. While the automatic update of client software appeared to be easy enough, sometimes the McShield process could take 50% of the CPU after the update.

Meeting Adjourned (10:00)

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9.