

Windows Administrators Meeting

February 13, 2009

Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)

Meeting Started (9:00)

Announcements

- The account suspension process has begun. Emails warning about upcoming account suspensions will go out this weekend (probably Saturday, Feb 14). There will be about five weeks allowed to renew accounts. Actual suspension will happen on March 23 (the Monday after spring break).

Old Business – Steve Kunz [ITSYS]

At the last WinAdmin meeting someone asked when Windows XP Service Pack 3 would be released to the WSUS servers. In a recent edition of “WServerNews” (Vol. 14, #7 - Feb 9, 2009 - Issue #712) there was an article in the “Editors Corner” titled “Redmond Kills Service Pack Blocker” that indicates that after April 28th Windows Vista SP1 will be delivered via Windows Update and after May 19th Windows XP SP3 will be delivered via Windows Update. Read the full article here:
<http://www.wservernews.com/archives/wservernews-20090209.html>

At the last WinAdmin meeting Sly Upah [H SCI] asked when Windows IE 8 would be certified for use with WebCT. Randy Dalhoff (ITSYS) was asked the question and responded that as long as IE 8 is in beta there will be no certification. Blackboard/WebCT do not start certification until a product is officially released.

Domain Upgrade Status Report – Steve Kunz [ITSYS]

The new hardware for the domain controller upgrade this summer has been acquired. WINDC1-4 will be replaced by four Dell PowerEdge 2950 servers running Windows Server 2008. Software work (for password synchronization, etc) has begun. It is hoped that all domain controllers will be upgraded by early August.

Steve Heideman [CHEM] asked if the upgrade could be pushed forward as early as possible. He remembered that after the last domain controller upgrade process there were problems with some Samba servers that happened right before classwork started. Kunz said he would see what he could do.

VirusScan 8.0i Issues – Beata Pruski [ITSYS]

Beata Pruski [ITSYS] talked about a problem recently noticed on VirusScan 8.0i. Version 8.0i is an old product which remains under support by McAfee through Dec 2009. See:
http://www.mcafee.com/us/enterprise/support/customer_service/end_life.html

The problem is that the DAT update process on version 8.0i runs and apparently succeeds but no new DAT files are present on the system. This problem began happening about Feb 2, 2009 on some systems ITS maintains. ITS has contacted McAfee support and we are attempting to work on the issue. At the time of the meeting no solution had been found (other than upgrade to VirusScan 8.5i or 8.7i).

[Information since the meeting]

Vince Oliver (ITSYS) found information that will allow updates to succeed. Go to the VirusScan Console, right-click AutoUpdate and select Properties. In the "Update options" section UNCHECK "Get other available updates" and click OK.

AutoUpdate will now run successfully. This is obviously a "circumvention" and not a "fix". The best approach is to upgrade to VirusScan 8.5i or 8.7i.

Open Discussion

Mike Long [CARD] asked about the demise of the old VPN server with the advent of the Cisco "AnyConnect" VPN method. He indicated it seemed you could no longer get new VPN certificates for the old server via ASW. John Hascall [ITSYS] indicated it should still work and you should be able to get new certificates. John said he would check into it. [Information since the meeting] John found a problem on the new ASW implementation and fixed it. Acquiring old-style VPN certificates works again.

Ted Peterson [STATL] indicated he was interested in allowing faculty and students more secure access via remote desktop to servers and office systems. He asked what others were doing. A general discussion covering many issues followed (including firewalling RDP on hosts to certain IPs, restricting usernames to login to specific hosts, and use of the VPN system to allow secure access from off-campus systems). More thought will be put into this and tools made available as deemed appropriate.

Ted Peterson [STATL] asked if anyone had a process in place to auto-logout lab users who simply walk away, leaving lab machines logged in. Nobody had any great ideas.

Jim Wellman [AER E] asked if there could be better notification when servers (like AFS-7) go down for extended periods of time as had happened in the past week. ITS staff present indicated there was a message in the critical events log. This can be seen on the "11 Feb 2009 CEL entry at <http://www.it.iastate.edu/cel/>

Meeting Adjourned (09:50)

Next meeting is scheduled for March 13.