# Windows Administrators Meeting
April 9, 2004
Notes (taken by Steve Kunz)


**Meeting Started (9:05)**

**Announcements**

- Microsoft will sponsor a 2-day (all day) seminar on "security for Windows systems". This seminar will be free and offered by Microsoft certified trainers. It will be offered May 13-14 (so mark your calendars). Watch for an upcoming announcement (to be emailed to the CCSG and WinAdmin groups) on how to register soon.

- Systems that have had internet access blocked (due to virus/worm infection, account hacking, or other inappropriate activity) now will display the "Red Screen of Internet Death" when they try to access off-campus sites. This is done by redirecting off-campus traffic by blocked systems at the routers. End-users will now have a clear indication as to why they cannot get off-campus and what they need to do about it. Any system can open up a web-browser to http://blocked.iastate.edu to see the status of network blocks on it. If your system is not currently blocked you will not see the "Red Screen of Internet Death", but a "calmer" page of information about the (normal) network status of that system.

- New software is being prepared for rollout by early summer. New versions of JMP, Eudora (6.1), VirusScan (7.1, currently in the "Advanced" Scout-kit list), the Cisco VPN client (configured to use digital certificates), FileZilla (to use new global user settings), and OpenAFS (to replace IBM/Transarc AFS) will be distributed as soon as it is configured and tested.

**Open Discussion**

- Kunz noted that Microsoft has announced the release of Windows XP Service Pack 2 in 6-8 weeks. Microsoft warns that people should make sure they test the effects of this service pack on their XP systems in advance. Two significant changes WILL AFFECT your desktop systems. First, the XP built-in firewall product is "improved" and will be ENABLED by default. This will affect what products can get through the firewall without user intervention. Second, the security settings for Internet Explorer will be tightened down, affecting the amount of effort required to get to many sites on the internet.

  Release Candidate 1 of Windows XP SP2 is currently available from Microsoft at:

    http://www.microsoft.com/technet   (Look in the "Highlights" section)

YOU SHOULD TEST THIS SERVICE PACK! Early testing within AIT has already uncovered one significant problem. XP SP2 applied on a system with VirusScan 7.0 (and 7.1) will cause automatic updates of the VSE product and DAT files to fail. Microsoft has announced that there will be a "Release Candidate 2" out before production release, so we will be watching the outcome of this problem. If the final release still causes VSE updates to fail we will probably NOT approve this update on the Enterprise SUS servers until the issue is resolved. We do not want to cause the disabling of updates of virus definitions at this point.

Jim Wellman (AE EM) commented that ePO (ePolicy Orchestrater) also does not function properly when the firewall is activated by XP SP2.

Kunz asks that as you test XP SP2 and find issues that may affect the broad ISU Windows XP community, that you send email to him (skunz@iastate.edu). We will attempt to provide an updated "firewall" document in time for the XP SP2 release.

- Wayne Hauber (AIT) discussed a problem we are seeing with Eudora Pro and VirusScan. Recently (in certain situations) VirusScan has begun deleting temporary ".rcv" (receive) files in the Eudora "spool" folder during inbound mail processing. This results in lost mail. It appears to a combination of certain virus definitions combined with certain inbound mail contents (that are not necessarily infected). AIT continues to work with Qualcomm and NAI on this issue. The next release of Eudora Pro (6.1) also seems to have had some work done in this area, but it is not known if it fixes this particular problem.

- Chris Thach (CIRAS) asked about what to do when Outlook (using SideCar and reading mail from the POP-3 servers) "times-out" when attempting to download huge amounts of mail. This can occur when a user who receives a large amount of mail (and SPAM) does not read their mail for several days and then attempts to "catch up". Discussion in the room indicated there is probably a setting in Outlook to control the server timeouts. [Check the "Email Accounts" Advanced settings, there is a "slider" for server timeouts – SLK]

- Kunz asked for opinions on changing a setting for new installations of Eudora Pro (possibly to be introduced in the Eudora Pro 6.1 release). A suggestion has been made that the default configuration setting of NOT deleting attachments (from the attachment folder) when the email is deleted be changed (to delete attachments when the email is deleted). The main advantage would be that disk space would be conserved (since many people may be unaware that the default setting means they must remember to go in and clean up unwanted attachments at a later date. The disadvantage is that this is a change in the default settings according the Qualcomm documentation. It was also noted that some people rely on Eudora Pro working in this manner (relying on attachments being "stored" in one location even though the original mail is gone). After a long discussion it was agreed that

the best solution is "user education", leaving the default setting "as is". Kunz will try to put a section on this in the "ISU Eudora Tips" document installed with Eudora Pro.

**Meeting Adjourned (about 10:05)**

Next meeting is scheduled May 14. However, since this is during the all-day Microsoft Security Seminar we may reschedule or cancel the May meeting.