

WNAG

Meeting: 2017-04-19

Present: Jim Johnston (Chair), Anton Romantsov (Secretary), Lowell Williamson, Steve Nickerson, Bernie Rutter, Allan Fleming, Nevil Bromley, Ray White, Manfred Griesbach, David Aldwinckle, Dave Hinton, Mark Gaulton

Previous Business

Dave H: The 2-way trust Nexus <-> EDU we created last month may stay around for longer as we're planning to have one AD FS authenticating students wanting to login to O365 and also to Quest. This is what we wish to do in the future and the 2-way trust is easier setup to implement this. The window of opportunity is next week after the term ends. We're setting it up now so we can start a conversation. At this point, it is better to leave AD FS the way it is. Later, if nobody wants that, we can change it to EDU.

Jim: Is it true 2-way trust?

Dave H: Yes, we require it the way the trust is now. Normally, Nexus don't trust the other domains, but we have no other way to do it this time because the users in Edu have to be able to authenticate and AD FS in Nexus has to look up and confirm they have valid credentials. If someone has concerns, let's bring them and we can talk about it. We need to keep the 2-way trust at least until after the migration is completed (June-August). After that, we can look at it again and have further discussion.

Jim: We're going to keep until June-August.

New Business

Jim: Podiums...

Nevil: A faculty member attempted logon to a podium machine and revealed password to all. It happens quite often. This particular individual was concerned about security, created rt ticket, got password changed right away to restrict access, but within minutes there was a login from a machine never used by the person. Could not find other events, checked email auth.

Mark: 3 IP addresses identified. One from his phone. One from a Teksavvy machine. One auth access looked successful. Can't tell what exactly they gained access to.

Nevil: Maybe as CTSC we can discuss obfuscate userid as well as password. This has been noted and Associate Dean asked this question if we can.

Mark: This is a known challenge in many places. Propose hit a switch to disable monitor while entering password.

Jim: Change mirroring setting when needed.

Nevil: Mirroring is on in standard configuration.

Jim: This is good example to change configuration. Maybe a topic to change standard podium setup?

Manfred: We will investigate. Not sure what other options exist.

Dave H: Some sessions continue until you kill the session, even disable account won't have immediate effect.

Ray: We had one of those overhead screens that have a button to freeze the image – do your changes and then unfreeze the screen.

Jim: Requires the person to be aware of the situation.

Jim: Moving on – WNAG SharePoint site...

Manfred: It was created long ago, all seem migrated to the new site?

Jim: No one complained

Manfred: It's gone!

Ray: Any forms to save?

Manfred: No

Jim: Templates?

Manfred: Site templates only...

Window 10 Podium PCs:

Manfred: If no concerns, we will go ahead with Office 2016 this fall. Only few coming forward - faculty members having problem with footnote, there is a fix for that.

Jim: Which version of Windows 10?

Manfred: We're going with whatever CBB will be by that time.

Jim: Anything else on podiums?

Jim: Next... about the XP machines count. Is that excluding what we already knew was running XP?

Manfred: All of them.

Jim: I have Vista, we haven't talked about it.

Manfred: XP was most prevalent. There are some Vistas around, we should start looking into those too.

Jim: Any other comments on updates that people submitted?

Jim: Let's talk about the hacks. Happy to see IST responding and closing it down at the FW. Is anyone happy with Mike email?

Mark: From the released hacks the majority are patched already.

SCCM managed – 90 % compliant

Outside SCCM – about 60%

Ray: How that was determined? How do you do the validation checks?

Mark: Based on machines status on SCCM reports most were patched already. We limited exposure to those that haven't been patched. Users can't map smb from home to Nexus directly. Over VPN can have some exposure, but it's user requirement. Mike and Jason following on Twitter and getting information from other sources on what's going on. In a week, we will know more about the severity of the problem, more info later.

Jim: What other things people are talking about?

Mark: I'm not aware of anything specific, there is always some chatter about something.

Manfred: We're debating about turning off smb1 on workstations eventually.

Jim: If you disable smb1 there could be issues. Must do proper configuration. Netapp can be an issue as well. Older Macs can stop working, but we can't support all of them anyway. There is should be no too old machines on the network. Linux same story – older versions won't work.

Jim: smb3 stack very unstable in Mac 10.10, best solution – update to 10.11 or 10.12

Manfred: By default, even Windows 10 will try smbs1 if supported. Tempted to disable on workstations and see what happens. There should be no much concern – it should use smb2 and higher.

Jim: I would recommend it too.

Other

Dave H: We're planning to disable DNS caching in Infoblox. Currently, if dynamic update changed a record on Nexus side, it stays cached on Infoblox side until ttl expires. After we removed caching on Infoblox side, we want to look at how it reflects on other things.

Jim: Are you to disable caching everywhere?

Dave A: We can't differentiate – it's enabled or not.

Manfred: Today we're running into issues when VMs flipping to another node, can't get the same IP assigned. Disabling caching may help.

Dave A: Option 1 - reduce the default ttl for dynamic dns updates, Option 2 – turn off caching. Even with no caching, DNS response time should remain very good. We are looking at reduced redundancy but still highly available.

Dave H: We're not sure yet if that's the way to go. There are other implications. All of our servers use Nexus DNS. The SQL clusters and some other thing rely on that too. Not sure how many more systems care about dynamic dns updates. For the most parts it doesn't matter.

Jim: Can be checked, tested and reversed if we get into trouble. Not sure what other implications will be.

Mark: What was the gain for caching originally? After removing the cache we likely won't see any performance impact at all.

Manfred: Fun item – demo proposal for HoloLens from Microsoft, anyone interested?

Dave H: Heads up announcement – there will be email system migration scheduled after exams. We will not need the entire maintenance window, but there will be some outage for students when we work on AD FS server adding support for EDU domain. In addition, as we go with updating individual users, there will be a small window for each individual when they can't access their mailbox. Overall, the process could take roughly two day in total for all users. It will be posted when we get nearer.

Manfred: Outlook client related - in 2016 there is a new Action bar that may appear at the top, depending on the email message content it tries to make suggestions.

Anton: Can be a combination: Exchange Server 2016 and Outlook 2016 = new features

Dave H: We only started moving people, not many done yet.

Jim: Any way to see if individual was moved to 2016 server?

Manfred: Can use OWA to see.