

University of Waterloo

COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held September 23, 2010

PRESENT: Alan George (Chair), Melissa Conrad (Secretary), Bill Baer, Jim Bell, Bruce Campbell, Andrea Chappell, Marko Dumancic, Erick Engelke, Bill Ince, Paul Miskovsky, Victor Neglia, Terry Stewart, Jason Testart, Martin Timmerman

REGRETS: Bob Hicks, Roy Wagler

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Access to birth dates via WatIAM. Some time ago a committee member indicated that access to birthdays would be helpful in resolving possible duplicate accounts in WatIAM. This occurs in various circumstances where accounts are set up in advance of information about a new faculty or staff member being entered into the HR system. The key requirement is that people be able to determine someone's birth date in a timely manner when the need arises.

Prior to the meeting, the Chair distributed a list of people in IST, HR, Registrar's Office, and Graduate Studies who have the authority to determine a person's birth date within the HR system. One strategy would be simply to call one of the people in the current list. The Chair will alert them to the fact that they might receive calls from time to time, and should be prepared to respond positively to such requests.

As an alternative, HR is comfortable providing this level of access to one person from each of the Faculties, Housing, and the Library. CTSC members who chose this alternative are invited to forward to the Secretary and/or Dave Kibble the name of the person who should be given this access.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

The minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2010 were approved as distributed.

3. IT COMMITTEE MANDATES – PROPOSED CHANGES, Alan George

Prior to the meeting, a document outlining proposed changes to some of the mandates of the various IT committees was distributed to the committee.

Based on the discussion, the Secretary will edit the document and redistribute for review prior to presentation to UCIST.

4. IT SECURITY UPDATE, Jason Testart

LANMAN Hashing. LANMAN Hashing has been disabled on all Active Directories.

Password Standards. The implementation plan is as follows:

1. Make the password length and complexity requirements of all campus Active Directories match the new standard. (Timing: now)
2. Enable new functionality for password change in WatIAM to change the password in both ADS and NEXUS. (Timing: development ongoing)
3. Announce new password rules to the campus community (through various channels), informing them that password expiry (of one year) will be enforced as circumstances allow. (Timing: depends on circumstances)
4. Once WatIAM upgrade is complete, and users from both ADS and NEXUS are merged, enforce password aging and password history. (Timing: unknown; depends on timing of ADS/NEXUS consolidation project)

Null session availability. Mike Patterson has identified all hosts that have this issue. He has started contacting administrators of the larger Active Directory domains to determine appropriate fix that can be recommended more widely.

Outdated Operating Systems. Windows 2000 systems were explicitly identified, but a larger issue to deal with is Solaris. More than half of the approximately 300 Solaris hosts on campus are running an outdated version of the OS. Patching is critical to maintaining the security of these systems, and given the recent changes to the Solaris terms of use by Oracle, patches are only available with a service agreement.

5. ***STUDENT PRINTING, Alan George.***

Charges per page. The cost per page was raised at UCIST, but no final decision has been reached. Once the cost is agreed to, there will have to be changes made at each unit so we will need to agree on an effective date of change.

Proposed XAS revisions. The committee agreed to the following changes to XAS:

1. To ensure printing credits are not accidentally entered as cash, administrators' ability to add funds would be restricted to non-refundable, local accounts.
2. Direct access to the MySQL database would be restricted to a few IST staff only. Administrators would be expected to use the provided commands (verify-request, charge-request, and refund-request) instead. Proposed date of change is November 1, 2010.
3. Administrative access would be cleaned up by removing admins who have not used the system in the past year. Those affected would be notified via email.

6. ***GREYLISTING, Martin Timmerman***

Deferred until a future meeting.

7. ***VARIOUS UPDATES***

Deferred until the next meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Userid Recycling. A committee member mentioned that a userid was reissued. The Chair confirmed that the practice is to never reuse a userid and that this was an accident of the migration from UWdir to WatIAM.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next CTSC meeting will be held Thursday, October 7, 2010, at 1:30pm, in NH 3004.

/mlc
October 5, 2010

Melissa Conrad
Secretary to the Committee