From: BHENDRICK
To: Ryan Richards
Date: Sun, May 31, 1998 7:03 PM
Subject: Re: NDS for NT / LDS Church

Ryan,

This document that Gary provided is a common document that is being delivered in many of our major market accounts.

Microsoft Consulting is coming into our accounts and repeating this message over and over. (I think it is based on a template.)

Actually, I am good friends with a guy at the Church Office Building (Larry Adams) that could provide us with more information if we need this from them.

(He is on the NT Domain project. Last time I was in town, I had lunch with him and told him they should be doing NDS4NT. He requested that the Church Headquarters give us a fair shake in the evaluation process.)

I think that Kenneth Gaul should add this doc to his list of issues around NDS4NT.

As a FYI, the jury is not out on Service Pack 4. There seems to be several versions of the beta patch kit that is floating out there to customers under NDA's.

SP4 is suppose to be officially released sometime in the month of June.

Stay Tune!!

Ben Hendrick
Novell Consulting-Atlanta

>>> Gary Hein 05/30/98 05:34PM >>>
Don't know if you guys have seen this document yet, but it's just another example of lies propagated by MS. There are some very disturbing remarks, including:

Although it is possible to establish bi-directional trust, the trust connection can not be used for administering remote, unmigrated domains. This means that centralizing management with NDS for NT requires a wholesale conversion of the entire enterprise

GH: False

  Note that NT servers would need to run IPX/SPX to support NDS for NT as well as TCP/IP to access other network resources and to comply with current standards.

GH: False - NDS for NT works over IP - no need to add IPX. This is a scare tactic.

Service Pack updates are questionable at best. MCS has not yet released Service Pack 4.0, however we suspect it will replace the existing samsvr.dll. To protect against NT Service Packs replacing samsrv.dll, NDS for NT checks at shutdown time and replaces samsrv.dll with the Novell version. MCS believes potential for failure is very high, as soon as any dll starts depending on new exports from samsrv.dll. Replacing this one critical dll could case the system to fail to boot and recovery could be very difficult.

GH: Perhaps advance knowledge of SP4?

Microsoft has repeatedly stated that it will support their NT customers and NT's basic functionality, but in areas that NDS touches, namely security and authentication, Microsoft will refer customers to Novell. This has the potential of creating some confusion in the resolution of issues revolving around security and authentication.

GH: Scare tactic

Also, comments from PeopleSoft should be solicited to see if PeopleSoft and Tuxedo are supported in environments where NDS for NT is in use as well as the IntranetWare client.

GH: Is it possible that MS is telling NT developer that they should not support their products with NDS for NT?

Windows NT has a feature where anonymous logon users can list domain user names and enumerate share names. Customers who wanted enhanced security requested the ability to optionally restrict this functionality. Windows NT 4.0 Service Pack 3 and a hotfix for Windows NT 3.51 provide a mechanism for administrators to restrict the ability for anonymous logon users from obtaining system information. These anonymous connections are also known as NULL session connections. During the installation of Novell's NDS for NT, the samsrv.dll is replaced. Novell NDS for NT currently does not include support for restricting anonymous connections. MCS see this deficiency as a security weakness.

GH: This is the Red Button attack, which MS 'claims' is fixed with SP3, but really isn't. Again, this is completely incorrect - using NDS for NT will not impact the security flaw mentioned in this document.

Anyhow - I don't know if this is of any use to you but I thought I'd forward it over anyway.

Thanks,

Gary

CC: David Bradford