Server Security Requirements and References

A number of hosts at Northwestern University continue to receive feeds from the SNAP system where both the NetID and password combination are provided (e.g., domain controllers). Several months ago, the Information Security Coordinators (representing 36 schools and departments) were requested to help in the development of a set of requirements to be applied to those environments to help improve the security and protection of that data. This document is a product of those efforts. While we attempted to remain neutral with respect to the operating system executed on the receiving host, it’s clear that some of these requirements apply only to Microsoft Windows hosts. Further, while these requirements apply primarily to the hosts that are receiving a feed of NetIDs and passwords, many of these can be applied to any host where sensitive data is present or that you wish to be more secure. ISS/C encourages you to apply as many of these requirements as widely as possible to hosts within your organization.

There are no specific hosts at Northwestern that have caused us to develop these requirements. Rather, the combination of increasingly diverse use of the NetID, implementation of Single Sign On, and recent legislative requirements has caused us to issue these requirements to ensure that all hosts conform to the same set of access control standards. These are minimum standards, and where practical for your environment, additional security measures should be considered.

The expected compliance date for these requirements is January 1st, 2007. Hosts that receive a NetId and password feed are required to comply. Those unable to meet these requirements should apply to NUIT-ISS/C for an exemption. Failure to either obtain a specific exemption or meet these requirements could result in the termination of NetID/password feed.

These requirements and references are expected to continue to evolve over time. Your suggestions and comments are welcome and appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.
- Dave

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