

Administrivia #30768 – Windows XP SP2 Feedback being sought

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To: NTBUGTRAQ@LISTSERV.NTBUGTRAQ.COM

Howdy!

Sorry about the list being quite for so long. The enormous volume of virus laden bounces coupled with a dramatic increase in spam forced me to dedicate some time to X2KSpamAway. I'm happy to say its now a full VB.Net Class Dll with dynamic adjustment capabilities, full event log logging (with source-specific messages, eventIDs and categories!), more tests including the ability to do "all but these" attachment blocking, and, well, far too much to mention. Considering I only started with VB.Net a few weeks ago, I felt the need to do a little bragging given the limited time I have.

Any, to the point of this message.

With the Release Candidate of Windows XP SP2 now available, hopefully many of you have started examining it to determine how best to deploy it within your corporate environments. Given all of the changes included, there is likely going to be much consternation associated with this.

I would like to gather some of your thoughts together into a FAQ of sorts, including problems that you've encountered, resolved, or are wondering about. GPO's and other templates you have developed would also be appreciated, even if its just the highlights or tricks you've found to work.

I'll be gathering this info and, based on it and other sources, putting up a survey together with the FAQ in the next few weeks to get a sense of what level of adoption we can expect.

Send your comments to <mailto:XPSP2@rc.on.ca>.

In particular;

1. Do you expect problems associated with clients no longer being able to accept connections to them by default?

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- RPC changes
- DCOM changes
- SMB/TCP blocked
- other ports blocked by ICF

2. Will you have to change your plan on handling patch management after deploying SP2?

3. Is your network so flat that you can actually use the "Local Subnet" feature of ICF?

4. Who doesn't expect every Vendor to put their application on ICF's "Exception List"?

5. Is a Firewall that still cannot block outbound connections all that useful? There's lots of emphasis on preventing you from getting the next virus/worm, but little new help if you do (and we all know many of you will get the next one, and the one after that...)

6. Since Windows Media Player 9 is included in SP2, you're going to end up accepting its revised EULA in the process. How big a deal is this in your corporate environment? Will it prevent you from deploying it?

7. How soon will Memory Execution Protection mean anything to your corporate environment? 3 months, 6 months, 1 years, later. You'll need a processor that supports setting the NX bit.

8. Do the enhancements to Outlook Express mean anything to you in your corporate environment?

9. Do you expect, or have you encountered, problems with the Local Machine Zone Lockdown feature of IE?

10. What impact is WMI 3.0 going to have on your environment? Will you deploy SUS 2.0 or are you planning on using custom apps/scripting to make use of WMI 3.0 features?

11. Have you encountered any "largely deployed" application/service which has broken as a result of deploying XP SP2? I'm not going to entertain maintaining a lengthy list of shareware or one-off apps that most don't employ. If you have encountered a problem, please mention whether or not you have contacted the Vendor and asked about XP SP2 support, and if so, what their response was (if any.)

Feel free to add any other thoughts to this list, but also please take the time to try and provide some feedback if you have tested XP SP2 in a corporate environment.

You will, no doubt, notice I have focused this on the Corporate Environment. While I fully appreciate many of you are not in large organizations, for the purpose of this exercise I would like to hear

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from anyone who has, at least, the following in their consideration;

- Windows 2000 Domain Controller or higher, with or without AD
- At least 25 client machines
- Self-hosted SMTP
- Firewall (which may be a router with ACLs)

Please indicate the number of clients and servers in your organization, as well as the number of individual users.

Cheers,
Russ – NTBugtraq Editor

NTBugtraq Editor's Note:

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