

RE: IIS 5.0 and Netscape Authentication

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From: James MacKinnon (jmackinnon@crossoff.com)

Date: 05/22/02

Date: Wed, 22 May 2002 15:35:42 -0300

From: "James MacKinnon" <jmackinnon@crossoff.com>

To: "G Man" <gmansyscon@hotmail.com>, <focus-ms@securityfocus.com>

don't use integrated security. Try basic security as netscape does not support integrated security and will keep failing on this.

james

-----Original Message-----

From: G Man [<mailto:gmansyscon@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2002 6:55 PM

To: focus-ms@securityfocus.com

Subject: IIS 5.0 and Netscape Authentication

Hello,

I am analyzing a test setup in a lab and was wondering if anybody else had come across this problem. If anybody has a solution to this problem I would really appreciate it. The problem exists with directory security of folders under IIS 5.0 in a Windows 2000 Active Directory. This is not an exploit but more to as a possible bug perhaps in the Active Directory design and implemenation? Currently I do not know and would like to see if anybody can replicate or atleast point me into the right direction for a solution for this. Here is my problem and the steps that I have done to create this problem.

Required:

Win2k Server running Active Directory and IIS 5.0

Netscape 4.x and IE 5.x running on a client or local to the server.

Method:

1. Create Directory in Winexplorer that you wish to use as the root of this test website. Inside this directory place an index.htm file and another directory called "test". Copy the index.htm file inside of the "test" directory also.

Should look something like this if you had a tree picture:

RE: IIS 5.0 and Netscape Authentication

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c:\Inetpub\testwebsite\index.htm
c:\Inetpub\testwebsite\test
c:\Inetpub\testwebsite\test\index.htm

2. Under active directory, create a user under the USERS group named "test" with password "test".
2. Now under IIS Manager create a website that that uses the "testwebsite" directory as it's root. Start the Website.
3. Using IE and Netscape surf to your newly created website and see if you can view the file index.htm. (We have not set any permissions and everyone should be able to see this file.)
4. Again now surf to the newly created website and see if you can view the file under the subdirectory "test". Again we have not changed any permissions yet and everyone should be able to see this file in Netscape and IE.
5. Now under IIS Manager open your new website and select the directory we created called "test" and select properties. Disable Anonymous access for this directory. Hit Ok a few times and apply this permission setting. Now you should not be able to surf to the "test" directory of our new website without being prompted for a Login and password.
6. With IE use the "test" account that we used and enter the login information. You should be passed through to the webpage that we placed into this directory, as the NTFS permission is set to everyone and the "test" user account is a valid user account and authentication is complete.
7. Now with Netscape, try the exact same thing. On our test system, we get an authentication failure with Netscape using the "test" Group USERS account. However if we use an Administrator login and password when prompted we are passed through and authentication is complete.

We have tested this and searched the MS knowledgebase and found some things that refer to adding the "test" account to the "Log On Locally" Security policy. We have tried this and this was unsuccessful too.
Is this a bug in Active Directory or IIS?

Btw this test lab system is Win2k with SP2 and all patches to IIS implemented. No Frontpage extensions have been activated.

If anyone could give us some insight on what is wrong and why Netscape simply will not authenticate using a USER Group account yet pass through with an Administrator and IE has no problems using the USER account we would really appreciate it.

Thanks,

G. Man

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