

Re: getting users to logoff

Source:

<http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windows.server.security/2008-01/msg00107.html>

- *From:* "Al Dunbar" <AlanDrub@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 25 Jan 2008 21:16:54 -0700
-

"Computerguy" <phil2627@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:a0fd4919-2d7f-4dcb-8c68-b7ea73178a48@xx
On Jan 17, 10:27 pm, "Al Dunbar" <AlanD...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Computerguy" <phil2...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:087f2e54-bd83-49ef-bf75-43b6ed89ca2f@xx
On Jan 15, 2:04 am, "Al Dunbar" <AlanD...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Computerguy" <phil2...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:43d4a82b-b658-427b-a9bb-c7e9eef2a901@xx
On Jan 14, 1:45 pm, "Mathieu CHATEAU" <gollum...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

Hello,

this is not really a security issue, but more a fonctionnal issue.
Roaming profile won't get updated, as it is updated at logoff.

We use a vbscript to reboot stations, which force logoff on the way.
You may change the code to only logoff without shutting down the pc

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Are you interested in ?

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Cordialement,
Mathieu CHATEAU
English blog:<http://lordoftheping.blogspot.com>
French blog:<http://www.lotp.fr>

"Computerguy" <phil2...@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:3f7cd77b-bb0f-42c5-a1cb-d5235b4495bf@xx

Is there any security threat to the following ?
– windows xp2 is locked (have to enter
Ctrl+Alt+Del)
– servers setup to disconnect users at 10:00
PM

For electricity savings reasons we are
starting to request users
logoff and shutdown at the end of the day.
Right now we have users
who forget to logoff, but their PC will go to
the Windows XP locked
screen. If we are in the wrong forum please
let us know to repost.
Thanks.– Hide quoted text –

– Show quoted text –

Mr. Chateau,

We are interested in anything to get staff to exit the network. I
almost forget we have files synching at logoff to their directory and
if they never logoff..... We have Altiris and tried assigning a job

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to restart at 10:00 PM, but when users do shutdown they would come in the next day and after powering on the computer they are greeted by the same shutdown job that powers off their computer. At first we were looking for software. We would welcome a script to somehow remove users from the network at a certain time.

====> If you don't get a scripted solution to force users to do what company policy tells them they should do, you could run a job at 10pm that checks to see which workstations are logged on. 'net view' will do this, but the output might need to be filtered to include only workstations at your location. A further step would be to also determine who is logged in at each workstation – a bit trickier but doable.

Then for the first week or two you send each person logged in (or the owners of the powered on computers) an email reminding them of the company policy, and that a report of powered on workstations/logged in users will be sent to the president (or whomever).

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Mr. Dunbar,

Users cannot login before 6:00 AM. I come in a couple times a week early to do things (best time is to get things done when there is no one on the network). We can see the users still logged in and send an email to the supervisors. We have been doing this for 2 years and we have the same 10 to 15 people who repeat.

====> Yes, I am familiar with the phenomenon of the users who routinely refuse to follow suggested best practices. That is why I suggested the reference to company policy.

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But in reviewing the thread I see that you initially said that the goal was one of electrical power savings. If the power bill is paid from *your* budget, look for some way to implement a charge back for workstations left on. Failing that, shutdown the server every Wednesday and tell people that since you are getting no cooperation from users to shutdown their computers when they are not using them, and not getting additional funding for the increased power costs, this is your only option. If upper management says that that is not appropriate, tell them that they need to either get the users to help, or pay for the power used.

If the power bill is paid from someone else's budget, send that person/department, copies of the emails you have been sending for 2 years, and cc them any of these messages you send in the future. If you have done your best, but are just getting poor support, well, at least you've done your best.

But let me ask you this: how much does it cost to leave those 15 computers on all the time? And is this *your* initiative, or something you have been tasked with? I hate to rain on your parade, but if your primary function is to support your company's infrastructure, taking it upon yourself to get people to shutdown computers to save money is likely inappropriate. Do you check to make sure their coffee machines are off after hours?

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We are doing what one of our sending district's is doing and it just part of a bigger picture of cost savings. We are also talking around 300 to 400 computers overall. None of the lab computers get shutdown (about 250 right there) you will get a most users to logoff, but not shutdown. Our overall objective eventually is to get users to shutdown. We have different higher ups requiring different things. Shutting down would take care of everything, but we (in the tech department) would like them to logoff for security reasons.

====> in our environment we have been after people to leave their systems on so that they will receive the weekly patch updates and other things we rollout to the workstations. Recently an email came from the top to each staff member stating that the computers should be shut off at the end of the day (except for those posts that are running 24/7) as part of an energy- and cost- saving plan. I asked what the expected cost savings would be if everyone complied, but apparently nobody thought to figure this out, so nobody knows. I also asked what impact they thought this might have on what people do at the end of their shifts - same answer. I also asked how much it actually cost in terms of dollars or greenhouse gas emissions to power the entire fleet of workstations compared with all of the other things power is

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used for – same answer.

At the same time I started running a scheduled task at two of our sites that counted the number of powered on computers every ten minutes. Unfortunately, I had no head's up of the announcement so was not able to start this before the message was sent. At the smaller site I found that the daytime peak was around 85, dropping to 75 overnight and as low as 65 on the weekends. This was the site where we traditionally never got much buy-in to the idea of leaving the systems on. The other site where we had been working on that longer had an even smaller proportion of shutdowns happening. If the message were to have had a real impact, one would expect it to have had more of an impact where we had been haranguing people to leave the computers on. The results suggest that the net effect of the message could have ranged as low as, well, zero impact on user behaviour.

I also asked if there was any change in the pattern of power consumption, but, as I suspected, there was no significant correlation.

Are we going to do anything to enforce user compliance with departmental policy? No. If the users choose to disobey a direct order from the top, the issue is between them and the big guy.

I'm all for doing what we can. When I was a kid we used to leave the tap running as we brushed out teeth. Don't do that anymore, even though I do not know for sure what the effect is. But if you are going to expend significant resources to do some large scale things, it should be required (imho) to base this on a rational analysis. PC's account for an unknown proportion of power consumption. No stats are available to indicate how much time computers are on but not doing useful work. No verifiable stats are available on the impact of an email. so the net result could easily be so insignificant as to be no different from leaving things as they are.

But if your company is adamant that something be done, why not go to the source of the problem, and simply turn the power off at the breaker during the off hours? This could be automated, and the power distribution infrastructure segmented so that critical systems (computers and otherwise) will remain on. You have seen that users cannot be told what to do, and you are having trouble coming up with an automated solution that cannot easily be defeated. Guess what: that is the nature of the beast.

Having said all this I would suggest that the company's best bet is actually the employees. All that needs to be done is to find a way to motivate/reward/recognize them for doing the right thing.

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