

Re: Important information about XP SP2 .ADM Files

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.group_policy/2004-08/0429.html

From: Mark Williams [MSFT] (markwill_at_online.microsoft.com)

Date: 08/16/04

Date: Mon, 16 Aug 2004 12:20:39 -0700

Hi Dan,

The Windows 2000 fix is available here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=ba478b46-3af7-4eaf-9ce6-e34ea2c74faf&DisplayLan>

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Mark Williams

Program Manager, Group Policy

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/grouppolicy>

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"Dan" <Dan@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message

news:5CA0E63D-9223-4958-AF94-6C608A3BABA6@microsoft.com...

> Mark, I noticed you said there is a hotfix out for windows server 2000

> with

> sp4.. Though when I go to the link it says I must call to get the hotfix

> is

> there anywhere else I can get this hotfix with out calling?

>

> "Mark Williams [MSFT]" wrote:

>

>> As you know, Microsoft has recently announcement the pending availability

>> of

>> Windows XP Service Pack 2. I won't describe the multitude of benefits

>> associated with this service pack, especially from a security perspective

>> (these are well documented here:

>> <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/default.mspx>), but I do want to

>> bring

>> your attention to an important issue related to Group Policy.

>>

>> Many of the central features in Windows XP Service Pack 2, such the

>> Windows

>> Firewall and enhanced Internet Explorer functionality, can be managed

>> through Group Policy. In fact, my team has been heavily involved with

>> supporting the teams who have added the 600+ new policy settings

>> available

>> in the XP SP2 versions of the .adm files. XP SPS2 is the most

>> policy-enabled

>> operating system / service pack we have ever shipped. Numerically, much

>> of

>> this increase in policy settings is attributable to repeated "groups" of

>> policy settings in IE (across the various IE zones) but there is still a

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>> much richer set of policy settings that, we believe, is a key factor
>> improving the manageability of Windows XP through Group Policy. By way of
>> example, the new Windows Firewall (turned on by default in XP SP2) has a
>> broad range of policy settings to "custom fit" this component to your
>> specific needs - which ports and programs you allow, management of remote
>> administration and file/print services ports and so on. All told, Group
>> Policy represents the primary mechanism through which you can manage the
>> new
>> features of XP SP2 in an Active Directory environment.
>>
>> As well as highlighting these changes, I wanted to bring your attention
>> to
>> an important issue around the use of the .ADM files we ship with XP SP2.
>> These files use syntax that has been available for some time but which
>> has
>> exposed some issues with earlier versions of the Group Policy Object
>> Editor
>> (GPEdit). In a nutshell, if you load the XP SP2 files from earlier
>> versions
>> of GPEdit (across Windows 2000, XP or Windows Server 2003), GPEdit will
>> generate multiple "string too long" error messages.
>>
>> By default GPEdit compares the timestamps of the files stored in a GPO
>> (in
>> Sysvol) with those on the administrative machine and, if the latter are
>> more
>> recent, will upload the .ADM files to the GPO, in Sysvol. What this means
>> is
>> that the act of viewing a GPO (no changes to the GPO are necessary) will
>> result in the new .ADM files being uploaded and, eventually, used by
>> other
>> versions of GPEdit around your network that are not yet running XP SP2.
>> NOTE
>> THAT THIS IS PURELY AN ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUE - this has no implications
>> for
>> the actual application of Group Policy to machines or users.
>>
>> To this end we are making available a number of hotfixes that will
>> resolve
>> this issue. The Windows 2000 fix is available today and we expect to be
>> the
>> others (for Windows Server 2003 and XP SP1) to be available later this
>> week.
>> Initially, the fixes will be available through Microsoft Product Support
>> Services (PSS) but in due course we plan to release these directly to the
>> Microsoft Download Center.
>>
>> Further details of this can be found in KB 842933
>> (<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?kbid=842933>). We will be
>> updating
>> this regularly as the fixes become available through PSS and,
>> subsequently,
>> through the Download Center.
>>
>> Please let us know if you have any questions.
>>
>> Mark Williams
>> Program Manager, Group Policy
>> <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/groupppolicy>
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