

Re: Send notification before PWDs expire

Re: Send notification before PWDs expire

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.active_directory/2007-02/msg01912

- *From:* best@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx <best@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 23 Feb 2007 05:48:13 -0800
-

Joe

My first question was as follows:

«Is there any way I can configure AD to automatically send notification to users (for example 2 days) before their passwords expire ?»

Two replies from two MVPs suggested and then pointed me to some scripts with no further comment. An MSFT unreservedly agreed with those scripts to be deployed without further comment. This meant that, in the absence of a built-in notification for PWDs expiration, there exists a workaround by deploying either Microsoft scripts referenced in KB 323750, or third-party scripts. This sounded good to me. So I asked the suggestors including Ken for guidance. I said:

«I have never deployed a script before and would appreciate if you could guide me deploying this one in a production environment.»

I received no answer be it courteous.

In the absence of a reply, I was entitled to ask myself as to how could they suggest something they were not sure about.

Now for you to suggest that I was not specific, excuse me Sir, you seem to have some difficulties in reading. Your long and rhetorical reply did not provide an answer to my questions except for trying to cover up your colleagues by putting the blame on my questions. Quite frankly, I am not interested in something like Lots of people have taken the script and run with it . What I am interested in is how to deploy it (step-by-step) and make this deployment successful in a production environment. I am also not interested in you telling me to hire a Developer to run this script.

The best way you all could have dealt with my question was to simply say you don't know instead of unsafely pretending that you know.

I will put a complaint to Microsoft and refer them to this thread.

Regards

Re: Send notification before PWDs expire

Re: Send notification before PWDs expire

Best

=====

"Joe Kaplan" wrote:

Ok, so that's more like it. If you wanted more details, I would have suggested you just ask them. It is hard to tell from your previous messages what more details you wanted. A lot of people answering questions in the newsgroups use the principle of responding with "proportional vagueness", so if you don't ask something specific or request certain details, you won't get a very specific or detailed answer. You basically asked an FAQ and got an FAQ answer.

I can tell you that my company uses an approach similar to the one detailed in the KB article to service our entire organization in production with over 150K users who depend on it as their ONLY means of getting password expiration notifications and it works well. We actually use a different approach with some .NET code that uses IMO a more sophisticated approach that isn't as easy to do in script, but that's an implementation detail. I have a sample of the core algorithm I prefer in ch 10 of my book which you can get as free download from the site in my signature.

Finding the expiring passwords is not that big of a deal. The bigger deal is deciding what to do with the data. Presumably, you want to send an email with a link to a password change web site. How often do you send an email? Do you have different messages for different days? Do you customize the message on a per-user basis? Is it plain text or HTML?

We have also recently added a digital signature to our messages so that the authenticity of the message can be verified by the recipients and we can help fight potential phishing attacks against our users to collect their passwords.

From an operational perspective, you need to pick an execution model for the app (we use a scheduled task) and decided what you want to do about logging and instrumentation (we use event log for "big" events and file system logs for details). You also need to consider if you'll use a monitoring tool like MOM to watch to make sure things are working and provide notifications or if you want to do something else.

My overall assessment is that MS assumes that if you want the rest of these things and are starting with their script, you are capable of customizing it to meet the rest of your needs. If that isn't you, then buying a product that does all this or hiring a developer who can is probably the right answer. Lots of people have taken the script and run with it. I'm sure there are varying degrees of success with their implementations depending on the extent to which they considered all the other details. :)

Re: Send notification before PWDs expire

If you have more specific questions, please feel free to follow up.

Joe K.

--

Joe Kaplan-MS MVP Directory Services Programming
Co-author of "The .NET Developer's Guide to Directory Services Programming"
<http://www.directoryprogramming.net>

--

<best@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:93CC1919-D679-47A6-B701-FA65969620CF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Dear Joe

Because your question sounds somewhat challenging, I will tell you what was "wrong" in this thread.

Prior to putting my question to this group, I used (as every single layman who has access to internet) Google search to find out the steps I should take to implement and configure AD to automatically send notification to users before their passwords expire. I also used my Technet library for the same purposes.

Joe, please keep bearing in mind that any configuration or deployment would take place in a production environment.

As a result of my search, I found many sites including Microsoft KB323750 (this KB was not destined for me because it does not tell me, as opposed to many other KBs, the steps you need to take to successfully complete the configuration I am after).

Paul and Tony (both MVPs) seemed to have rushed into supplying me some links and that was it. I accept that those links MAY – I repeat MAY – provide the right scripts for me. But, please respect my view that this is not sufficient for MVPs to google and supply.

If it takes for an individual to google and then supply links in MS Newsgroups WITHOUT an additional and personal experience input to become an MVP, then I am sorry to say that I may have some serious questions to put to Microsoft regarding its MVP program.

Did Paul and Tony have production experience in deploying those scripts? If so, why could they not tell me step-by-step how and whether it worked

Re: Send notification before PWDs expire

fine
for them ?

Because I did not receive an answer from them to my second pretty and honest straightforward question, I was entitled to take the view that they did not have any production experience reagrding this particular script deployment.

Joe, you have to appreciate that I can't gamble in a production environment.

What also raised my concerns was that Mr Ken Zhao (MSFT) unreservedly agreed with both MVPs' replies. Having said this, I have a strong feeling that Ken may be testing the issue prior to giving his reply. Let's wait and see.

Best regards

Best

===