

Re: Anybody use NIS on a mixed network?

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From: Matt (mattpayton_at_hotmail.com)

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Dave Hafner wrote:

>

>> *What exactly are you trying to accomplish, and what is your current set
>>up ? For example, do you want to use NIS to authenticat logins from
>>Windows desktops ? or just make resources on your *nix boxes available
>>to your windows clients ? How are you authenticating windows users now ?*

>

>

> *I guess my post was a little lacking in details.*

>

> *Yes, we want full Domain authentication and all the other good stuff that
> a Novell network will provide. I know that NIS is lacking in top end
> security but either LDAP or Kerberos should fix that.*

I don't know of any way to get windows to authenticate to NIS directly...But there are ways to get NIS to talk to LDAP. So there may be a way to tie it all together.

Check out Samba and maybe something from the following :

<http://www.padl.com/Contents/OpenSourceSoftware.html>

>

> *We have an old Novell school district network that has to be upgraded this
> summer. Since Novell is in total chaos at the moment we are not sure that
> we want to spend any more time and effort in upgrading to a network OS
> that is going away. (Yes, I know that Novell is changing over to Linux,
> but this is a company that has not made one successful product outside of
> their mainstream OS and has an unequalled history of snatching defeat from
> the jaws of victory. Corel, Word Perfect, they GAVE Unix to SCO!!!)*

>

eDirectory is a fine product. We'll actually be upgrading our NDS to it soon...We use Groupwise for email/calendar, so we're kind of in the same situation as you...Just how much more do we want to give them ??? We'll see. It will be interesting what they can do with their existing products, and Linux.

> *Nonetheless, our network of 4.0 and 5.0 servers vastly outperforms the
> other districts with NT platforms. We can maintain our stuff with one*

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- > *full and one part time techie. THEY need 3 different service providers*
- > *just to install Exchange. Despite the above, we like Novell and have very*
- > *few problems with it. But, off the soapbox...*
- >
- > *The network has about two thousand clients, all windows and about 10*
- > *Novell servers. The servers are connected by gigabit backbones.*
- >
- > *We will keep windows as our desktop for now, but are looking at replacing*
- > *all the Novell servers with a Linux network. If everything was Linux, I*
- > *wouldn't even do much planning since the problem would be trivial. But*
- > *making windows use Linux as the network OS is something that we have not*
- > *done much of. Fortunately, we have lots of time and plenty of test*
- > *resources to try stuff with.*
- >
- > *Was just asking for experiences from people who use Linux as the server*
- > *farm and windows as the desktop.*

I've used Samba on Linux to provide domain logons a few times, and it always worked very well. But never for that many clients...I don't think Samba version 2.x would have been up to the task, but with version 3.x there have been huge improvements.

Basic file and printer sharing is also also very easy...Currently our print servers are running RH Advanced Server 2.1, providing printing for +1500 clients. They *far* outperform anything by either windows or netware. Of course our Netware servers are, umm, a bit out-dated.

Integrating Linux/Samba into an existing windows domain is easy, but since you don't have one, that doesn't really apply.

So, I would recommend checking out the Samba mailing lists...A lot of people are looking to do something similar to what you're looking at. Also the Official Samba-3 HowTo and Reference guide is an excellent reference for the new features, including providing authentication to windows clients.

As much as I hate to say it, you may also want to consider running Win2k and having an actual Domain/AD. You can always limit the Windows servers to just user authentication, and use Linux/Samba to provide all of the file/print shares. As I said before, getting Samba to talk to an existing windows domain is really quite easy.

Or, if you decide to stick with Novell, eDirectory on Linux...

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- Matt -