

## End of life support for Windows 9x and Windows NT operating systems

Release date: May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Revision: 1.1

This is due diligence notification that on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 the Virginia Tech Active Directory (known as Hokies or the VT AD) will no longer actively support authentication and authorization requests from the following Microsoft operating systems clients and servers:

- |                          |                   |                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| - Windows 95             | released Aug 1995 | seven+ years old |
| - Windows 98             | released Jun 1998 | four+ years old  |
| - Windows ME             | released Dec 2000 | two+ years old   |
| - Windows NT Workstation | released Jun 1996 | six+ years old   |
| - Windows NT Server      | released Jul 1996 | six+ years old   |

There are several reasons why this is occurring.

- 01) Microsoft will soon no longer support these OSES even in extended mode
  - a. See <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=fh%3Ben-us%3Blifecycle&LN=EN-US&x=11&y=15>
  - b. I.e., Windows NT workstation support from MS ends June 30, 2003
- 02) Critical security hotfixes are no longer being made available for these OSES
  - a. See <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS03-010.asp>
- 03) It has become unnecessary and costly to maintain your own workgroup or NT domain with the advent of Central Services (<http://www.centralservices.vt.edu>) and University Services (<http://selfservice.w2k.vt.edu>)
- 04) There are several viable options now available to migrate from these old OSES
  - a. Windows 2000 : <http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/default.asp>
  - b. XP : <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/default.asp>
  - c. Windows 2003 : <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserver2003/default.msp>
- 05) Upgrade to Windows 2000 Professional is currently FREE for faculty & Staff (offer ends June 30, 2003)
  - a. See My VT->My services->Faculty and Staff software
- 06) Requirements to increase the security, stability and scalability of the VT AD requires fundamental security changes which will disallow backwards compatibility with these aged OSES

## Timeline for programmatic EOL and hardening of the VT AD

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003

- All NT 4.0 trusts with the VT AD will be discontinued
- Additional restrictions for anonymous connections will be increased to its maximum security level (No access without explicit anonymous permissions)

A “test Sunday” on July 13th, 2003 will occur which will allow administrators to test their systems and services with these increased security settings in production

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003

- LAN Manager authentication level “LM” will be disabled
- LM hashes on user accounts will be removed through password reset

A “test Sunday” on October 12th, 2003 will occur which will allow administrators to test their systems and services with these increased security settings in production

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004

- Requirements to sign client/server communication will be enabled
- Requirements to sign and encrypt channel data will be enabled

A “test Sunday” on December 14th, 2003 will occur which will allow administrators to test their systems and services with these increased security settings in production

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004

- LAN manager authentication level “NTLM” will be disabled
- Requirements to use strong session keys will be enabled

A “test Sunday” on February 15th, 2004 will occur which will allow administrators to test their systems and services with these increased security settings in production

## How to participate in testing

See

[http://www.answers.vt.edu/ask4help/ad\\_min/vtkb2208.htm](http://www.answers.vt.edu/ask4help/ad_min/vtkb2208.htm)

MIG suggests that you use the timeline as milestones to have completed any required testing of your systems and services. Apart from the internal testing, we also offer external testing resources for your department’s use.

Please direct questions or comments to:

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