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INFO-6003

O/S & Application Security

Week 04

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Agenda

- Test-01 Reminder
- Windows Security
- WSUS
- Windows Security Architecture

Windows Security

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Windows Security

- It used to be assumed that the Microsoft operating system is insecure
  - More true in the early days Win95/98 & WinNT 4.0
- It is the most popular operating system and has millions of users
- Used mostly by non technical users who are unaware of the dangers
- Even the most secure OS will still be exploited if hackers can trick users into doing something they shouldn't

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Windows Security

- Trade off ease of use and security
- Many applications and services have been installed by default to make it easier for the user
  - Fewer user frustrations & support calls
- Leads to situations where the vulnerability could be in a service installed by default but not used by the user as they aren't even aware it exists

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Windows Security

- Targeted by writers of malware because they would get the most number of computers exploited
- It is estimated that Windows Operating Systems make up over 70% of the total O/S market share

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Windows Security

- Windows applications such as Internet Explorer (IE) were historically the most widely used and therefore biggest target for attack
- Historically, users needed to log on as administrators to ensure applications would run correctly
  - Most users still do

Windows Security

- Internet Explorer (IE) was also accessed due to some of the functions it did without user knowledge
- IE stored information such as what files were accessed on the O/S file system
- Could be a gold mine of information for attackers as well as Computer Forensics Investigators

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Windows Security

- Some Windows security problems are caused by backwards compatibility demanded by users
- Users expect the software that ran on their old computer to run on their new computer
  - Leads to those situations where applications need administrator privileges to run

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Windows Security

- In Windows versions prior to Vista & Win2008 all services started in session 0, kernel mode
- All applications started by the 1st logged on user also ran in session 0
- Lead to the problem of shatter attacks where applications could get elevated privileges by accessing other applications

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Windows Security

- 3rd party device drivers were written to need kernel access to run
- “According to Microsoft and Mark Russinovich 99% of Blue screens are caused by incorrectly written 3rd party device drivers”
  - Windows Vista Security
    - Roger Grimes & Jesper Johansson

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Windows Security

- Windows specific privilege escalations
  - Most applications run in the security context of the user that launched the application
  - If a hacker takes over an application they gain the permissions and privileges of the user
- Hackers however have found security flaws that allowed them to launch applications, as a non-privileged user, that Windows would then run with elevated privileges

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Windows Security

- An example of privilege escalation was a user using the Task Scheduler (at.exe) command to start a command prompt
  - The command prompt ran with System context
  - The command prompt had full system access
- Another example was the Windows help files that all ran with system context even if user starting the app had limited privileges

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Windows Security

- You will execute Privilege escalation attacks in future labs done in the second semester of the ISM program
- Typically once a system such as Windows 7 is exploited, the attacker will seek to escalate their privileges on that system and eventually Network Administrator level access

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Windows Server Update Services

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WSUS

- The “Windows Update” service and the “Windows Server Update Services” assist with the regular maintenance of Microsoft software, and should be configured and used
- Many other third-party applications also provide automatic update support, and these should be enabled for selected applications

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WSUS

- Allows organizations to control how updates are deployed in their environment
- Benefits of WSUS
  - Central Management of OS Updates
  - Central Management of Software Updates
  - Control over when updates are applied
  - Client internet access isn’t required
  - Reduce bandwidth usage

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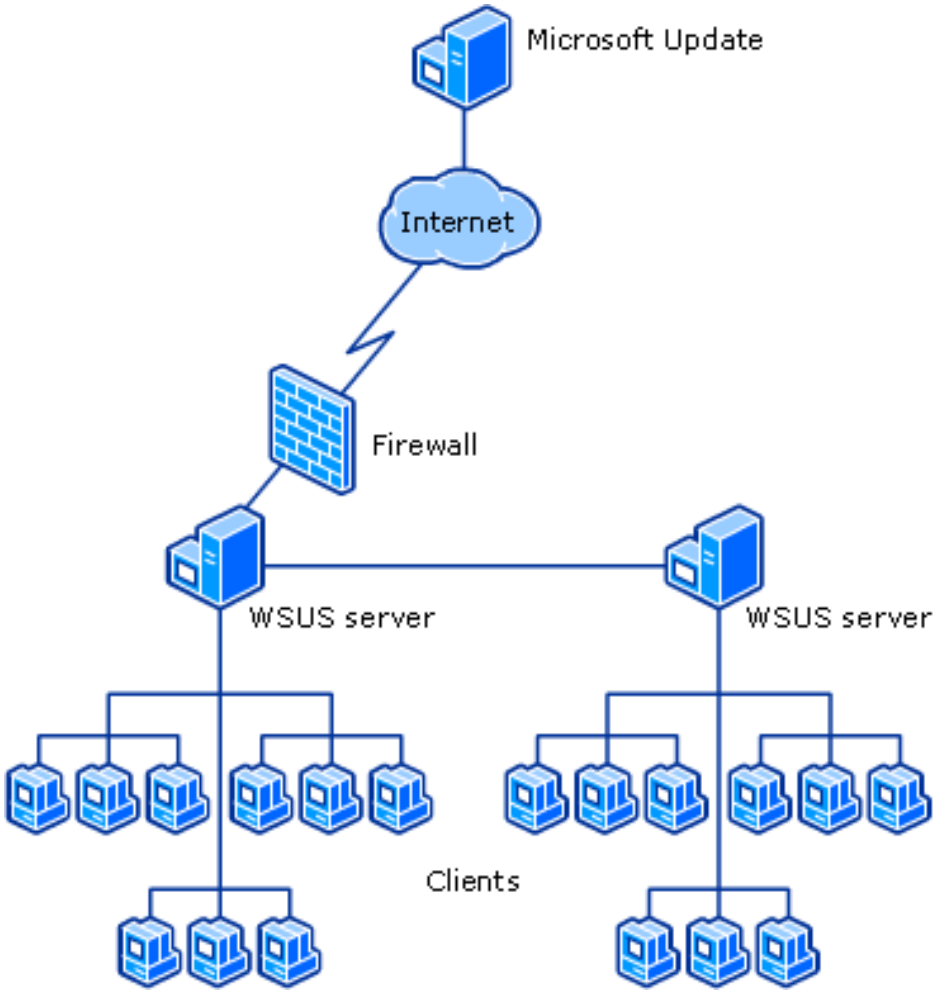
WSUS Components

- Microsoft Updates
  - Microsoft Web site that distributes updates
- Windows Server Update Services server
  - Distributes updates to clients in any domain in the forest
  - Distributes updates to other WSUS servers
  - One server MUST get updates from Microsoft
- Automatic Updates
  - Client computer component built into Windows OSs

WSUS Components



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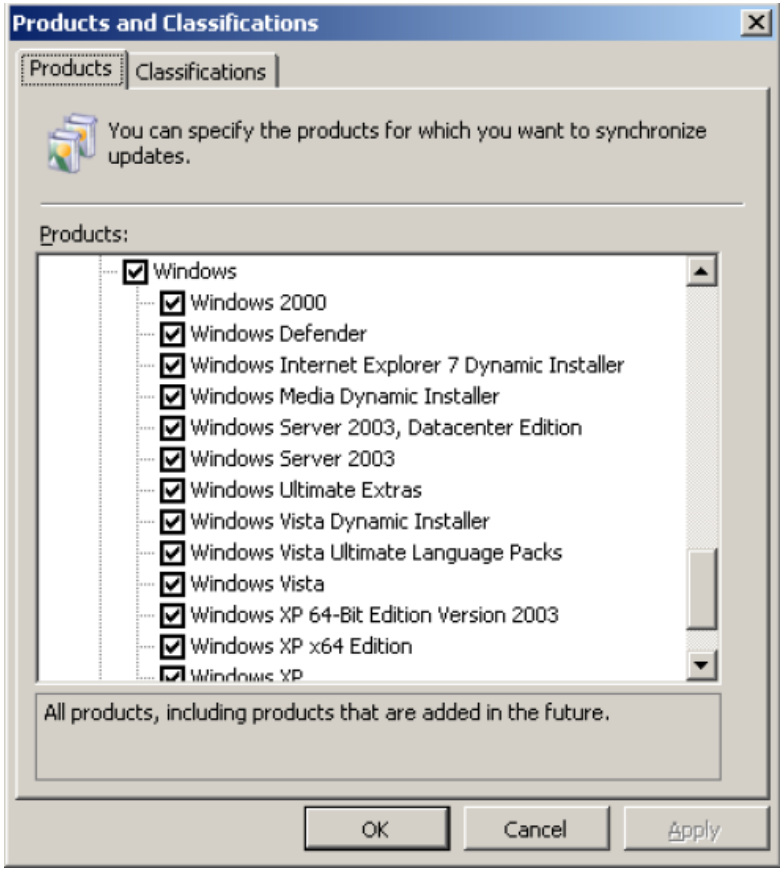
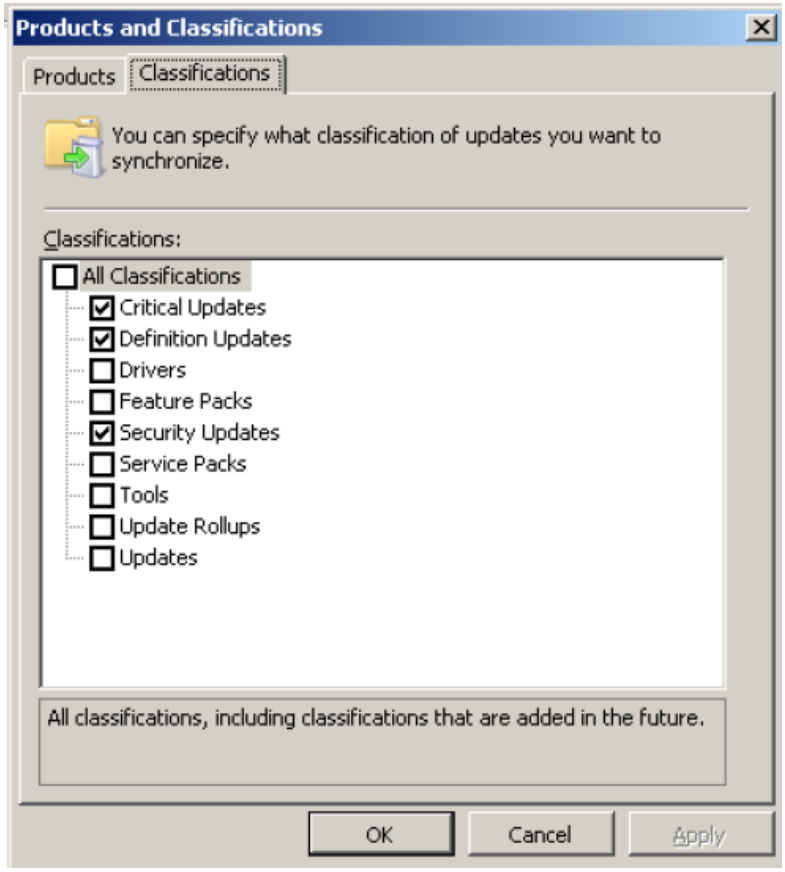
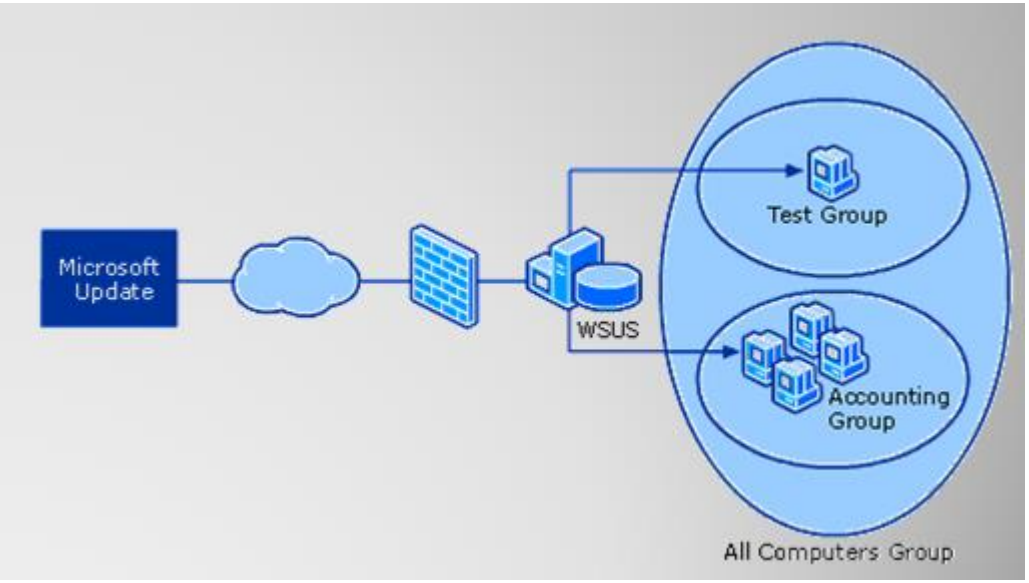
Products & Classifications



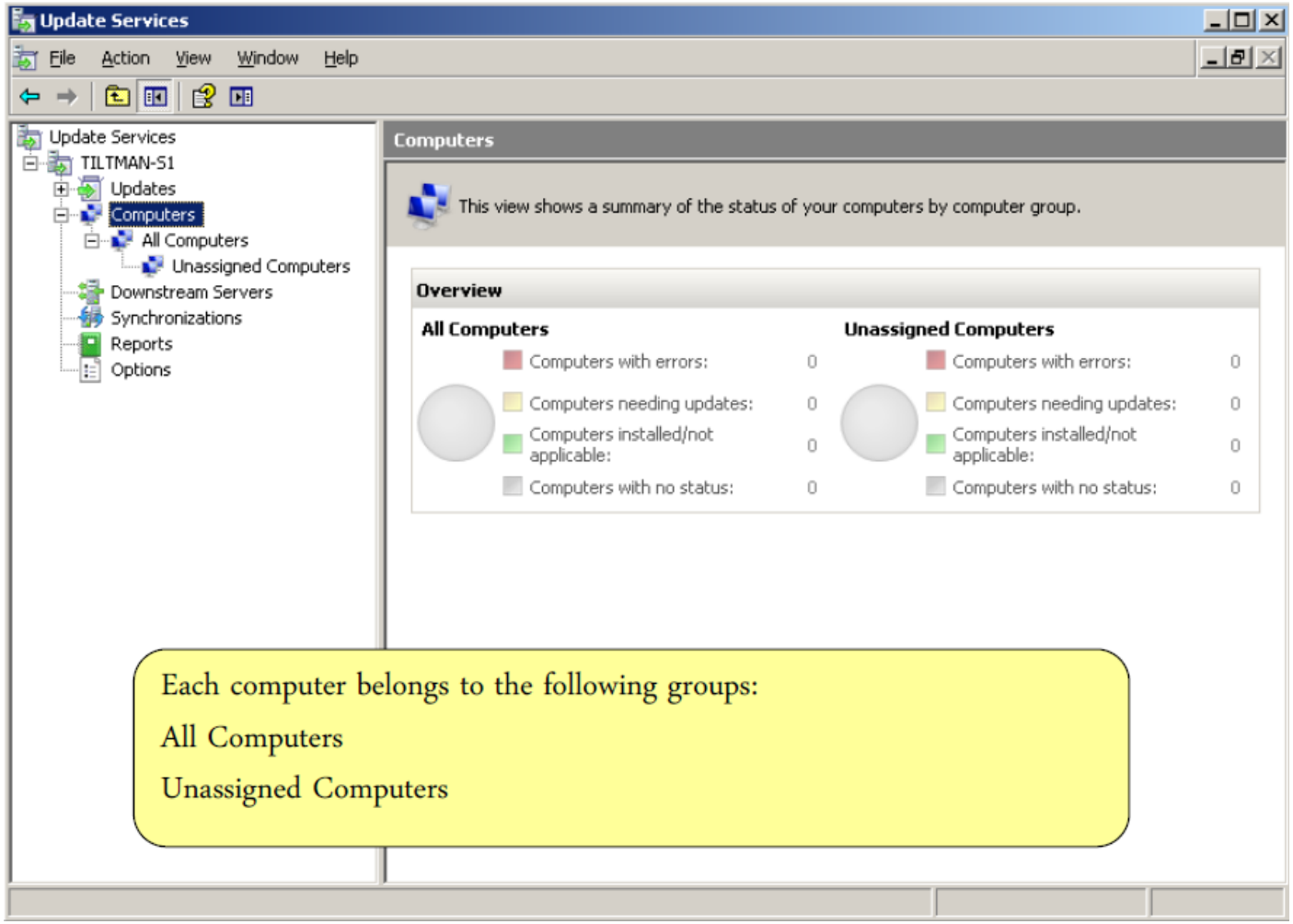


Computer Groups

- Top level group is All Computers Group
- Test and Accounting Groups are nested within the All Computers Group
  - Target computers based on group membership



Default Computer Groups



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WSUS

- Automatic Approvals
  - You can specify how to automatically approve the installation of updates for selected groups
- Configuring a Client Group Policy Object
  - Start Group Policy Management Console
  - Load the WSUS Administrative Template
  - Direct client to WSUS server
  - Configure Automatic Updates behavior
  - Set contact frequency
- WSUS Reporting
  - Reports on the status of your environment

Windows Security Architecture

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Security Principal

- In Windows a Subject is referred to as a Security Principal
- Security Principals include
  - Users
  - Groups
  - Computers
  - Processes
  - User Mode Applications
- A security principal is anything that can be assigned a security identifier (SID)

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Securable Objects

- Windows has many Securable Objects (Objects)
- These include
  - Files & Directories
  - Registry Keys
  - File Shares
  - Active Directory Objects
  - Services
  - Processes & threads
- Securable Objects are things Security Principals will try to access

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Windows Concepts

- Windows uses the terms rights, privileges and permissions (Access Controls)
- These terms are often used interchangeably and in the wrong context
  - Often in Window's own documentation
- Rights, privileges and permissions control how security principals can access securable objects

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Rights, Privileges, Permissions

- Both **Rights** and **Privileges** are applied to security principals
  - Logon Right controls how a security principal can log onto a system (local, network, etc.)
  - A Privilege is a user right that specifies actions a security principal can perform once they are on a system (shut down system, change system time, etc.)
- **Permissions** are assigned to securable objects and control what actions security principals can perform on them
  - NTFS permissions are applied to files and folders

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Permissions

- Permissions allow or restrict a security principal's access to a securable object
  - Included in ACL for the object and will vary based on the type of object
  - NTFS file system has permissions to access folders and files
  - Active Directory objects have additional permissions that can be set based on the specific resource

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Privileges

- A privilege is the ability a Security Principal has to make changes to the system configuration
  - Change system time
  - Load device drivers
  - Force remote shutdown
- Complete list of Privileges in Administrative Tools – Local Security Policy – Local Policy – User Rights Assignment
  - WinXP has 38 rights & privileges
  - Windows 7 has 44 rights & privileges

User Mode & Kernel Mode

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User Mode & Kernel Mode

- Windows operating system architecture separates the user from the kernel
  - Two modes: User Mode & Kernel Mode
- Each mode has a security responsibility as well as general duties
- User Mode processes pass user requests to the kernel, and through the kernel, to the hardware
- Kernel Mode processes interact directly with the system hardware and memory and contain several subsystems

User Mode Security

User Mode Security

- User Mode layer contains a number of Integral Subsystems that manage OS functions for the user
  - Manage the opening and closing of process threads
  - Manage virtual memory usage
  - Manage input output devices
    - Drives, printers, serial & parallel ports
- User Mode Applications use Application Program Interfaces (APIs) and Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs) to allow programs run by the user to access the Kernel resources

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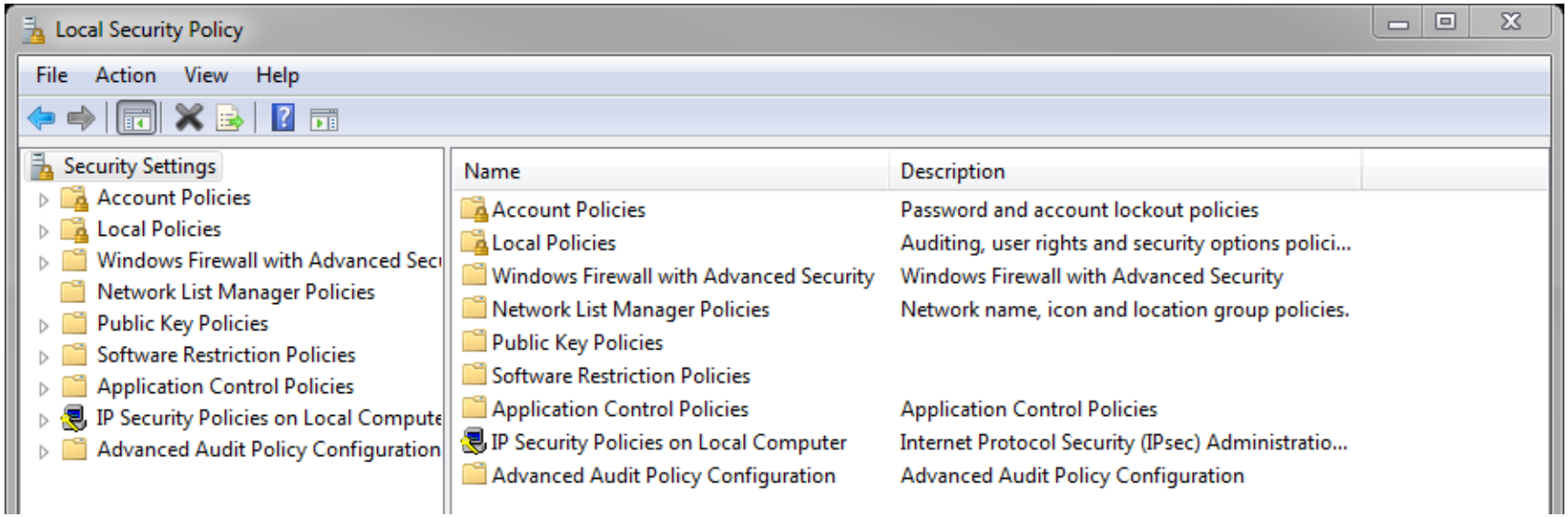
User Mode Security

- User Mode manages security functions through the Local Security Authority (LSA) subsystem
- The LSA is responsible for
  - Password Policy
  - Account Lockout Policy
  - Audit Policy
  - User Rights (and privileges) Assignment
  - Security Options

Local Security Authority

- The LSA configuration is managed through the Local Security Settings
- Control Panel – Administrative Tools – Local Security Policy



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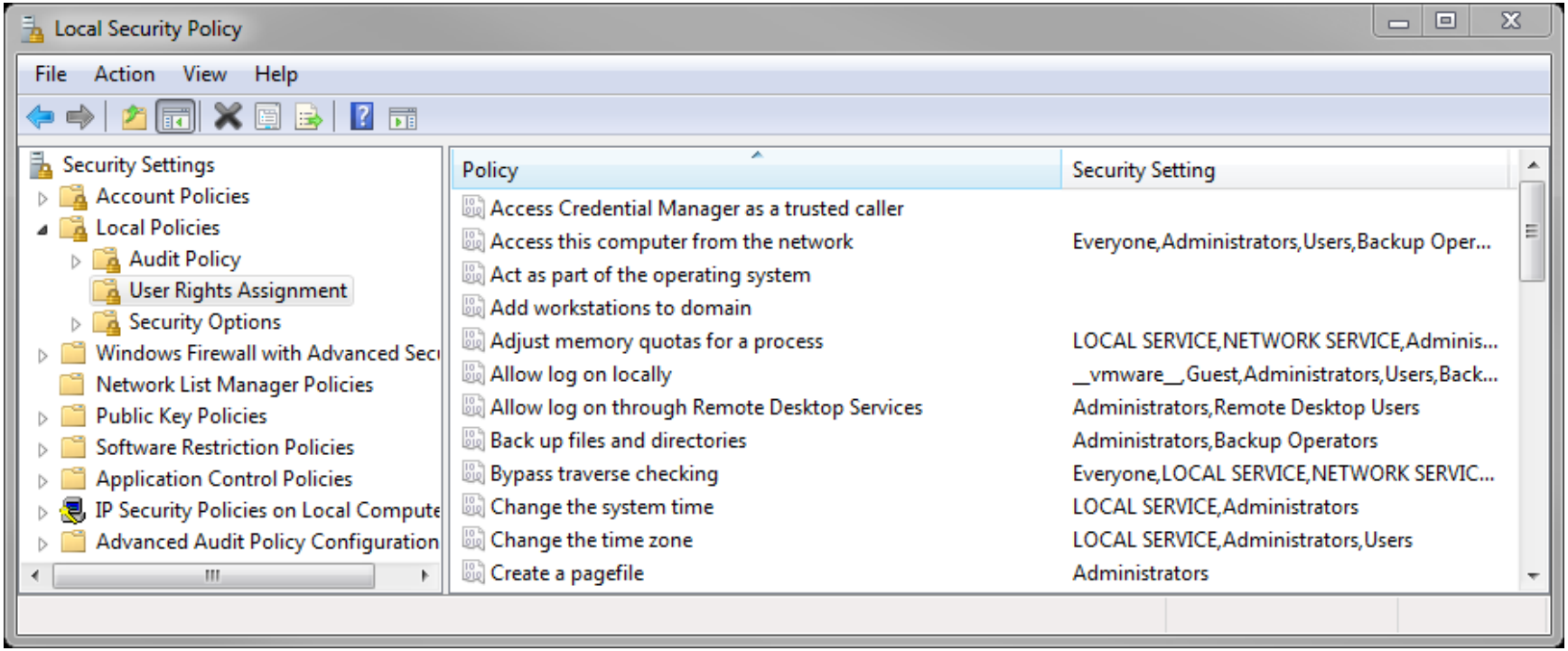
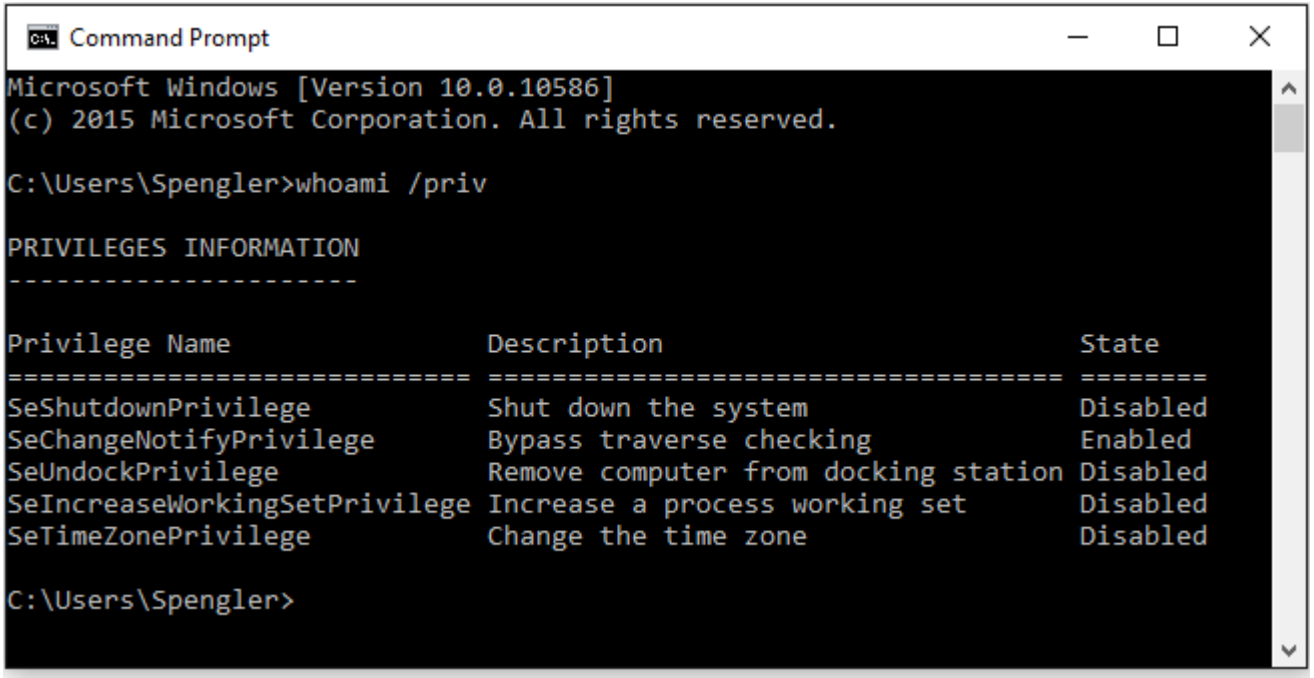
Rights & Privileges

- User Rights Assignment (43 items in Win7)
  - Allow log on locally, change system time, etc.



Windows Privileges

- The whoami command with the proper option can display the user privileges
  - Example from Windows 10:



Windows Privileges

- Privileges need to be managed with care
- Change system time
  - Would affect backups and Kerberos tickets
- Act as part of operating system
  - Runs any code as the most trusted system account

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Windows Login

- When logging on from the console the LSA takes the entered password for a user account and transforms the password into the cryptographic form stored in the Security Account Manager (SAM) database
- WinLogon Processes Used
  - MSGINA.dll – Graphical Identification and Authentication (XP)
  - Credential Providers – Vista and Above

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Security Account Manager (SAM)

- The SAM is the database that stores the user account name and password credentials
  - SAM database is a binary file where the password hash is stored
  - File name SAM
  - C:\windows\system32\config\SAM
- Backup of SAM stored in
  - C:\windows\repair in XP
  - C:\Windows\System32\config\RegBack in Win7
- Tools such as pwdump are required to translate into human readable form

SAM

- The password for WinXP & Win2003 server could be stored as an LM hash, an NTLM hash or both
- For backward compatibility LM hashes can still be enabled in Windows Server 2008
- If the hash calculated by the LSA when the user logs in matches the hash stored in the SAM then the user is authenticated

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SAM

- Security Account Manager (SAM)
  - Contains the account name, RID and hash
    - artmack:1011:FC525C9863E8FE067095BA2DDC971889
- The long string of numbers above is the NTLM MD4 hash of the password (128 bit) translated to Hexadecimal numbers for display

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SAM

- Output of SAM from pwdump2 utility
- Shows account name, RID and hash values
  - The first group of 32 characters is the LM hash the 2nd group is the NTLM hash

```
C:\New Folder>type winxppwd
Administrator:500:4efc971e2c6a11f0c2265b23734e0dac:0e52d85883b93d497ca4dd32e4ba6
a33:::
Guest:501:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
HelpAssistant:1000:8bac7889142ea30b6eff30856d4db88a:c7ed17b64057bbc1ca9ce227561e
422e:::
Student:1003:e52cac67419a9a224a3b108f3fa6cb6d:8846f7eaee8fb117ad06bdd830b7586c::
:
SUPPORT_388945a0:1002:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:84225f937f57eea07d3159dec
de3643a:::
```

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Hashing Algorithms

- A hash algorithm will take an input of any length and always produce an output character string of the same length
  - MD5 hash algorithm – 128 bit output
  - SHA1 hash algorithm – 160 bit output
  - SHA2-512 hash algorithm – 512 bit output
- Hash algorithms are considered a one way function
  - The original input can not be recalculated from the output

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LM, NTLM & NTLMv2

- There have been three versions of LM
- Both LM and NTLM are basically broken and shouldn't really be used
- NTLMv2 is used for local authentication on current systems
- When you get into an AD environment you will be using Kerberos

Kernel Mode Security

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Kernel Mode Security

- The Kernel Mode layer contains the Kernel Executive subsystems
- These include
  - Object Manager
  - Memory manager
  - Process Manager
  - I/O Manager
  - Power Manager
- Security is handled by
  - Security Reference Monitor

Security Reference Monitor

- Security Reference Monitor
  - Responsible for access control for objects
  - Checks the permissions assigned to objects prior to granting users, groups or programs access
  - Audits and logs events associated with changes to objects

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Windows ACLs

- Windows supports 2 forms of ACLs in addition to Role Based Access Control
  - Discretionary ACL, System ACL and Role Based AC
- Discretionary ACLs are under the control of the user or administrator
  - DACLs determine access to the object
- System ACLs are controlled by the operating system and cannot be changed by the user
  - Amongst other things, SACLs determine which access attempts get audited

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Windows Security Descriptor

- Most Securable Objects are assigned a Security Descriptor
- The Security Descriptor (SD) for an object contains the owner name (SID), group name (SID) SACL and DACL
- The SACL and DACL will contain lists of individual Access Control Entries (ACE)

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Access Control Entries

- Access Control Entries contain
  - SID of the user to be denied or allowed access
  - Access Mask which contains the permissions
    - Read, write, create, delete, modify, etc.
- Access Mask are object type specific
  - File and directories have masks for NTFS permissions
  - Masks for registry objects and services have different permissions

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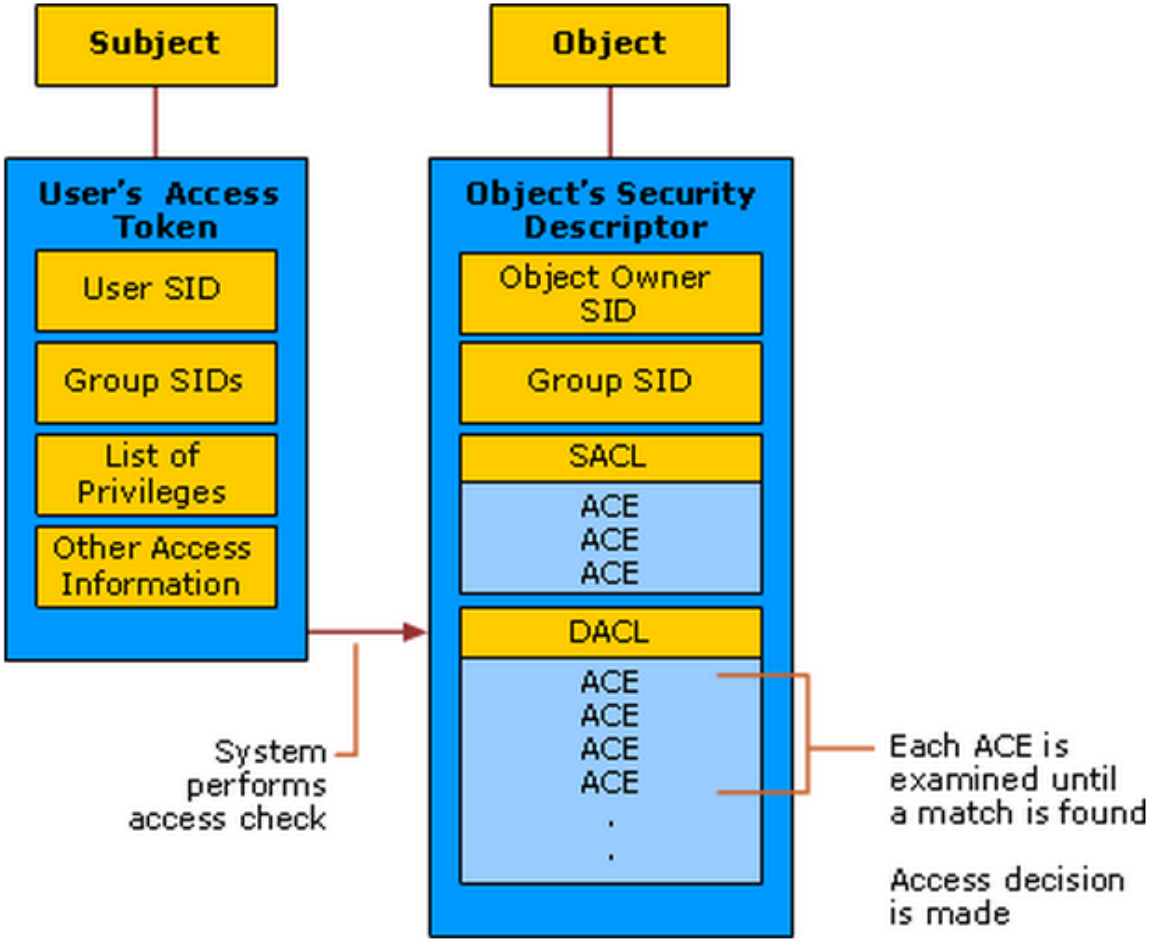
Access Control Entries

- Access Control Entry order is important
- An ACE created by the GUI will always place a Deny ACE at top of list before the Allow ACEs
  - Deny ACE will be processed first if it is at top of list
- System will stop processing when the first match is made

Security Tokens

- When a user logs on to a system a Security Token is created for that user
- The Security Token contains
  - User SID
  - All Group memberships
    - SID of all groups User is a member of
  - List of assigned privileges
- The Security Token is always checked against the ACLs on an object when access by the user is requested
  - Checked against the Security Descriptor

Subjects & Objects



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Windows DACLs

- Windows systems implement discretionary access controls to system resources such as files, shared memory, and named pipes
- The access control list has a number of entries that may grant or deny access rights to a specific SID, which may be for an individual user or for some group of users

Windows DACLs

- Windows Vista and later systems also include mandatory integrity controls
- These label all objects, such as processes and files, and all users, as being of low, medium, high, or system integrity level
- Then whenever data is written to an object, the system first ensures that the subject's integrity is equal or higher than the object's level

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Windows DACLs

- Access Control is checked by comparing SIDs in the Security Token to SIDs in the individual ACEs in the following order
- If the SID privilege is DENY, access is not granted
- Next, look for match to an Allow ACE
- If no match is found the access is denied

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Creator / Owner

- In past versions of Windows the Object creator/owner always had full control of the object created
  - Had ability to change the DACL for an object
- Since Vista & Win2008 server there is a new access control OWNER/RIGHTS
  - Allows administrators to remove the owners ability to change permissions on an object

SID Management

- Users and groups in Windows systems are defined with a Security ID (SID)
- This information may be stored and used locally, on a single system, in the Security Account Manager (SAM)
- It may also be centrally managed for a group of systems belonging to a domain, with the information supplied by a central Active Directory (AD) system using the LDAP protocol

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SIDs & RIDs

- Each user is assigned a Security Identifier (SID)
  - Long complex number that includes information on the version of the operating system, computer and the user
  - S-1-5-21-57989841-1336601894-682003330-500
- RID
  - Relative Identifier is assigned to a user

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Security Identifier

S-1-5-21-57989841-1336601894-682003330-500

- S simply means SID
- 1 is SID version number
  - Currently version 1
- 5 denotes the identifier authority value
  - Currently NT AUTHORITY
- 21 means not unique
  - But always unique within a domain

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Security Identifier

S-1-5-21-57989841-1336601894-682003330-500

- 57989841-1336601894-682003330
  - Unique number to identify this computer and domain
- 500 RID which, in this case, identifies the user as the system administrator

- wmic useraccount get name,sid

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Security Identifier

- Well Known RIDs
  - 500 - Administrator
  - 501 - Guest
  - 1000 & up for users created
- When a user is created it is assigned a SID
- If the user is deleted and created again with the same name it will have a different SID
  - This is because RID values are never repeated and the 2nd creation with the same name will get a different RID
  - Windows uses the SID to identify the user account the name is just a label
- The same user name on 2 different computers will produce 2 different SIDs

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Security Identifier

- Well known SIDs for built-in users and groups are standardized and are shorter
- S-1-1-0
  - SID for Everyone group
- S-1-5-2
  - SID for Network Logon
- S-1-5-4
  - SID for Local or Remote Desktop logon
- S-1-5-13
  - SID for Terminal Services logon

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Security Identifier

- More well known SIDs for built-in users and groups
- S-1-5-7
  - SID for Anonymous logon
- S-1-5-11
  - SID for Authenticated User group
- S-1-5-32
  - SID for built-in user & groups
- S-1-5-32-544
  - The built-in Administrators group

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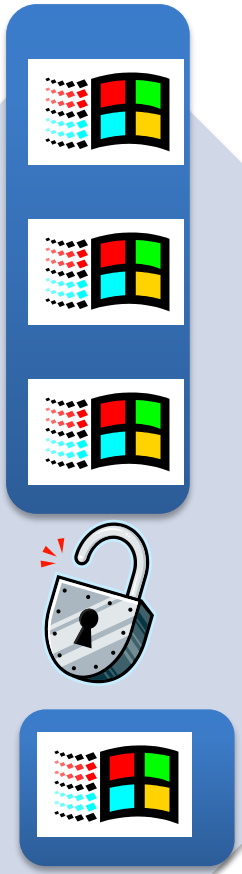
Security Identifier

- Reminder: If a user is deleted and then created again with the same name, password and permissions it will receive a new RID
  - A user RID is never reused
- For more details on SID follow the links below to Microsoft and Wikipedia web sites
  - http://support.microsoft.com/kb/243330
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_Identifier

Windows Security

Patch management

- "Windows Update" and "Windows Server Update Service" assist with regular maintenance and should be used
- Third party applications also provide automatic update support



Users administration and access controls

- Systems implement discretionary access controls resources
- Vista and later systems include mandatory integrity controls
- Objects are labeled as being of low, medium, high, or system integrity level
- System ensures the subject's integrity is equal or higher than the object's level

Windows Default Accounts

- 2 default user accounts are created on installation
  - Administrator & Guest
- Since Windows Vista, the Guest and Administrator accounts are disabled by default
- The 2 accounts are stored in local SAM

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Default Groups

- A user will be assigned to a number of groups automatically
- These group SIDs will be listed in the Security Token
  - Administrators group
  - Users group
  - Everyone group
  - Authenticated User

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Groups

- On the local computer there are 2 types of groups
  - Built-in & Local
  - The Administrators & Users Groups are examples of built-in groups
  - Local groups are created on the local computer by the administrator
- Active Directory defines many types of groups
  - Win 2008 server has 26 abstract concept groups

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Groups

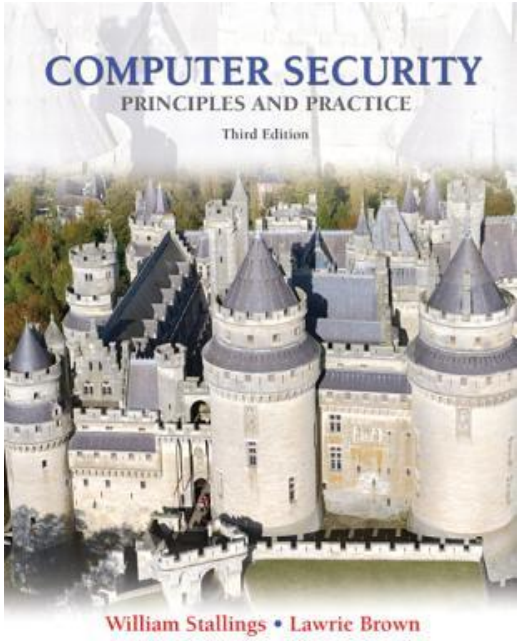
- Everyone Group
  - Automatically includes almost all users accessing the computer including the Guest user
    - Does not include the anonymous user
- Authenticated Users
  - Automatically includes all users accessing the computer with a password
    - Does not include the guest user
    - Does not include the anonymous user

Groups

- There are also groups that indicate how a user logged on to the computer
- Interactive group
  - Contains users that logon to the local system
- Network group
  - All users that logged on across the network

Homework

- Read Chapter 12
- Sections
  - 12.4 – Application Security
  - 12.5 – Security Maintenance
  - 12.7 – Windows Security
- Chapter 4
- Chapter 3
  - 3.1, 3.2



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Lab 03 – Domain Prep WSUS GPO

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Lab 03 Details

- Server 2008 R2 setup
- Promote to Domain Controller
- Join W7 client to domain
- Create WSUS Group Policy Object
- Create GPO Report