Assessment 3

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Reflection on Progress

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Reflection on progress

The strategy for this prototype is to mimic a live network environment with servers and workstations in order to test the 2 step authentication process in a live virtual environment. 2 servers running windows server 2022 software and 5 workstations running windows 11 will be setup in a virtual lab for this testing. The lab environment mimicked the live network that will be used in the implementation of this new solution and new users were added to relevant Active Directory Services groups to mimic the live environment.

This 2 step authentication solution using a dongle to generate a pin number adds to the complexity of the login process to add a more secure layer of protection along with passwords for access to company data. The dongle is something that you carry with you and generates a pin as needed. Typical 2nd step authenticators send a pin via sms to your mobile phone to complete the login process. Most government and military offices and installations prohibit the use of mobile phones inside the buildings and the sms option is not a viable option for these users.

The overall scope of the project did not change dramatically because of the curveball accessibility requirements. Microsoft Windows login screens already include accessibility options for disability users. We only needed to include and implement the curveball requirements into our training sessions explaining to users what the available options are and incorporate training for those particular users.

The prototype did not require many changes from start to finish given the ease of use and implementation process is very common in the IT corporate world of networks. The login process has been around since the first network systems were designed and implemented by Microsoft, Apple and others. The curve ball thrown to us included accessibility options to be included. We only needed to slightly modify our testing procedures to incorporate these accessibility options for users with disability issues.

The project already includes accessibility options in the Windows login screen to give disability users access to the Magnifier, On Screen Keyboard and voice options available for the login process.

This process has taught me that project management is a very intense process that includes a lot of documentation. Project management has taught me the process of initiating a project involves deciding on a plan based on a particular client’s needs and then defining and planning by creating a charter scope and a budget. Once this has been determined the execution can begin with creating a prototype that will include testing and quality assurance. Monitoring and controlling the project and closing to round up the process.

Final testing using the actual dongle could not be completed because a dongle was not provided/sourced for the final phase of testing.

Overall there is no reason to believe this solution will not work given the current existing solutions in the marketplace and their ease of use, namely Microsoft Authenticator and Google Authenticator using sms messages to send pin numbers to users mobile phones. Current software solutions provided by third party vendors also have a proven track record supplying 2 step authentication methods for the login and cloud security options mainly using sms to mobile phones. DUO, Prove and HID are three companies from a long list of companies offering Multi Authentication method’s as a third party solution to businesses for the login and security of intellectual property and data. This project implements a pin generated dongle for users to use by companies that prohibit the use on mobile phones in the workplace.