

# **Global Information Assurance Certification Paper**

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# **GIAC Certified Windows NT Security Analyst**

# **Practical Assignment for**

SANS Network Security 2000 at

Monterey, California

# submitted by Michael Hom on

November 22, 2000

### Introduction

This SANS Practical Assignment is designed to meet the requirements of the SANS Certified GIAN NT/2000 Security Analyst. In this assignment, methods to audit a Windows NT 4.0 Domain Controller are developed. Note that this audit is not comprehensive although some of the more important topics are covered.

The steps outlined were meant to allow a system in production to be audited with minimal intrusion. Third party tools were not used. The GUI interface was used as much as possible thus more steps might be taken to audit a particular item.

Auditor's remarks were italicized and colored blue

## **Service Pack Version**

**Background:** Security and functional patches are bundled into Service Packs to provide convenient updates to Windows NT 4.0. "Service packs are the means by which Windows NT product updates are distributed. Service packs keep the product current, and extend and update your computer's functionality. Service packs include updates, system administration tools, drivers, and additional components. All are conveniently bundled for easy downloading. Service packs are cumulative -- each new service pack contains all the fixes in previous service packs, as well as any new fixes." (Microsoft KB Q152734)

**Risk:** Exposure to widely known security and functional vulnerabilities, such as Denial of Service attacks, are left unfixed, if the current service pack is not installed.

**Policy:** Once a new service pack is released, test in a non-production environment for a minimum of two months. If the Service Pack is stable and compatible with OS and applications, then deploy. Current policy is to deploy Service Pack 6a with strong (128-bit) encryption. In addition, no post-SP6a hotfixes are mandated.

File (40/56-bit version)	Directory	Description
Ndiswan.sys	%systemdirectory%\drivers	MS WAN Wrapper Network Driver (Export Version)
Ntlmssps.dll	%systemdirectory%	NtLm Security Support Provider Service DLL (ExportVersion)
(Rsaenh.dll) doesn't exist		doesn't exist
Schannel.dll	%systemdirectory%	TLS / SSL Security Provider (Export Version)
Security.dll	%systemdirectory%	NtLm Security Support Provider Client DLL (ExportVersion)
File (128-bit version)	Directory	Description
Ndiswan.sys	%systemdirectory%\drivers	MS WAN Wrapper Network Driver (Domestic Use Only)
Ntlmssps.dll	%systemdirectory%	NtLm Security Support Provider Service DLL (DomesticUse Only)
Rsaenh.dll	%systemdirectory%	Microsoft Enhanced Cryptographic Provider (US/CanadaOnly, Not for Export)
Schannel.dll	%systemdirectory%	TLS / SSL Security Provider (US and Canada Use Only)
Security.dll	%systemdirectory%	NtLm Security Support Provider Client DLL (DomesticUse Only)

Table 1: File description of 40/56-bit and 128-bit Service Pack files.

- 1. From the Windows NT desktop, click Start, and then click Run.
- 2. Type "winver" in the Open box and click OK.
- 3. An About box appears, which lists the service pack version.

654,752 K

Figure 1: About box reveals Service Pack version 6a installed.

Steps to verify the installation of the strong (128-bit) encryption version of the Service Pack:

- 4. Click Start, point to Find, and then click Files Or Folders.
- 5. In the Named box, type "schannel.dll", and then click Find Now.
- 6. In the list of files, right-click the Schannel.dll file, and then click Properties.
- 7. Click the Version tab. Compare Description to table above.
- 8. Check with System Administrator if procedures are established to reinstall the Service Pack if system configuration changes.

Schannel.dll Pro	operties			? ×
General Versio	on Security			
File version:	5.00.1877.6			
Description:	TLS / SSL Sec	urity Prov	rider (US and Cana	ada Use
Copyright:	Copyright (C) M	icrosoft (	Corp. 1981-1998	
- Other version	n information			
Item name: Company Internal Na Language Original Fil Product Na Product Ve	ume ename ame	Value:	oft Corporation	*
	ОК		Cancel	Арріу

Figure 2: Properties window for Schannel.dll shows description of strong encryption.

Validation	Policy	<i>"ACME"</i>	Comment
Service Pack version	SP 6a	SP 6a	pass
128-bit version of Service Pack	128-bit	128-bit version	pass

In additon to the work done by Clyde D'Souza, the 128-bit version of the Service Pack was checked.

*System "ACME" has met policy requirements. System Administrator stated that procedures exist to reinstall Service Pack if system configuration changes.* 

**Note:** The steps above will also determine if you are running the 128-bit version of Internet Explorer. (Microsoft KB Q164539)

# **Account Policy**

**Background:** Within User Manager, account requirements can be set and enforced for all accounts within a domain. In addition, password length can be set, but no options within User Manager are available to set password complexity.

**Risk:** Without a strong account policy implemented in User Manager, vulnerabilities in user accounts as well as administrator accounts can provide opportunity for unauthorized access.

#### Policy: Account Policy is stated below.

Account Parameters	Policy
Maximum Password Age	90 days
Minimum Password Age	1 day
Minimum Password Length	8 characters
Password Uniqueness History	8 passwords
Account Lockout Count	5
Lockout Duration	240 minutes
Reset Account Lockout Count After	15 minutes
Forcibly Disconnect Remote User from Server when Logon Hours Expire	enable
Users Must Logon to Change Password	disable

Table 2: Account Policy

- 1. Go to Start -> Programs -> Administrative Tools -> User Manager.
- 2. Within User Manager, go to Policies -> Account.
- 3. Compare the Account Policy settings with the stated policy.

Password Restrictions		Cano
Maximum Password Age	Minimum Password Age	
C Password <u>N</u> ever Expires	C Allow Changes Immediately	<u>H</u> el
Expires In     90 ▲ Days	Allow Changes In     2 ▲ Days	
Minimum Password Length	Password Uniqueness	
C Permit Blank Password	C Do Not Keep Password History	
	Remember     6     Passwords	
C No account lockout		
Account lockout		
Account lockout	on attempts	
Account lockout	on attempts minutes	
	1	
_ ● Account lockout Lockout after 5 ★ bad log Reset count after 720 ★	1	

Figure 3: Account Policy for a domain.

Account Parameters	Policy	ACME	Comment
Maximum Password Age	90 days	90 days	pass
Minimum Password Age	1 day	2 days	exceeded
Minimum Password Length	8 characters	8 characters	pass
Password Uniqueness History	8 passwords	6 passwords	didn't pass
Account Lockout Count	5	5	pass
Lockout Duration	240 minutes	720 minutes	exceeded
Reset Account Lockout Count After	15 minutes	720 minutes	exceeded
Forcibly Disconnect Remote User when Expired	enable	enabled	pass
Users Must Logon to Change Password	disable	disabled	pass

Acme server exceeded policy requirements in Minimum Password Age, Lockout Duration, and Reset Account Lockout Count After. Acme did not pass on the parameter Password Uniqueness History. Noted to the System Administrator to change the setting for Password Uniqueness History from 6 to 8.

### **Password Policy**

**Background:** Account Policy within User Manager can enforce minimum password length but not password complexity. PASSFILT can enforce increased password complexity by requiring categories of characters, such as uppercase, lowercase, number, or non-alphanumeric, as part of the password policy.

**Risk:** User password policy must be strong to protect against "password guessing" and "dictionary attacks". Otherwise, user accounts as well as administrator accounts are vulnerable to password cracking tools.

**Policy:** Use the PASSFILT functionality. The passwords must be at least six (6) characters long and must contain characters from at least three (3) of the following four (4) classes:

Examples
A, B, C, Z
a, b, c, z
0, 1, 2, 9
such as punctuation symbols

Table 3: PASSFILT Password Policy.

In addition, passwords may not contain your user name or any part of your full name.

- 1. Click Start, click Run.
- 2. Start Registry, by typing "regedt32" and pressing enter.
- 3. Locate and click the following key in the Registry:
  - HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa.
- 4. Click on key "Notification Packages" and note value that includes "PASSFILT".

Registry Edit Tree View Security Options Window Help       Image: Security Options Window Help         HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE       auditbaseobjects : REG_DWORD : 0         HARDWARE       Authentication Packages : REG_MULTI_SZ : msv1_0         Bounds : REG_BINARY : 00 30 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 control sectors       Bounds : REG_BINARY : 00 30 00 00 00 00 00 00 control sectors         SOFTWARE       FullPrivilegeAuditing : REG_BINARY : 01       Imcompatibilitylevel : REG_DWORD : 0         SYSTEM       Notification Packages : REG_MULTI_SZ : FPNWCLNT PASSFILT         ControlSet001       restrictanonymous : REG_DWORD : 0x1         SecureBoot : REG_DWORD : 0x1       SecureBoot : REG_DWORD : 0x1         SecureBoot : REG_DWORD : 0x1       SecureBoot : REG_DWORD : 0x1
Image: Hardware interview
- □ Control       - □ BootVerificationProgram         - □ Class         - □ CrashControl         - □ GroupOrderList         - □ IDConfigDB         - □ Keyboard Layout         - □ Keyboard Layouts         - □ MediaProperties

Figure 4: Confirming PASSFILT Policy Filter within the Registry.

- 5. Go to Start -> Find -> Files or Folders.
- 6. Type "passfilt.dll" and press "Find Now".
- 7. Right click on "passfilt.dll" and select Properties.
- 8. Note that "passfilt.dll" is in the %systemdirectory% folder.

C	Passfilt.dll Propertie	S	? ×
	General Version S	Security	
	Passi	filt.dll	
	Туре:	Application Extension	
	Location:	C:\WINNT\system32	
	Size:	7.76KB (7,952 bytes)	
	Compressed Size:	File is not compressed	
	MS-DOS name:	PASSFILT.DLL	
	Created:	Thursday, November 18, 1999 11:04:00 AM	
	Modified:	Thursday, November 18, 1999 11:04:00 AM	
	Accessed:	Tuesday, November 14, 2000 2:11:29 PM	
	Attributes:	□ Read-only □ Hidden	_
		✓ Archive	
		Compressed	
		OK Cancel App	dy

Figure 5: Properties of Passfilt.dll that show its location at c:\winnt\system32.

*First, the value "PASSFILT" was present in the key HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\ CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Notification Packages. And, the file passfilt.dll resides in c:\winnt\system32. The PASSFILT configuration on "ACME" meets policy requirements.* 

# **Audit Policy**

**Background:** Windows NT 4.0 includes built-in auditing for system and user security events. Auditing enables administrators to track security events such as resource access, logon attempts, policy changes and shutdowns or restarts of a system.

**Risk:** With auditing, security events can be logged for security analysis. Auditing logs provides administrators the capability to routinely analyze unauthorized activity on Windows NT 4.0.

**Policy:** The auditing policy is stated below.

Security Events	Policy	
Logon and Logoff	Success and Failure	
File and Object Access	Failure	
Use of User Rights	Failure	
User and Group Management	Not Configured	
Security Policy Changes	Success and failure	
Restart, Shutdown, and System	Success and failure	
Process Tracking	Not Configured	

Table 4: Audit Policy

In addition, within the registry, setup auditing for backup and restore privileges.

- 1. Go to Start -> Programs -> Administrative Tools -> User Manager.
- 2. On User Manager's Policies Menu, click Audit.
- 3. Note Audit Policy for Domain.

Domain: DOMAIN			OK
C Do Not Audit			Cance
Audit These Events			
- inner in the second sec	Success	Failure	<u>H</u> elp
Logon and Logoff	<b>v</b>	N	
Eile and Object Access		N	
Use of User Rights		N	
User and <u>G</u> roup Management	•	N	
Security Policy Changes	•	N	
Restart, Shutdown, and System	•	N	
Process Tracking	Г		

Figure 6: Audit Policy on ACME.

Security Events	Policy	Validation	Comment
Logon and Logoff	Success and Failure	Success and Failure	pass
File and Object Access	Failure	Failure	pass
Use of User Rights	Failure	Failure	pass
User and Group Management	Not Configured	Success and Failure	exceeded policy
Security Policy Changes	Success and failure	Success and Failure	pass
Restart, Shutdown, and System	Success and failure	Success and Failure	pass
Process Tracking	Not Configured	Not Configured	pass

4. Check key HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\ FullPrivilegeAuditing for a value of 0x01. This enables auditing of backup and restore privileges.



Figure 7: Registry setting to allow auditing of backup and restore privileges.

In addition to the work done by Clyde D'Souza, auditing of backup & restore privileges were enabled.

Auditing requirements in User Manager is either meet or exceeded. In addition, backup and restore privileges are also audited.

### **Event Log**

**Background:** The system, security, and application events are stored in logs that are available for analysis. Event logs contains the audit entries that may record unauthorized activity on a system.

Risk: Erasure of the event logs is a risk since intruders may attempt to delete any recorded unauthorized activities.

#### **Policy:**

Settings for Event Logs	System, Security, Application Logs
maximum log size for all logs	6144KB
event log wrapping for all logs	retain all logs for 15 days
Registry Setting	
restrict guest access to all logs (RestrictGuestAccess)	enabled (value 1)
ACL	
permissions on EVT files in %systemdirectory% folder	administrators & system have full control
Table 5: Event Le	a Deliev

Table 5: Event Log Policy

- 1. Go to Start -> Programs -> Administrative Tools -> Event Viewer.
- 2. Click on the Log menu and select Log Settings.
- 3. Note settings for System, Security, and Application Logs.

vent Log Settings	
Change Settings for System ▼ Log	ОК
	Cancel
Maximum Log Size: 6144 🚔 Kilobytes (64K Increments)	De <u>f</u> ault
Event Log Wrapping	Help
Overwrite Events as <u>N</u> eeded	-
C Overwrite Events <u>O</u> lder than  ■ Days	
C Do Not Overwrite Events (Clear Log Manually)	

Figure 8: System Event Log Policy for ACME

Settings for Event Logs	Policy	System	<b>Security</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Comments</b>
maximum log size	6144KB	<i>6144KB</i>	6144KB	<i>6144KB</i>	pass
event log wrapping	retain all logs	overwrite	overwrite	overwrite as	didn't pass
	for 15 days	as needed	as needed	needed	

- 4. Click Start, click Run.
- 5. Start Registry, by typing "regedt32" and pressing enter.
- 6. Locate and click the following key in the Registry: HKEY LOCAL MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\EventLog\[LogName]. 7. Click on key "RestrictGuestAccess" and note the value. A value of 1 will restrict guest
- access to the logs. 8. Go to Start -> Find -> Files or Folders.
- 9. Type "\*.evt" and press "Find Now". These file should be in %systemdirectory%\config.

- 10. Right click on appevent.evt, secevent.evt, & sysevent.evt, and select Properties for each.
- 11. Click the security tab and note what the file permissions are for each log file. Only administrators and system should have full access.

Registry Editor - [HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE on Local Machi	ne] _OX
\overline Registry Edit Tree View Security Options Window H	telp _BX
- Image: Dell_DGX     MaxSize : REG_DWOR       - Image: Dell_DGX     RestrictGuestAccess : F       - Image: Dell_DGX     Retention : REG_DWOR	REG_DWORD:0x1
Fd7000ex	ОК
– ☐ flashpnt – ⊕ Floppy	Cancel
-	Help
– 🔁 i8042prt C Binary C Decimal . ☉ He₂ – 🔁 inetaccs	£
– 🔁 Inport	
– 🔁 intlfxsr 🛛 🔽 📕 ◀	×

Figure 9: On ACME, RestrictGuestAccess value is 1.

Allow Administrators (DOMAIN\Adm Allow Server Operators (DOMAIN\S Allow SYSTEM		
Add Remove		) stop
heriting permissions, clear the checkbox b oject where it is defined. This permission is	elow. You can edit the permission only at th	e parent

Figure 10: On ACME, File Permissions on the System Event Log.

The registry key RestrictGuestAccess is set to 1. This is disables guest access to log files. In addition, the file permissions on the event log files do not meet the policy requirements. The system administrator will have to disable inheritance and only allow administrators & system full control to sysevent.evt, secevent.evt, and appevent.evt. The settings for "event log wrapping" will also need to change to "overwrite events older than 15 days".

In addition to work done by George Stanton, additional permission restrictions were placed on the event log files.

# System Key

**Background:** Windows NT 4.0 user account and password information are contained in the Security Account Manager (SAM) database, in addition to the Emergency Repair Disk and backup tapes of the SAM. Tools, such as L0phtCrack and PWDUMP2, can extract usernames and password hashes for the purpose of password cracking. An additional layer of protection can be used by using a 128-bit cryptographic random key to encrypt the password information contained within the SAM. This feature has been incorporated into Service Pack 3 or later.

**Risk:** Known hacker tools can extract password information within the SAM for password cracking.

**Policy:** Enable SYSKEY encryption and store the Startup Key locally on each Domain Controller. The main goal to is prevent unauthorized users from extracting password information, yet not restricting unattended reboots. In addition install SYSKEY update from Microsoft's KB Q248183

- 1. Click Start, click Run.
- 2. Type "syskey" and press enter.
- 3. If the System Key is enabled, then the option "Encryption Disable" is grayed out and the option "Encryption Enabled" is permanently selected.

Securing the	e Windows NT Account Database	
5	This tool will allow you to configure the Accounts Database to enable additional encryption, further protecting the database from compromise.	
	Once enabled, this encryption cannot be disabled	÷
	C Encryption Disabled	
	Encryption <u>Enabled</u>	
	OK Cancel Update	

Figure11: System key is enabled on ACME.

- 4. To determine where the Startup Key is stored, continue on by pressing "Update" and view which option is selected.
- 5. The options "System Generated Password" and "Store Startup Key Locally" should be selected.
- 6. Advanced Options other than "Store Startup Key Locally" exceeds stated policy.

Password Sta	
Requires a p	assword to be entered during system start
Pass <u>w</u> ord;	
<u>C</u> onfirm:	
∛ <u>S</u> ystem Gene	rated Password
0.00	
	rtup Key on Floppy <u>D</u> isk s a floppy disk to be inserted during system
Require start.	
Require start. • Store Star Stores a	s a floppy disk to be inserted during system

Figure 11: SYSKEY is shown to be stored locally on ACME.

All policy requirements for SYSKEY have been met. The SYSKEY update was validated.

Update: From Microsoft's KB Q248183 - Syskey Tool Reuses Keystream

"A cryptographic error in the Syskey tool makes offline password attacks easier than previously believed. Syskey reuses keystream when encrypting certain elements in the Security Accounts Manager (SAM) database, making the tool vulnerable to an attack using a known cryptanalytic method. This vulnerability could allow offline password attacks to be mounted against a Syskey-protected SAM database."

Microsoft KB article Q248183, Syskey Utility Reuses Keystream is located at: http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q248/1/83.asp

The Microsoft Security Bulletin MS99-056 is located at: http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms99-056.asp

The Patch for MS99-056 is located at: http://www.microsoft.com/Downloads/Release.asp?ReleaseID=16798

Check the following:

Date	Time	Size	File name	Platform	Comment
12/06/1999	06:52p	155,408	Lsasrv.dll	x86	pass
12/06/1999	06:53p	174,352	Samsrv.dll	x86	pass

 Table 6: Updated SYSKEY file from Microsoft KB Q248183

In additon to the work done by George Stanton, the SYSKEY Q248183 was checked.

# NTLMv2 Authentication

**Background:** Starting with Service Pack 4 or later, the NTLMv2 feature was to improve authentication and session security mechanisms. "Recent improvements in computer hardware and software algorithms have made these protocols vulnerable to widely published attacks for obtaining user passwords. In its ongoing efforts to deliver more secure products to its customers, Microsoft has developed an enhancement, called NTLM version 2, that significantly improves both the authentication and session security mechanisms. NTLM 2 has been available for Windows NT 4.0 since Service Pack 4 (SP4) was released, and it is supported natively in Windows 2000. You can add NTLM 2 support to Windows 95 and Windows 98 by installing the Directory Services Client from the Windows 2000 CD-ROM." (Microsoft KB Q239869)

**Risk:** With tools like L0phtCrack, authentication sessions sending across password hashes could be sniffed off the network. Microsoft provided NTLMv2 to fix this security vulnerability.

**Policy:** A phased approach to NTLMv2 is currently taken. Use level 1 for year 2000/1 for backwards compatibility with existing Windows 95/98 workstations that do not have Directory Services Client installed. In addition, any new Windows 95/98 workstations will be configured with the Directory Services Client which will be compatible with NTLMv2.

Level 0Send LM and NTLM response; never use NTLM 2 session security. Clients use LM and NTLM authentication, and never use NTLM 2 session security; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 1Use NTLM 2 session security if negotiated. Clients use LM and NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 2Send NTLM response only. Clients use only NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 3Send NTLM response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 4Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication.	LMCompatibilityLevel values	Description of LMCompatibilityLevel value
LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 1Use NTLM 2 session security if negotiated. Clients use LM and NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 2Send NTLM response only. Clients use only NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 3Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 4Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication.	Level 0	Send LM and NTLM response; never use NTLM 2 session security. Clients use LM and
Level 1Use NTLM 2 session security if negotiated. Clients use LM and NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 2Send NTLM response only. Clients use only NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 3Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 4Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication.		NTLM authentication, and never use NTLM 2 session security; domain controllers accept
use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 2Send NTLM response only. Clients use only NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 3Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.Level 4Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).		LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.
and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 2         Send NTLM response only. Clients use only NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 3       Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 4       Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).	Level 1	Use NTLM 2 session security if negotiated. Clients use LM and NTLM authentication, and
Level 2       Send NTLM response only. Clients use only NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 3       Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 4       Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).		use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM,
security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 3       Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 4       Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).	4	and NTLM 2 authentication.
authentication.         Level 3         Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 4         Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).	Level 2	Send NTLM response only. Clients use only NTLM authentication, and use NTLM 2 session
Level 3       Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 4       Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).		security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2
security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2 authentication.         Level 4       Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).		authentication.
authentication.         Level 4         Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).	Level 3	Send NTLM 2 response only. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session
Level 4 Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).		security if the server supports it; domain controllers accept LM, NTLM, and NTLM 2
NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).		authentication.
authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).	Level 4	Domain controllers refuse LM responses. Clients use NTLM 2 authentication, and use
		NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain controllers refuse LM
		authentication (that is, they accept NTLM and NTLM 2).
Level 5 Domain controllers refuse LM and NTLM responses (accept only NTLM 2). Clients use	Level 5	Domain controllers refuse LM and NTLM responses (accept only NTLM 2). Clients use
NTLM 2 authentication, use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain		NTLM 2 authentication, use NTLM 2 session security if the server supports it; domain
controllers refuse NTLM and LM authentication (they accept only NTLM 2).		controllers refuse NTLM and LM authentication (they accept only NTLM 2).

Table 7: Registry Key LMCompatibility values and description from Microsoft KB Q239869

#### Validation:

1. Click Start, click Run.

- 2. Start Registry, by typing "regedt32" and pressing enter.
- 3. Locate and click the following key in the Registry: HKEY LOCAL MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa.
- 4. Click on key "Imcompatibilitylevel and note value.



Figure 12: Registry Key LMCompatibility shown to have a value of 1.

NTLMv2 configuration meets policy as shown by the key LMCompatibility's value of 1.

**FYI:** "The Directory Services Client is included on the Windows 2000 CD-ROM as Clients\Win9x\Dsclient.exe. When you run Dsclient.exe is run on a Windows 95/98 computer, the system files that provide NTLM 2 support are automatically installed as well. These files are Secur32.dll, Msnp32.dll, Vredir.vxd, and Vnetsup.vxd. If you uninstall Dsclient, the NTLM 2 system files are not removed because they provide both enhanced security functionality and security-related fixes. (Microsoft KB Q239869)

### **NetLogon Channel**

**Background:** NetLogon allows communication, like pass-through authentication and synchronization of user accounts, to occur within an Windows NT domain. Although information passed, such as computer account password, is encrypted, other data sent over the NetLogon channel lacks integrity checking. With Windows NT 4.0 Service Pack 4 or later, the NetLogon channel can be configured for encryption and digitally signature.

**Risk:** Unsecured NetLogon communication is vulnerable to packet sniffing and man-in-themiddle attacks.

Policy: Policy set for a secure NetLogon Channel is...

Key	Valid Range	Description
SignSecureChannel	0 (FALSE) or 1 (TRUE)	This parameter specifies that all outgoing secure channel traffic should be
-	Default: TRUE	signed. If SealSecureChannel is also TRUE, it will override any setting for
	Policy: TRUE	this parameter and force it to TRUE.
SealSecureChannel	0 (FALSE) or 1 (TRUE)	This parameter specifies that all outgoing secure channel traffic should be
	Default: TRUE	encrypted.
	Policy: TRUE	
RequireSignOrSeal	0 (FALSE) or 1 (TRUE)	This parameter specifies that all outgoing secure channel traffic must be either
	Default: FALSE	signed or sealed. Without this parameter, this is negotiated with the Domain
	Policy: FALSE	Controller. This flag should only be set if ALL of the domain controllers in
		ALL the trusted domains support signing and sealing. If this parameter is
		TRUE, SignSecureChannel is implied to be TRUE.

Table 8: Description of Secure NetLogon Channel Configuration.

#### Validation:

- 1. Click Start, click Run.
- 2. Start Registry, by typing "regedt32" and pressing enter.
- 3. Locate and click the following key in the Registry: HKEY LOCAL MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\NetLogon\Parameters.
- 4. Note values for keys SignSecureChannel, SealSecureChannel, and RequireSignOrSeal.

Registry Editor - [HKEY_LOCAL_M Registry Edit Tree View Secu		
	DBFlag: REG_SZ:0	
– 🔁 NetDDEdsdm	DisablePasswordChange : REG_DWORD : 0	
- 🔁 NetDetect	requiresignorseal : REG_DWORD : 0	
– 🚍 Netlogon	Scripts : REG_EXPAND_SZ : %SystemRoot%\s	system32\repl\import\scripts
Enum	sealsecurechannel : REG_DWORD : 0x1	
FullSync	signsecurechannel : REG_DWORD : 0x1	
- 🕒 Linkage	TrustedDomainList : REG_MULTI_SZ :	
– 🎥 Parameters	Update : REG_SZ : no	
└─ 🗀 Security		

Figure 13: Secure NetLogon Configuration on ACME.

Key	Policy	ACME	Comment
SignSecureChannel	1 (TRUE)	1 (TRUE)	Pass
SealSecureChannel	1 (TRUE)	1 (TRUE)	Pass
RequireSignOrSeal	0 (FALSE)	0 (FALSE)	Pass

NetLogon configuration meets policy requirements.

# Logon Banner & Don't Display Last User

**Background:** A Logon Banner can be displayed prior to logging on. This can provide the opportunity to warn users against unauthorized activity.

In addition, Windows NT 4.0 displays the last user logged on. This can be changed where no username is display, thus requiring a user to manually enter a username and password for each logon.

**Risk:** Legal action may not be successful against unauthorized access if a logon banner is not displayed to warn any user.

**Policy:** The policy is to display a logon banner and require a user to manually enter a username and password for authentication. The logon banner will state...

"This computing system is operated by this Company and is for official use only. Unauthorized access, unauthorized attempted access, or unauthorized use of this computing system is a violation of State Penal Code and/or applicable Federal Law, and may be subject to prosecution. Individuals using this computing system without authority, or in excess of their authority, are subject to having their activities on this system monitored and recorded by system personnel. In the course of such monitoring, or in the course of system maintenance or trouble shooting, the activities of authorized users may also be monitored. Anyone using this system expressly consents to such monitoring and is advised that if such monitoring reveals possible evidence of criminal activity, further legal action may be taken."

The default setting displays the last logged user on Windows NT 4.0. This setting is to be changed so that the last user is not displayed. When a user logs in, the user will have to manually enter both the username and password.

- 1. Start Regedt32.exe and locate the following registry key: HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\ SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon
- 2. Note values for LegalNoticeText and DontDisplayLastUserName.

Registry Key	Policy	ACME	Comment
DontDisplayLastUserName	1	1	pass
LegalNoticeCaption	text entered	text entered	pass
LegalNoticeText	stated above	same as text above	pass



Figure 14: ACME Registry settings on Legal Notice and Displaying Last Username.

*System ACME passed policy requirements. Also checked banner and logon window by actually logging onto ACME.* 

# **Restrict Remote Access to NT Registry**

**Background:** Remote Registry access is controlled by the permissions on HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurePipeServers\winreg.

**Risk:** Permissions on "winreg" needed to be carefully configured since access to the Registry from a remote location can be a vulnerability.

**Policy:** Permissions on "winreg" are to be Administrator (full control) and Backup Operator (read + set value + create subkey).

#### Validation:

- 1. Start Registry Editor (Regedt32.exe) and go to the following key: HKEY LOCAL MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurePipeServers.
- 2. Click on key "winreg".
- 3. Select the Security menu and choose Permissions.
- 4. Note Permissions for key "winreg".

Permissions on key "winreg" meet state policy requirements.

Registry Edit Tree View Security Options Window Help       Image: Constraint of the security option is the security option is the security option is the security is the security option is t
- T SOFTWARE
C SYSTEM
Control Registry Key Permissions
- BootVerificationProgram
- 🔁 Class Registry Key: winreg
- ComputerName Owner: Administrators
- CrashControl
- ☐ FileSystem ☐ Replace Permission on Existing Subkeys - ⓓ GraphicsDrivers
- GroupOrderList Name:
- 🗅 hivelist 🙀 Administrators Full Control
- DConfigDB Backup Operators Special Access
- La Reyboard Layout
- ⊕ Keyboard Layouts - ⊕ Lsa
- Te MediaResources
- 🔁 NetworkProvider
-⊕ Print
- SecurePipeServers OK Cancel Add Remove Help
Figure 15: ACME's Permission Settings for Key "winreg".

# **Null Sessions**

**Background:** Null sessions allow someone to access information of remote Windows NT computer without using a username and password for authentication. One would use a null character ("") for both the username and password.

**Risk:** Access to usernames, group names and shares can be obtained by anyone that is able to create null sessions. This may provide enough information for reconnaissance that may lead to greater risks.

Policy: Restrict null session access so that usernames and share names are not listed.

- 1. Start Registry Editor (Regedt32.exe) and go to the following key:
  - HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa.
- 2. Note the value of "RestrictAnonymous". The value should be 1.



Figure 15: RestrictAnonymous value set to 1.

Policy to restrict null session access ACME is meet.

### **Reference Materials**

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q101063 - Windows Logon Welcome, Displaying Warning Message.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q114463 - Hiding the Last Logged On Username in the Logon Dialog.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q132475 – Determining If a Service Pack Has Been Installed.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q143474 – Restricting Information Available to Anonymous Logon Users.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q143475 - Windows NT System Key Permits Strong Encryption of the SAM.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q147706 - How to Disable LM Authentication on Windows NT.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q153183 - How to Restrict Access to NT Registry from a Remote Computer.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q157238 - How to Activate Security Event Logging in Windows NT 4.0.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q161990 - How to Enable Strong Password Functionality in Windows NT.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q176820 - Differences Between 128-bit and 40-bit versions of SP3 & SP4.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q183859 - Integrity Checking on Secure Channels with Domain Controllers.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q239869 – How to Enable NTLM 2 Authentication for Windows 95/98/2000/NT.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q245128 - Restrict Remote Access to Event Viewer on Windows NT Server.

Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q248183 - Syskey Tool Reuses Keystream.

Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Security, Audit and Control by James G. Jumes, Neil F. Cooper, Paula Chamoun, and Todd M. Feinman, Microsoft Technical.

Securing Windows NT, Step-by-Step by Jason Fossen & Jennifer Kolde, SAN NS2000 (Monterey, CA).

Securing Windows NT 4.0 Installation, NT Server Technical Notes - Planning, Microsoft TechNet.

Windows NT Security Step by Step version 1.4, by the SANS Institute.