Centralized Desktop Deployment and Management

Institute of Computer Science - Masaryk University



Radim Janča

janca@ics.muni.cz

Presentation overview



- Introduction of university IT environment
- Services and technologies with Demos
- Tour around computer studyroom
- Discussion

System Administration Dpt.



- Primary focus on MS Windows technologies
- 182 MS Windows servers, 2228 desktops
- Centralized desktop management
- MS 0365 university workgroup solution
- Support services

Central Management Service



- More than 40 000 active students, 5000 employees
- Dozens of localities such as faculties, institutes, departments, offices etc.
- Goals:
- transparent and straightforward working environment for all students and employees
- unify the IT environment
- allow access to the centralized IT resources
- define administration rights and rules
- provide all practices and technologies to the interested localities

Services provided



- management of authentication via UCO and secondary password
- management, monitoring and backup of servers
- management of workstations' unattended installations
- management of the basic set of software
- local distribution of hotfixes and updates for Microsoft products
- local distribution of updates for Eset anti-virus products

Services provided



- availability of printers
- management of student profiles
- management of guest profiles
- troubleshooting solution of serious and critical software problems on workstations
- general consultations concerning the area of IT

Terms of Service



- the local administration departments are responsible for:
 - management of the extended set of software, which is not distributed
 - centrally reaction to the UCN administrators' requests
 - reporting of occurring problems to the UCN administrators
 - management of the network infrastructure of local workstations and servers
 - complaints related to the locality's hardware

So what you really get...



- Unattended installation of workstations (including drivers, no OS images)
- Regular update of centrally provided OS
- Regular update of centrally provided software (around 25 standard + 100 specialized)
- Monitoring
- Connection to the centralized printing systems = uniform payment using an ISIC card (via SUPO account) and standardized printing environment
- Special modes for exams
- And more... later in technical solutions

Main benefits



- Higher security and uniformity of provided services
- Constantly up-to-date environment without the need for any user interaction
- Unified environment of the MS Windows OS
- Standardized set of installed software
- Centralized printing
- Unified logon

Localities



- Currently deployed over a half of the organization units of MU
 - The rector's office
 - Institute of Computer Science
 - Faculty of Science
 - Faculty of Law
 - Faculty of Arts
 - Faculty of Education
 - Faculty of Social Studies
 - Technology Transfer Office
 - University Campus Bohunice
 - Faculty of Medicine localities
 - University Computer Centre
 - University Centre Telč
 - Accomodation and Catering Services of MU

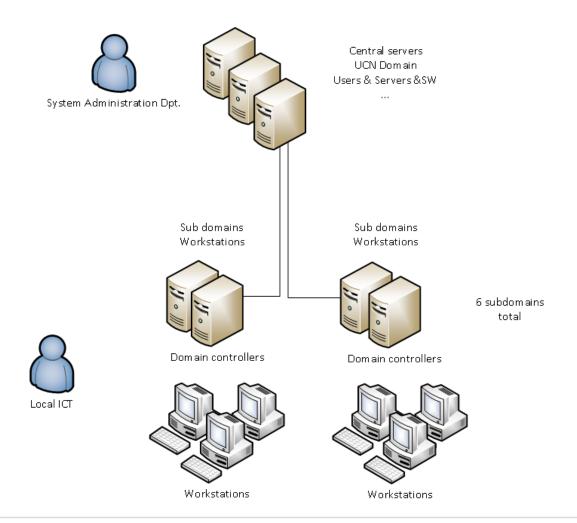
Division of localities



- Study Rooms, Classrooms
 - roaming profiles, access to shared storages and printing devices, basic set of software and selected software related to their subject of study
- Employees' workstations
 - access to the SW associated with their work requirements (economic software, asset management, etc.).
 - local storagespace, access to central storages, printing devices, remote desktops, network backup storage, local profiles

University central network





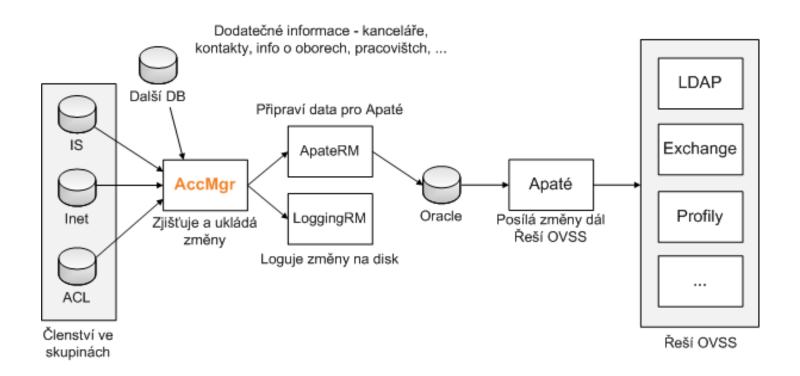
University central network



- Windows forest with central domain ucn.muni.com
 - All user accounts (students, employees, guest, other)
 - Provides authentication to multiple systems:
 Workstations, terminal servers, network data storages, VPN, web applications via shibboleth
 - Servers
 - Standard SW GPOs
- Multiple subdomains
 - Workstations
 - Printservers

Identity Management





Technical solutions



- Unattended Installation of operating systems
- Software Distribution
- User Profile Administration
- Remote Wake-up and Shutdown
- Examination Modes
- Monitoring of Localities
- Server backup

Unattended OS Installation



- opsi (open pc server integration)
- Windows 7 support (W10 in plan)
- Drivers included in installation
- Up to date images
- Computer deploy 15min -1hour
- Permission management

Unattended OS Installation



- Automatic connection to domain
- Out of domain instalations
- 1 a 2 disk part installations
- Memtest, diskcleanup
- Simple solution for nontrivial bugs/infections
- Demo

Software Distribution



- Standardized set of software
- Extended set SW
- Software deployed through Group Policies
- Software is installed after PC restart
- Regular updates twice a month

User Profiles



- Roaming profiles for students
 - 1GB of storage per profile
 - Clustered storage
 - 1GB not enough? -> cloud services (o365/google)
- Local profiles for employees
 - Automatically connected network storage
 - Local profiles stored on secondary partition

Remote Wake-up and Shutdown



- Centrally controlled
- Scheduled
- Computers are waked and updated at night
- No waiting for updates
- Remote reinstallation of study rooms

Examination Modes



- Mainly used in study rooms
- Two modes:
 - Questionnaire
 - Examination
- Windows app
- Demo

Server Backup



- Actual state
 - Backup system based on Powershell scripts and WB admin
 - Simple setup, basic scheduling
 - Regular over night backups
 - Nagios probe checking
 - Simple webpage check

Server Backup



- Planned state
 - Shrodingers backup
 - Dual backup of VM machines (Vmware + WBadmin)
 - Demo

Monitoring of localities



- Application Frank
- Monitoring for information and security purposes
- Computer state
- Information about logged users
- Information presented in real-time
- History is logged
- Demo

Remote connection



Strong tools for troubleshooting

Windows remote desktop

Team Viewer

- App distributed through ICS web remote connection to user session
- TeamViewer installed as a service remote connection resistant to user logoff

Active Directory DEMO



University Computer Study Rooms



- Allows students access to university resources
- Workstations, connection for laptops, WiFi
- CPS open 24/7
- Print services
- Often used for presentations, workshops and exams

Tour

Thank you for your attention.

Radim Janča janca@ics.muni.cz