

UT Chattanooga
Security Guidelines: Windows XP
7/18/05 Beta

Patches: All Windows XP systems should be kept fully patched at all times. At the time of this writing, Service Pack 2 is the starting point for securing an XP system and should be considered the bare minimum for a UT system. These PCs should be set to automatically update from UT Chattanooga's Windows Services Update Server at least once per week. Normal users should NOT be able to decline or prevent patches from being applied to a system.

Disks: All hard disk partitions should be NTFS, not FAT32.

Time: All servers should synchronize their clocks with an accepted timeserver. This is critical to accurate network diagnostics and forensic recovery.

Antivirus: All Windows XP systems should be running the approved campus-wide antivirus solution. Normal users should NOT be able to disable this protection.

Antispyware: All Windows XP systems should be running Microsoft AntiSpyware and normal users should NOT be able to disable this protection.

Passwords: A password should be required to access XP systems on campus. The password should be at least 7 characters and meet the Minimum Password Standard provided by UT Chattanooga's Information Technology Division. Accounts should be locked after three incorrect password attempts for a duration of 20 minutes. Passwords should not be stored in a format that allows "Reversible Encryption."

Administrator: Normal users should NOT have access to the local Administrator account or have their accounts placed in the Administrator Group. XP systems in the same department should NOT share a common local Administrator account password except in Lab settings. The Administrator account should be renamed.

Guest: The Guest account should be disabled. All anonymous access via the network should be explicitly denied. The Guest account should be renamed

Sessions: Automatic logon should be specifically disabled on all systems and all sessions should be protected using a password-enabled screensaver with an inactivity timer set to 15 minutes.

Services: Under normal circumstances, XP systems should not provide services, including printing and file sharing, to any other computer. Remote desktop sharing may be necessary for diagnostic purposes, but should not be enabled by default.

Firewall: All XP systems patched with Service Pack 2 should have their firewall enabled.

External References

Windows XP Service Pack 2:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/default.mspx>

Windows AntiSpyware:

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.mspx>

UT Chattanooga Password Policy:

<http://itd.utc.edu/standards/passwords.php>