

FROM THE EDITOR



As an IT professional, you've probably learnt that it's not a good idea to tell people you meet at parties that you work with computers. In a similar way to doctors being asked their opinion of the medical symptoms of their fellow guests, so 'computer experts' run the risk of spending much of their social time as IT support – whether installing new software or fixing an utter mess that a non-techie has found themselves in. I spoke to someone the other day who, when turning their attention to a relative's PC, was prompted with

84 security updates, as automatic updates was not switched on and they had done nothing to protect it for some time!

Security is something that IT professionals are far more aware of – many of you, unfortunately, because you've found out the hard way and are now tuned into potential threats, and understand the need to keep systems patched and protected by making use of the regular updates developed to protect the software on your systems. On the positive side, the robustness of products is improving considerably – this comes from software being built from the bottom up to be more secure, and to have the 'attack surface' minimised by turning exposed features off by default.

Given the tenacity of the people who try to break through IT security, we should never get complacent, and here at TechNet Magazine we're continuing to focus on security and how to improve it. In this issue, Mark Russinovich continues his investigations into Windows Vista with a look at User Account Control (UAC). The goal of UAC is to enable users to run with standard user rights, which reduces risk and can solve many security issues. Jeremy Moskovich looks at how to manage hardware restrictions using Group Policy, and Matt Fontaine examines the improved security on offer in Windows Mobile 6.

We are also announcing a new series of TechNet events that are going around the country. These are very much demo, rather than PPT based – this month we will be looking at Windows Server® 2008 and management technologies. Check out more details and how to register on page 6.

We hope you enjoy this issue. As always, your feedback is very welcome so please send it to me at gmitcham@microsoft.com

Kind regards,

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TechNet

M A G A Z I N E

UK EDITION issue 6 September 2007

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Story Worldwide



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TechNet Magazine UK Edition is published for Microsoft Ltd by Story Worldwide, 15b St George's Mews, London NW1 8XE. Telephone: 020 7449 1500
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Printed by Cooper Clegg

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Unified communications

A total of 15 phones and other devices have been optimised for Microsoft's unified communications software. The devices connect the work phone to e-mail, instant messaging, real-time presence information, conferencing, voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) and mobile communications,

Businesses interested in taking part in the Office Communications Server 2007 and Office Communicator beta programme can join at: www.microsoft.com/uc

and are available for use with Office Communications Server 2007 (released on 30 July) and Office Communicator 2007. The phones and devices include Internet protocol (IP) phones, Universal Serial Bus (USB) phones, wired and wireless headsets, conferencing phones, LCD monitors and laptops.

Events

Introducing the new TechNet quarterly regional roadshows – a new style of TechNet event; driven by powerful product demo's and leading-edge technology.

The first series includes a Windows Server 2008 deployment, using Windows Deployment Services. We'll create a Windows Server 2008 'Server Core' installation, before your very eyes, and then look at managing this infrastructure using tools such as System Center Operations Manager (SCOM), System Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM) and the fantastic new command-line shell and scripting language: PowerShell.

Locations we are visiting are:

- Reading
- London
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- Scotland

To register visit:

www.microsoft.com/uk/technet/training/events.msp

Digigirlz get a taste for technology

With one in every ten companies finding it hard to recruit enough IT staff, Microsoft is going back to school to get more girls thinking about technology as a career. The first UK Digigirlz day, held in June in partnership with Computer Clubs 4 Girls, showcased new technology and high-profile women in IT at Microsoft and other companies, including Systems Magician Andrea Kalavsky, the CIO for Innocent Drinks.

Claire Riley, group manager for Education Relations explains, "We've got to get girls excited early on so we're pitching at 10-16 year olds; that's when they're trying to make up their minds about GCSEs and their longer-term aspirations. We've got to catch them at that stage."



As well finding the day more interesting than school ICT lessons, many of the girls said it had changed their view of IT and who works in technology. The team behind Digigirlz is already planning a larger event for the UK next year.

Push to Forefront

Microsoft has announced the next instalment of Forefront™. Forefront 'Stirling' is a unified product that will provide comprehensive protection across client, server applications and network edge from a single management console. It will enable IT managers to centrally set policy and configure, deploy and manage security within their IT environment. Stirling will include the next-generation versions of Forefront Client Security, Server Security and Edge Security and Access solutions.

More information about Forefront is available at: www.microsoft.com/forefront

DesignIT inspires dementia aid

The winner of Microsoft's DesignIT competition has inspired a solution to help people in the early stages of dementia. The winning entry, 'Memories are made of this', was based on the idea of a virtual scrapbook that could be used by people with dementia and their carers as a memory prompt tool.

Carers will be able to use the virtual scrapbook to upload text, images and video clips as a memory reminder for the person with dementia. The scrapbook could include information about who the person with dementia is; what they've done, where and when in both work and home life. Photographs and information about people who were and

are part of the life of the person with dementia could be added, as well as more short-term information such as the plan for the week or month ahead.

The virtual scrapbook will be created as a full-screen multimedia slideshow viewer, with the content being displayed changing based on a pre-defined timer. The user can also interact through simple keystrokes to pause, restart, fast forward and so on. The scrapbook is to be developed for Windows XP SP2 and Windows Vista.

To read more about the competition and winners, visit: www.microsoft.com/uk/technet/designit