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Ask the Admin: Serving Up Samba Advice

Jaqui Lynch

Q: I read the article, "How to Implement a Basic Samba Server," in IBM Systems Magazine (December 2005). I have a quick question. Is it possible to make an integrated Samba server? I'd like to extend permissions from our current NT Domain. Can I use the users and passwords in the Windows 2003 Active Directory? Are there any articles or links that could point me in the right direction?

A: Go to the Samba Web site (http://us2.samba.org/samba/docs/man/Samba-HOWTO-Collection/ServerType.html#id2527954). This site has articles that explain what is and isn't supported with Active Directory.

Q: I have an older Samba version on an existing RS/6000 server and want to add the latest version of Samba on one of our newer pSeries servers. Will having two different versions on the same network present any problems?

A: Assuming Samba is correctly set up on your servers, I don't see any reason why this should be a problem. I have several Samba servers running, and they're different versions. Since the client connects to each one individually, they should be fine.

Q: Where do I find documentation associated with installing Samba as a tar file onto the pSeries server?

A: The install process for Samba is documented online (http://us5.samba.org/samba/docs/man/Samba-HOWTO-Collection/install.html). It's no different for AIX than it is for Linux. As long as you have a C compiler installed, the process is as follows:

1. cd /usr/local
2. tar -xvf samba-3.0.21b.tar (or whichever version you're using)
3. cd samba-3.0.21b/source
4. ./configure -help | more
       a. The above lists the install parameters that you may want to use. Examples include turning on disk quotas, use of syslog, cups and smbwrapper.
5. ./configure
       a. Add flags to the above if you need more than a generic install
6. make
7. make install

The installation above causes the binaries to be installed into the correct directories that are in /usr/local/samba. You'll then need to create a Samba configuration file.

For advice and solutions to your IT concerns, send questions to Ask the Admin at ask_the_admin@msptechmedia.com. Your question and answer may appear in a future issue of Open Systems EXTRA.

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