

Tech Advisory Meeting  
March 13, 2008

Presence: Rawdon Cheng (UHLS, notes), Jonathan Koppel (UHLS), John Love (BETH), Geoff Kirkpatrick (BETH), Karrie McLellan (EGRN), Laurie Louis (APLM), Marcia Middleton (APLM), Rob Carle (UHLS) , Mike Sweeney (GUIL)

#### Microsoft SteadyState

Rawdon demonstrated MS SteadyState. SteadyState is a desktop lockdown application. It is intended for use on public computers. Administrators can set up a user and customize desktop icons and start menu to tailor the needs of that user. It uses mandatory and local policy to achieve this goal. One advantage of using mandatory profile is its previous browsing history will be erased at logoff. Local policy will allow users to do what administrator grants it to do. These are all build-in windows function. No need to use third party software.

To save time, administrator can use one of the preset levels of restrictions or choose customize to tailor to the needs of the library. Disk protection can be set to clear all changes upon restart. This will ensure the integrity of the computer.

Administrator can export/import user security settings to speed up deployment.

The system drive can be locked down so restricted users cannot write to it which will force users to write files to removable medium.

Currently, the production version will run on XP/SP2. A beta version, 2.5, is available for Vista. Though SteadyState was written for local desktop control, the beta version can be used in domain environment. A section of the user's manual is devoted to the discussion how to implement it in a domain environment.

#### Horizon and Vista

The current version of Horizon 7.34 does not run reliable in vista. The next release of Horizon 7.42 is Vista compatible. 7.42 will fix other bugs in 7.3 that UHLS will upgrade to 7.42 in near future.

#### Public Web Browser

The latest version of PWB will download a copy of pwb.ini file from a web location once it is open. This will speed up the deployment if there are changes to the pwb.ini.

Next meeting:  
Date undecided

## Microsoft SteadyState

URL: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/sharedaccess/default.msp>

### System requirement:

- XP SP2 for v2.0
- Vista and XP2 for 2.5 beta

### Download:

Free, available at Microsoft website. The best way is to web search “Microsoft SteadyState download”

### Handbook/manual:

90–page handbook available at Steadystate website

### Support:

Forum available, link available at SteadyState website

### Features:

- users Restriction and Settings to lock down desktop
- User Account manager to create/delete users, import and export user settings
- Disk protection to protect system partition. Restart option – remove changes at reboot, temporary retain changes until a set future date, or retain changes permanently.
- Seamless work with Windows update and applications update (via scripts)
- 2.5 Beta can work in domain environment

### Cost:

Free!