



GENESIS64 Security

Securing Desktop for Operations



APPLICATION NOTE

September 2013

Description: Guide to configure Local Group Policy to limit desktop access permissions.

OS Requirement: Vista x64/ Windows 7 x64/ Windows 8 x64/ Windows Server 2008 x64/ Windows Server 2008 R2 x64/ Windows Server 2012

General Requirement: Advanced OS knowledge on administration level, two user accounts: one administrative and one non-administrative.

Introduction

This guide introduces IT administrators to the fundamental concepts needed to successfully configure multiple Local Group Policy objects on stand-alone computers. This document includes a step-by-step description which helps you to understand how Windows applies each Local Group Policy object and how it resolves conflicts with policy settings.

Prerequisites

To properly perform the examples discussed in this Application Note, the following two prerequisites are required:

1. **Create a non-administrative user account** via Computer Management (clear the "User must change the password at next logon" checkbox", select the "Password never expires" and "User cannot change the password" checkboxes).
2. **Check the current state** of the newly created non-administrative user (log on to the workstation and check the state of start menu and desktop icons, run command, IE).

Create a Custom Management Console

You can access Multiple Local Group Policy objects using Group Policy Object Editor. To do so, you must add Group Policy Object Editor to the Microsoft Management Console for each Local Group Policy object you want to manage. You should consider creating a custom management console for Multiple Local Group Policy objects (MLGPOs) if you are going to manage many MLGPOs.

1. Log on to the workstation using the administrative account you created during the installation of Windows. Go to **Start → All Programs → Accessories → Command Prompt**. Type **mmc.exe** and click **Enter**.
2. In the **Console1** window, click **File → Add/Remove Snap-in**.

3. In the **Add or Remove Snap-ins** dialog box, in the **Available snap-ins** list, select **Group Policy Object Editor**, and then click **Add**.
4. In the **Select Group Policy Object** dialog box, ensure **Local computer** appears under **Group Policy Object**. Click **Finish**.
5. Select **Group Policy Object Editor** under the **Available snap-ins** list again and then click **Add**.
6. In the **Select Group Policy Object** dialog box, click **Browse**. Click the **Users** tab. Click the **Non-Administrators** group. Click **OK**. Click **Finish**.

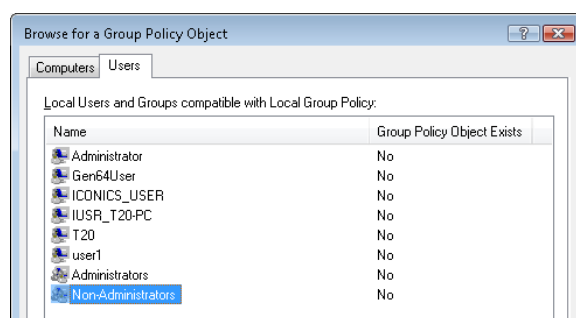
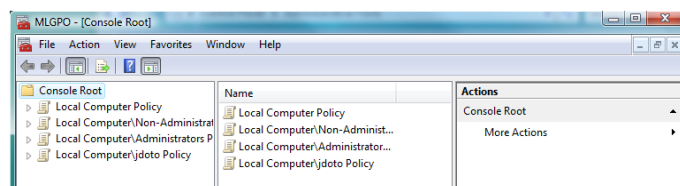


Figure 1- Browsing for the Non-Administrators Local Group Policy

7. Select **Group Policy Object Editor** under the **Available snap-ins** list again and then click **Add**.
8. In the **Select Group Policy Object** dialog box, click **Browse**. Click the **Users** tab. Click the **Administrators** group. Click **OK**. Click **Finish**.
9. Select **Group Policy Object Editor** under the **Available snap-ins** list one more time and then click **Add**.
10. In the **Select Group Policy Object** dialog box, click **Browse**. Click the **Users** tab. Click the name of the administrative user you created during the installation of Windows. For example, if you named your administrative user LocalAdminUser, then click **LocalAdminUser**. Click **OK**. Click **Finish**. Click **OK**.
11. In the **Console1** window, click **File**, click **Save**, and then click **Desktop**. Type **MLGPO** in the filename text box and click **Save**. **You can now use the MLGPO.msc file you just saved to the desktop to start the MMC console.**





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Figure 2 - View of the Newly Created MLGPO Console

Multiple Local Group Policy Scenarios

The following scenarios show you how to apply Group Policy settings in different layers:

- Local Group Policy
- Non-Administrators Local Group Policy
- Administrators Policy
- User-Specific Local Group Policy

NOTE: The policy settings in these scenarios change visual elements within the user environment, making it easier to notice changes for each Local Group Policy object. These policy settings are not the recommended policy settings for a kiosk scenario and are likely to change with each kiosk environment. Administrators should carefully consider all policy settings to decide which policy settings are proper for their environment.

Local Group Policy Scenario

The Local Group Policy object contains both computer settings and user settings. You can use the Local Group Policy to apply policy settings specific to the computer and common policy settings that apply to all or most of the users of the computer.

Define Local Group Policy:

1. Log on as the administrative user you created during the installation of Windows. **Double-click** the MLGPO.msc file on your desktop that you created in the previous portion of this document.
2. Expand **Local Computer Policy on the left panel**. Expand the **Administrative Templates** list under the **User Configuration** node.
3. Under **Windows Components**, expand **Internet Explorer**. Click **Internet Control Panel**. Note the details pane shows all policies as Not Configured in the Standard view.

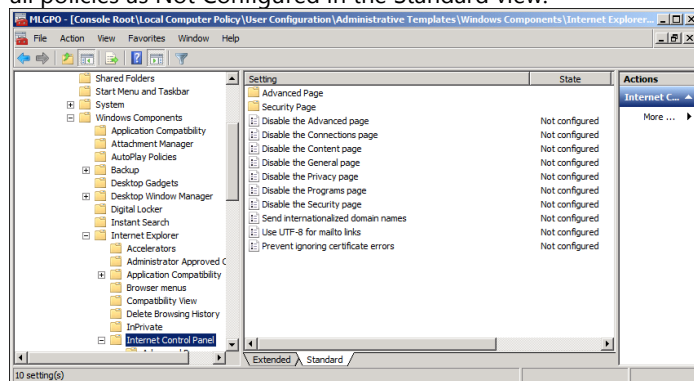


Figure 3 Internet Control Panel Settings

4. Use Table 1 below to define each policy settings. When finished, close the MLGPO console by clicking **File** and then clicking **Exit**. If prompted to save the console, click **No**.

You have successfully defined policy settings in the Local Group Policy object. Now, check the results of the policy settings you performed in Local Group Policy.

To check the results, you can open an Internet Explorer window and click on **Tools** → **Internet Options**. You will see that the features you denied are no longer available.

Non-administrators Local Group Policy Scenario

The Non-Administrators Local Group Policy object contains user policy settings. Windows applies settings in this Non-administrators Local Group Policy object to users who are not members of the local administrators group. In this scenario, you will configure policy settings in the Non-Administrators Group Policy object using the list of policy settings from Table 2. These Policy settings will change the behavior of the Start Menu and taskbar.

Define Non-Administrators Local Group Policy:

1. Log on to the workstation with the local administrative user account you created during the installation of Windows.
2. Open the MLGPO console and click **Local Computer\Non-Administrators Policy**.
3. Click the arrow next to **Administrative Templates** under **User Configuration**. Click **Start Menu and Taskbar**.
4. Use the *Table 2: Non-Administrators Local Group Policy* to define each policy setting. When finished, close the MLGPO console by clicking **File** and then clicking **Exit**. If prompted to save the console, click **No**.
5. Log off of the computer.

You have successfully configured policy settings for the Non-Administrators Local Group Policy object. Check the results of editing the Non-Administrators Local Group Policy object and check how it works with the Local Group Policy object.

To check the results, logon to the workstation with previously created non-administrative user account. Icons do not appear on the desktop. Open the Start menu and you will see that icons are not displayed there. Also the shortcut menu does not appear in taskbar, and the run command is not accessible. You can compare the behavior of Start menu and Internet Explorer



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between two different users when you log off with non-administrative account, and log in with administrator account.

Administrators Local Group Policy Scenario

The Administrators Local Group Policy object contains user policy settings. Windows applies this Local Group Policy object to users who are members of the local administrators group. Use the Administrators Local Group Policy to set policy settings only for local administrators. In this scenario, you will set a single policy setting, which will add a command to the Start menu for administrators.

Define Administrators Local Group Policy:

1. Open the MLGPO console, and then click **Local Computer\Administrators Policy**.
2. Click the arrow next to the **Administrative Templates** under **User Configuration**.
3. Click **Start Menu and Taskbar**. The details pane shows all policies as **Not configured**.
4. In the details pane, double-click the **Add the Run command to the Start Menu** policy setting.
5. In the **Add the Run command to the Start Menu** dialog box, click **Enabled**. Click **OK** to finish.

To check the results, logon to the computer as local administrative user you created during the installation of Windows. Open the Start menu and you will see all the programs and features available there. When you log off of the computer and log on as the non-administrative user you will not see anything available in the start menu. That means, there are no limitations for administrative user, but non-administrative user is strictly limited.

User-Specific Local Group Policy Scenario

User-specific Local Group Policy objects contain user policy settings and apply to a specific local user. It is not necessary to setup this specific scenario because standard setting for regular windows user will be taken from standard Local Group Policy.

NOTE: You should follow "Local Group Policy Scenario" before following the current scenario. The policy settings in this scenario conflict with policy settings enabled in "Local Group Policy scenario." If you decide to change anything in this section, don't forget to double check the changes you made by logging the specific user into your computer.

These scenarios show some of many ways you can configure Multiple Local Group Policy objects. You can use Local Group Policy to set global limits and then use the Administrators, Non-

Administrators, and user-specific Local Group Policy objects to remove the limits. Alternatively, you can use each Local Group Policy to restrict the respective group or user it applies to.

Delete a Local Group Policy Object

Occasionally, you may need to remove the entire Local Group Policy object rather than change multiple policy settings. Use the following procedure to delete the Administrators, Non-Administrators, and user-specific Local Group Policy objects.

NOTE: You cannot delete the Local Group Policy object. You must set each policy setting to Not Configured to return the Local Group Policy object to the default settings.

To Delete a Local Group Policy Object:

1. Log on to the computer with the local administrative user account you created during the installation of Windows.
2. Double-click the MLGPO icon on the desktop. Click **File**, and then click **Add/Remove snap-in**.
3. Click **Group Policy Object Editor** under the **Available standalone snap-ins** list, and then click **Add**.
4. In the **Select Group Policy Object** dialog, click **Browse**. Click on the **Users** tab. Right-click on the **Administrators** group. Select **Remove Group Policy Object**. Also delete **Non-administrators** from the list.

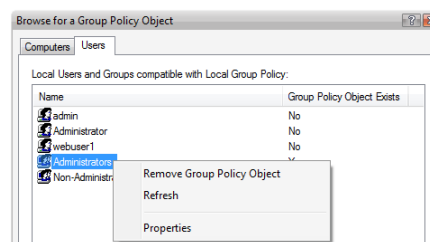


Figure 4 - Removing a Local Group Policy

5. Click **Yes** to confirm the deletion of the Local Policy object. The text located in the **Group Policy Object Exists** column next to **Administrators** will display **No**.
6. Click **Cancel** three times to return to the MLGPO console.
7. Click **File**, and then click **Exit** to close the MLGPO console. Click **No**, if prompted to save the console.
8. Log off of the computer.

NOTE: After deleting a Local Group Policy object you change all the defined policy settings back to Not Configured. This removes any of the policy settings that you previously applied to the user. Don't forget to double check the results after deleting a Local Group Policy object. You can simply log on



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with local administrative user or non-administrative user and check that it has been changed back to default settings.

Tables containing Local Group Policy

These two tables contain the necessary settings for Local Group Policy and Non-administrators Local Group Policy. You should not change any policy settings do not appear in this appendix. Changing additional policy settings may alter the results of the scenarios described in this guide.

Table 1 - Local Group Policy

Location	Policy	State
Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel	Disable the Advanced page	Enabled
Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel	Disable the Connections page	Enabled
Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel	Disable the Content page	Enabled
Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel	Disable the General page	Enabled
Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel	Disable the Privacy page	Enabled
Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel	Disable the Programs page	Enabled
Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel	Disable the Security page	Enabled

Table 2 - Non-Administrators Local Group Policy Settings

Location	Policy	State
Start Menu and Taskbar	Clear history of recently opened documents on exit	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Clear the recent programs list for new users	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Add Logoff to the Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Turn off personalized menus	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Lock the Taskbar	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Balloon Tips on Start Menu items	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Drag-and-drop context menus on the Start Menu	Enabled

Location	Policy	State
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove and prevent access to the Shut Down, Restart, Sleep, and Hibernate commands	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove common program groups from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Favorites menu from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Search link from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove frequent programs list from the Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Games link from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Help menu from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Turn off user tracking	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove All Programs list from the Start menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Network Connections from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove pinned programs list from the Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Do not keep history of recently opened documents	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Recent Items menu from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Do not use the search-based method when resolving shell shortcuts	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Run menu from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Default Programs link from the Start menu.	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Documents icon from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Music icon from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Network icon from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Pictures icon from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Do not search communications	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove Search Computer link	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Do not search files	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Do not search Internet	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Do not search programs	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove programs on Settings menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Prevent changes to Taskbar and Start Menu Settings	Enabled



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Location	Policy	State
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove user's folders from the Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Force classic Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Prevent grouping of taskbar items	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Do not display any custom toolbars in the taskbar	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove access to the context menus for the taskbar	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove user folder link from Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove links and access to Windows Update	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Show QuickLaunch on Taskbar	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove the "Undock PC" button from the Start Menu	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove the networking icon	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Remove the volume control icon	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Lock all taskbar settings	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Prevent users from adding or removing toolbars	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Prevent users from rearranging toolbars	Enabled
Start Menu and Taskbar	Prevent users from resizing the taskbar	Enabled
Desktop	Hide and disable all items on the desktop	Enabled
Desktop	Remove the Desktop Cleanup Wizard	Enabled
Desktop	Hide Internet Explorer icon on desktop	Enabled
Desktop	Remove Computer icon on the desktop	Enabled
Desktop	Remove My Documents icon on the desktop	Enabled
Desktop	Hide Network Locations icon on desktop	Enabled
Desktop	Remove Properties from the Computer icon context menu	Enabled
Desktop	Remove Properties from the Documents icon context menu	Enabled
Desktop	Remove Recycle Bin icon from desktop	Enabled
Desktop	Remove Properties from the Recycle Bin context menu	Enabled
Desktop	Don't save settings at exit	Enabled
Desktop	Prohibit adjusting desktop toolbars	Enabled

Location	Policy	State
Windows Components\Windows Sidebar	Turn off Windows Sidebar	Enabled