**Chapter 7 exercise – examples of GPOs for system admins**

In this chapter exercise, you will get acquainted with some GPOs that may be of interest to system admins:

Renaming the administrator account

Disabling the guest account

Blocking Microsoft accounts

Prohibiting access to the Control Panel and PC settings

Denying access to all removable media drives

## Check settings before GPO is applied.

To check default Windows settings ,do the following:

1. Start CL1, logon with administrator and Pa55w.rd
2. Right click Windows button and choose Computer Management.
3. Click “Local Users and Groups, then Users and see that the Guest account is named Guest and that the Administrator account is named Administrator.
4. Check to see if you can get access to Settings from the Start Menu and Control Panel by searching in the Start Menu. Both should work.

## Renaming the administrator account

To rename the administrator account using the GPO in Windows Server 2019, complete the following steps:

1. Navigate to the following path to reach the GPO: Computer

Configuration\Policies\Windows Settings\SecuritySettings\Local

Policies\Security Options

1. Double click at **Accounts: Rename administrator account**
2. In the *Properties* dialog box, check the box for **Define this policy setting**, and enter the new name that you want to use for the administrator account
3. Click **OK** to close the *Properties* dialog box

This policy is being applied to computer configuration settings.

Securing the network services in particular, and the whole network of the organization in general, are among the highest priorities. For that reason, it is recommended to rename the administrator account in Windows Server 2019 to avoid the its misuse. So let us rename the guest account using GPO.

## Renaming the guest account

To rename the guest account using the GPO in Windows Server 2019, complete the following steps:

1. Navigate to the following path to reach the GPO: Computer

Configuration\Policies\Windows Settings\SecuritySettings\Local

Policies\Security Options

1. Double click at **Accounts: Rename guest account**
2. In the *Properties* dialog box, check the box for **Define this policy setting**, and enter the new name that you want to use for the guest account
3. Click **OK** to close the *Properties* dialog box

This policy is being applied to computer configuration settings. For security reasons, to minimize the chance of misusing the guest account, you may want to change the name of the guest account. So let us block the Microsoft account using the GPO.

## Blocking the Microsoft accounts

To block the Microsoft accounts using the GPO in Windows Server 2019, complete the following steps:

1. Navigate to the following path to reach the GPO: Computer

Configuration\Policies\Windows Settings\SecuritySettings\Local

Policies\Security Options

1. Double click at **Accounts: Block Microsoft accounts**
2. In the *Properties* dialog box, check the box for **Define this policy setting**, and then select **Users can't add or log on with Microsoft accounts** from the dropdown combo list
3. Click **OK** to close the *Properties* dialog box

This policy is being applied to user configuration settings.

For security reasons, to prevent users from adding and login into organization's computers with their Microsoft accounts, system administrator have the option of blocking the usage of Microsoft accounts. So let us deny access to the Control Panel and PC settings using the

GPO.

## Prohibiting access to the Control Panel and PC settings

To prohibit access to the Control Panel and PC settings using the GPO in Windows Server 2019, complete the following steps:

1. Navigate to the following path to reach the GPO: User

Configuration\Policies\AdministrativeTemplates\Control Panel

1. Double click at **Prohibit access to the Control Panel and PC settings**
2. In the dialog box, select the **Enable** option, and then click **OK** to close the dialog box

This policy is being applied to users configuration settings.

If you wish that users in your organization's network would not be able to make changes to their computers, then you can deny their access to the Control Panel and PC settings. So let us learn to deny access to all removable media drives.

## Denying access to all removable storage classes

To deny access to all removable storage classes using the GPO in Windows Server 2019, complete the following steps:

1. Navigate the following path to reach the GPO: User

Configuration\Policies\AdministrativeTemplates\System\Removable

Storage Access

1. Double click at **All the removable storage classes: Deny all access**
2. In the dialog box, select the **Enable** option, and then click **OK** to close the dialog box

This policy is being applied to users configuration settings.

## Check settings after GPO is applied.

To check default Windows settings ,do the following:

1. Restart CL1, logon with administrator and Pa55w.rd
2. Right click Windows button and choose Computer Management.
3. Click “Local Users and Groups, then Users and see that the Guest account is named the new name that you applied earlier, and that the Administrator account is named the new name that you applied earlier.
4. Check to see if you can get access to Settings from the Start Menu and Control Panel by searching in the Start Menu. Both should not work.

System administrators have the ability to completely restrict the use of removable storage by enabling Prohibiting access to the Control Panel and PC settings. These were examples of configuring GPOs from many that are supported by Windows Server 2019. Although only a few, these GPOs are important as they highlight some of the most commonly used GPOs in a production environment. With this we have come to an end of the chapter exercise.