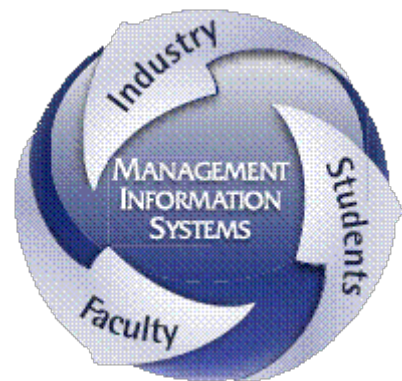


Security Lab

Lab 4: Enterprise Group Policy for Security

Systems Security Management



Document Sections

Lab Purpose – General discussion of the purpose of the lab

Lab Goal – What completing this lab should impart to you

Lab Instructions – Instructions for carrying out the lab

Lab Deliverables – What you have to submit to your instructor

Lab Rubric – How this assignment will be graded

Lab Resources – Any useful resources for completing the lab deliverables

Lab Purpose

As we learned in Module 10 and in Lab 3, Microsoft's Active Directory Domain Services is an Enterprise-level authentication and authorization platform. Lab 3 barely scratched the surface of what you can do in AD. To take your learning a step further we will work with one of the most powerful parts of AD: Group Policy. Group Policy is designed to provide system and network administrators with a centralized tool to enforce specific configuration settings on desktop, laptop, tablet, and server systems. These configuration settings

The purpose of this lab is to familiarize you with various aspects of account and computer-based security using Group Policy. This lab has four (4) parts:

1. Group Policy
2. Organizational Unit Security Design
3. Security Settings in Group Policy
4. Research and Recommend Security Settings

Group Policy

Despite the name Group Policy, groups actually have little to do with how group policy is enforced. Group Policy is a tool within Active Directory that gives System Administrators the ability to have fine-grained control over the systems and other computers they are responsible for. Group Policy includes settings for desktops, laptops, tablets, and servers running Windows operating systems that run the gamut from security settings all the way to controlling which applications you can run, Internet Explorer configuration settings, or even control how your desktop looks and operates. As such, it is an extremely powerful tool that, when used properly, can increase security and manageability of an enterprise computing environment.

Organizational Unit Security Design

The primary way a system administrator will apply group policy is by attaching a Group Policy Object (GPO) to an Organizational Unit (OU) or folder within Active Directory. Security Groups can be used as a security setting on the GPO so that the policies contained within are only applied to users or computers that are members of the specific security group. Otherwise, the default behavior of group policy is to apply the policy to any user or computer object contained inside of the OU. So, if you wanted a policy to only apply to users in the Sales department, you would create a Sales OU, assign the GPO to the OU, and place the user accounts of the people who should have these policies inside the OU. This is one of the main reasons to really plan for security in addition to organizational hierarchy when creating your active directory. Does this

mean that OUs are required? Not at all. You can easily assign the GPO to the root folder of the active directory (which you will do in this lab) and it will apply to all users and computers in AD.

Security Settings in Group Policy

You will work with just a few of the hundreds of possible security settings in Group Policy during this lab. You will start with reviewing default password policies for the AD domain, then add a new GPO and a few other settings that are commonly used. Feel free to spend extra time after completing the lab trying different settings to see what they do.

Research and Recommend Security Settings

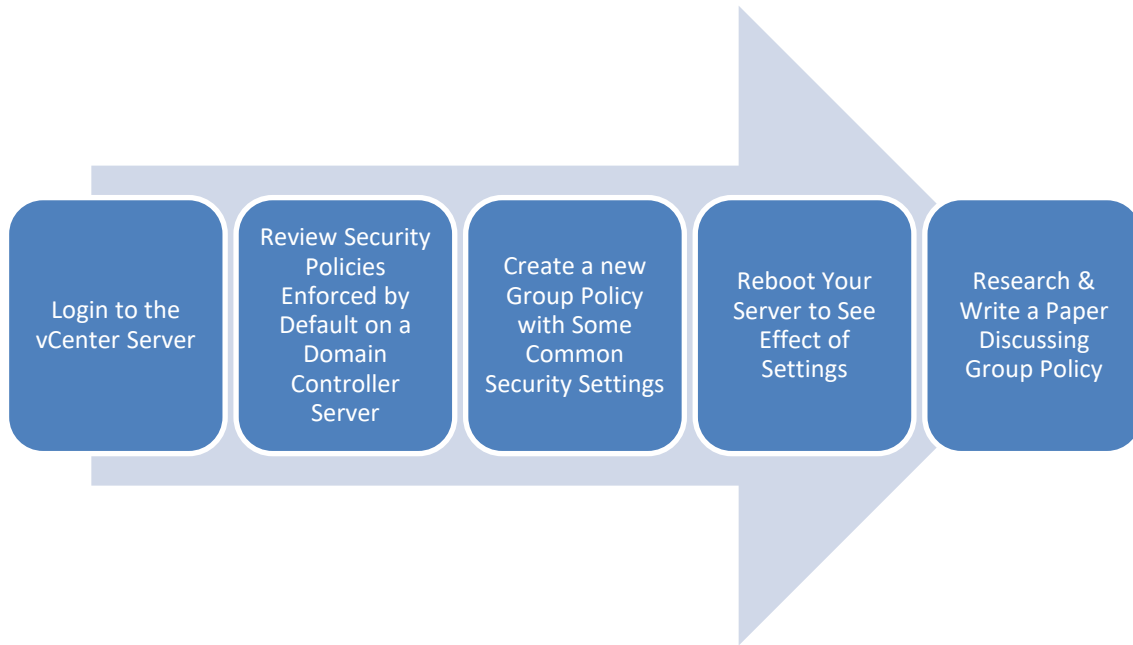
After you have completed the server portion of this lab and have seen some of what you can do to help secure networks and systems using GPOs, you will need to research a minimum of three additional group policy settings that can be applied to improve the security of systems. Be prepared to write a paper explaining each of the policies, including possible configuration options, how the policy works and what it does, and why an organization should use the policy settings.

Lab Goal

Upon completion of this lab, you should have:

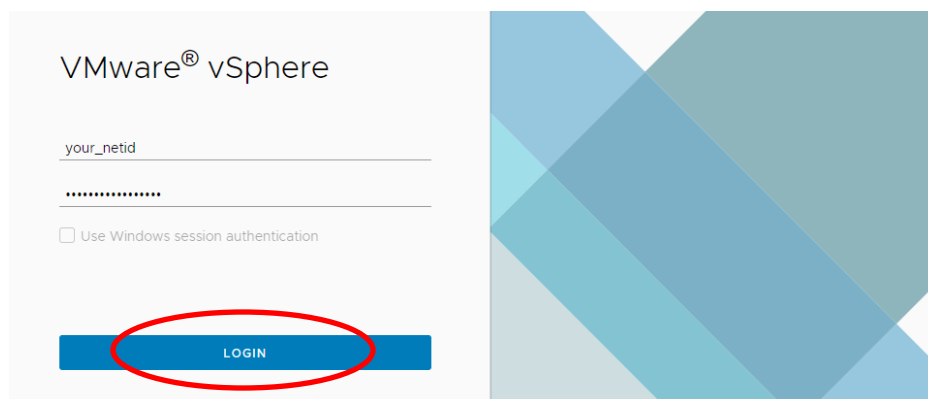
- Introduced you to Group Policy for Active Directory
- Further reinforce why designing security into an AD design is important
- Increase your awareness and understanding of several common security settings in Group Policy that can be enforced
- Provide hands-on experience creating group policies and seeing how they affect an operating system when applied.
- Provide experience researching other possible security settings that can be enforced in Group Policy

Lab Instructions



1. Login to the vCenter Server

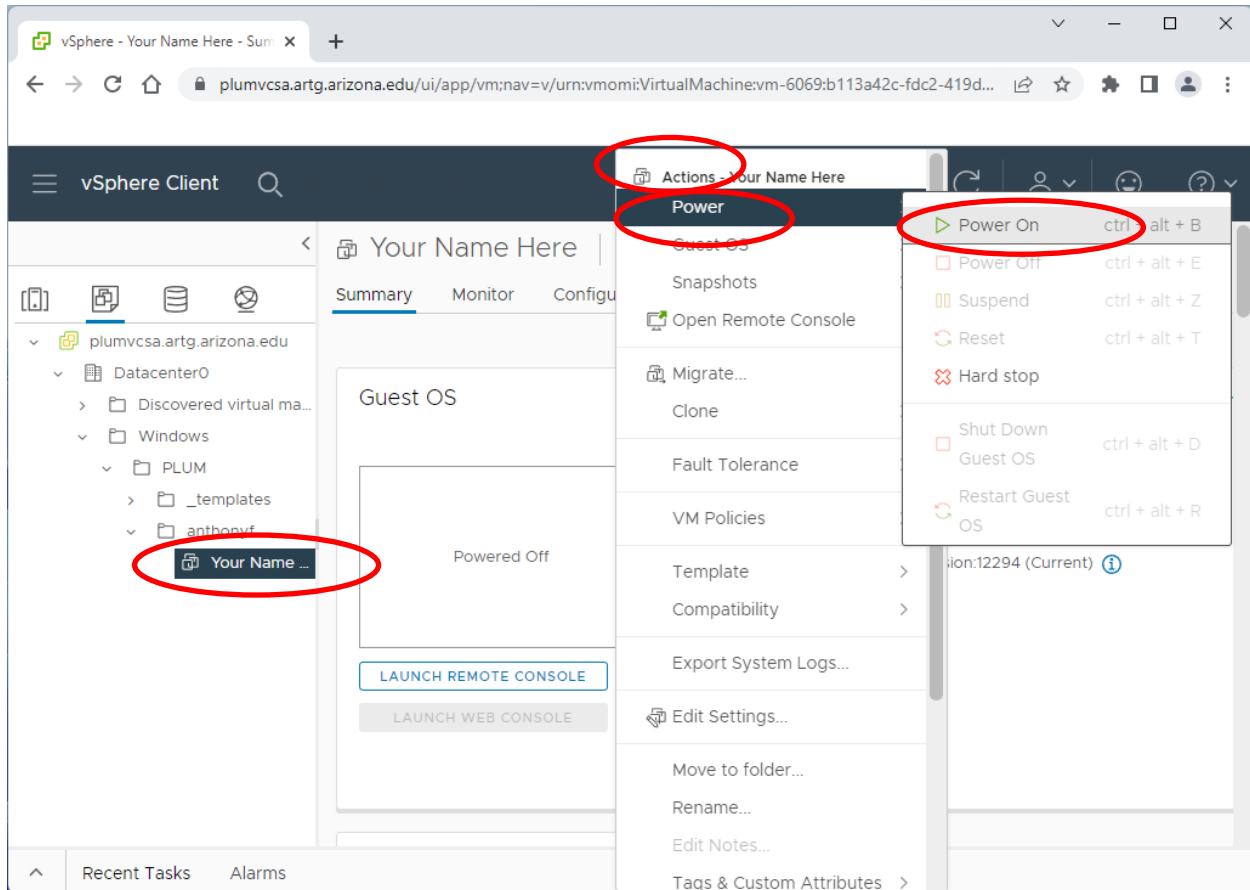
- 1) Connect to the UA VPN, then open your web browser and navigate to <https://plumvcsa.artg.arizona.edu/ui/>



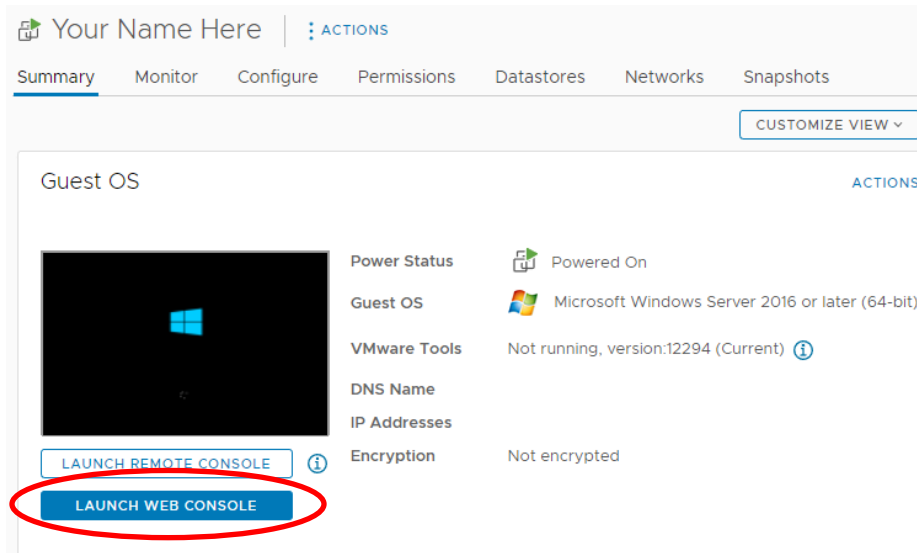
- 2) On the login page, you will enter your NetID and password.
- 3) Click **Login** to continue.

2. Review Security Policies Enforced by Default on a Domain Controller Server

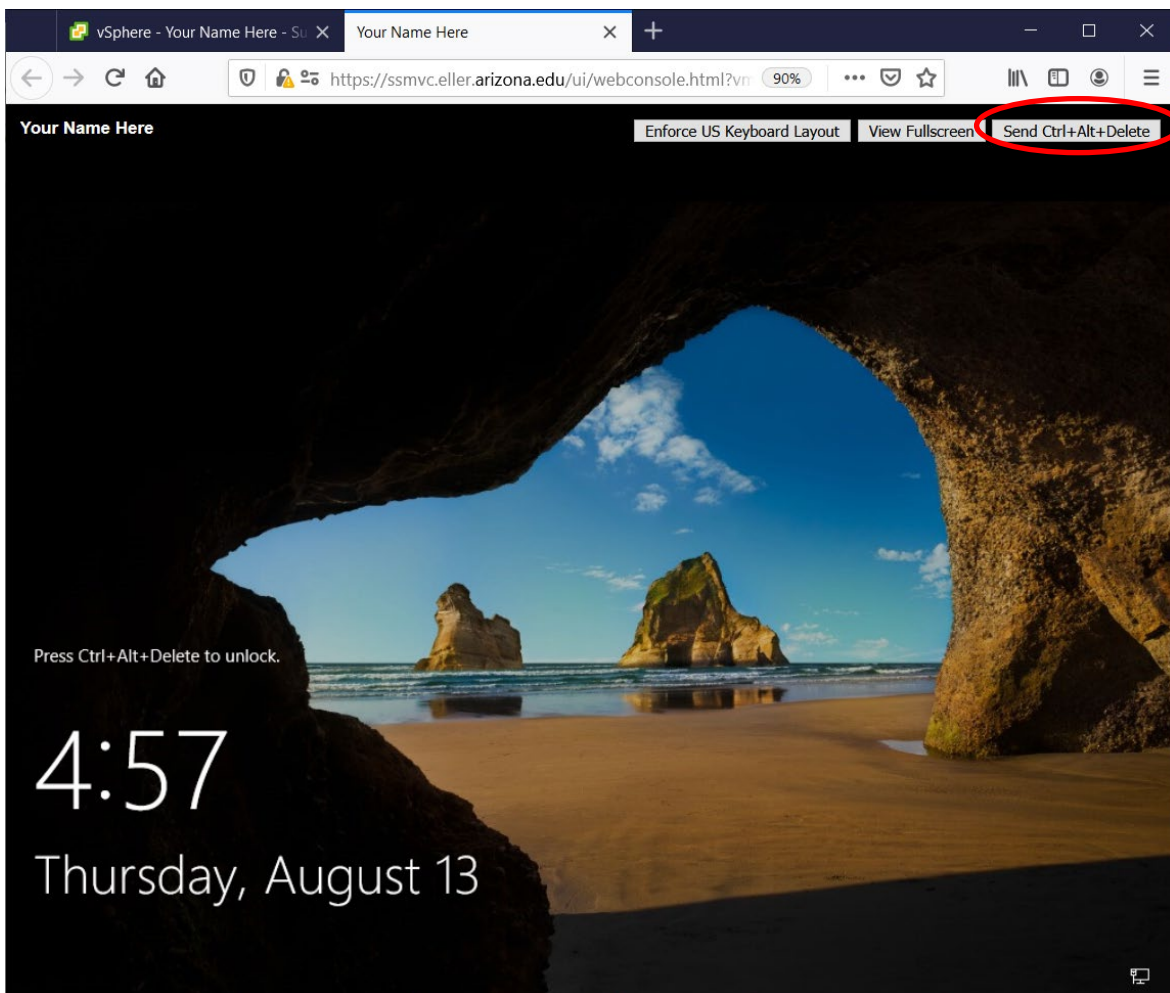
1) Now we will power on the server and do some initial configuration.



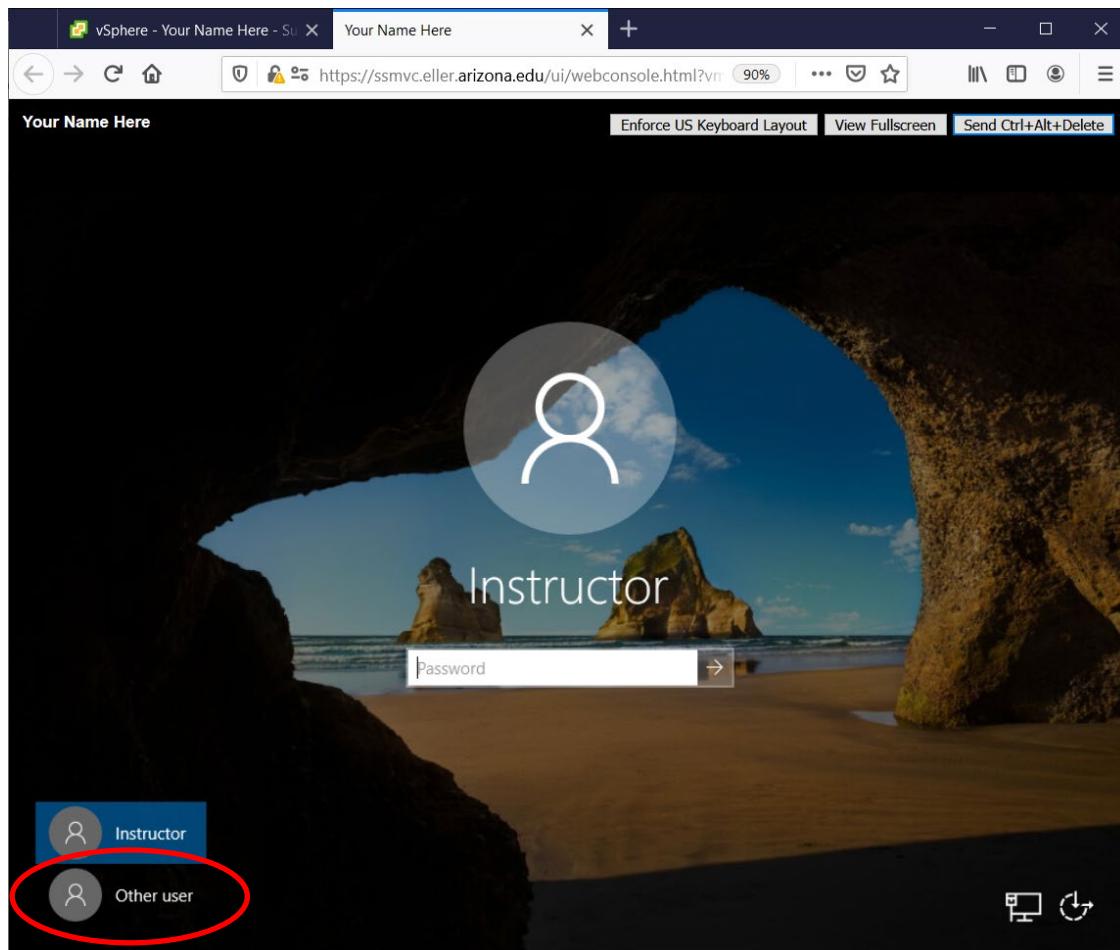
2) Click on the **name of your server**, then click on the **Actions** menu and choose **Power**, then **Power On** to boot up your server.



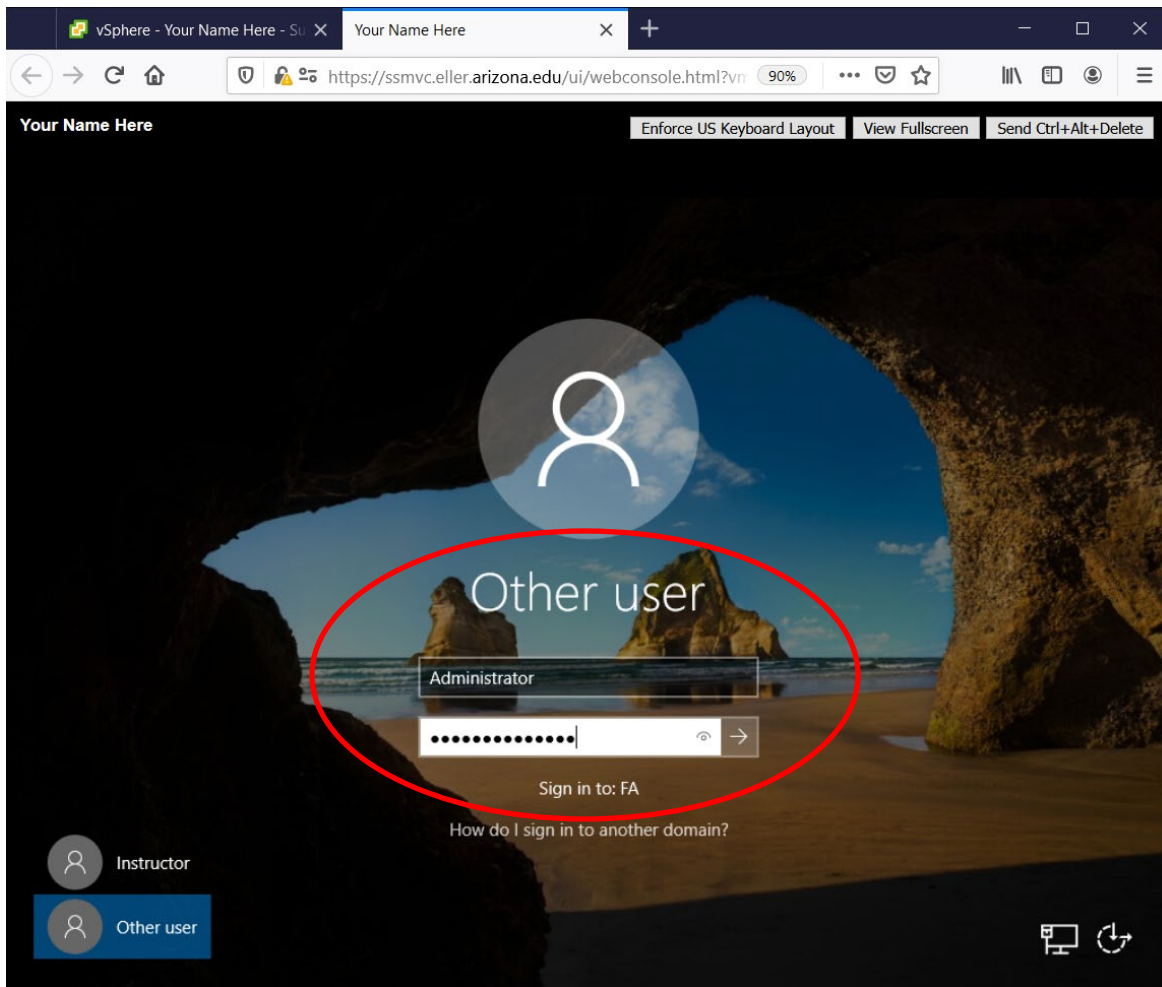
- 3) As your server is powering up, click on the **Launch Web Console** link. This will open the server console window in a new browser tab.



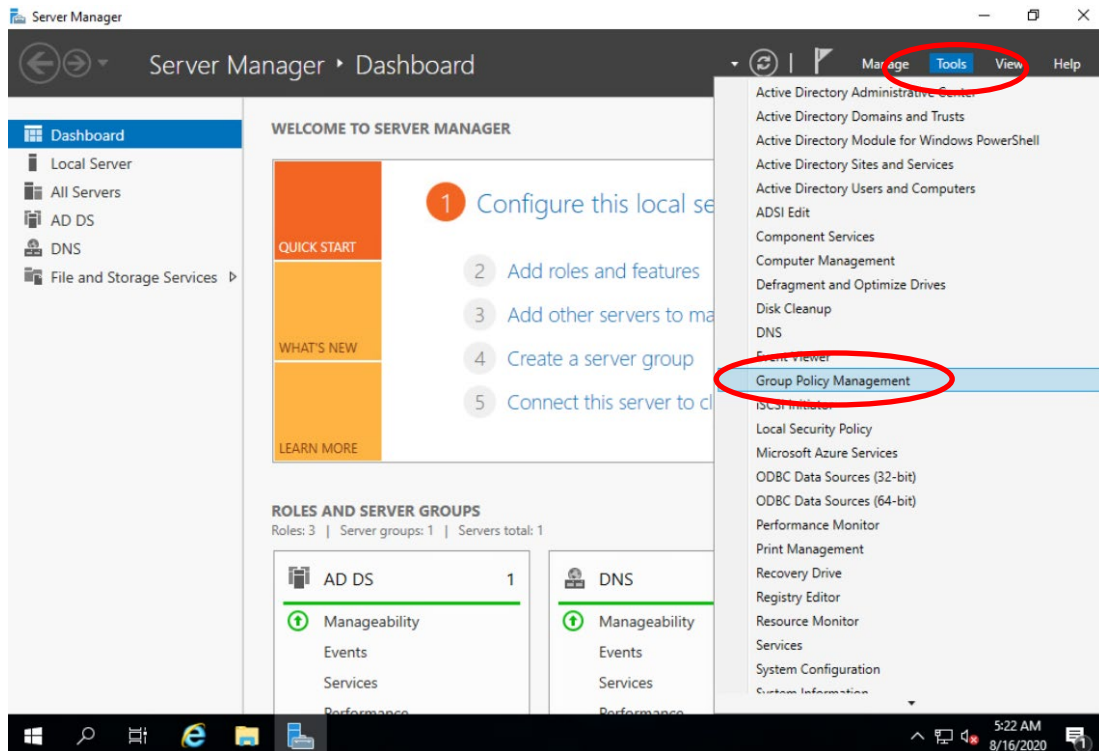
- 4) You will now need to login to your server. Click on the **Send Ctrl+Alt+Delete** button in the upper right-hand portion of the browser window (highlighted above).



- 5) If you see **Instructor** as the login name, you will need to switch over to the **Administrator** account.
- 6) Click on **Other User**.

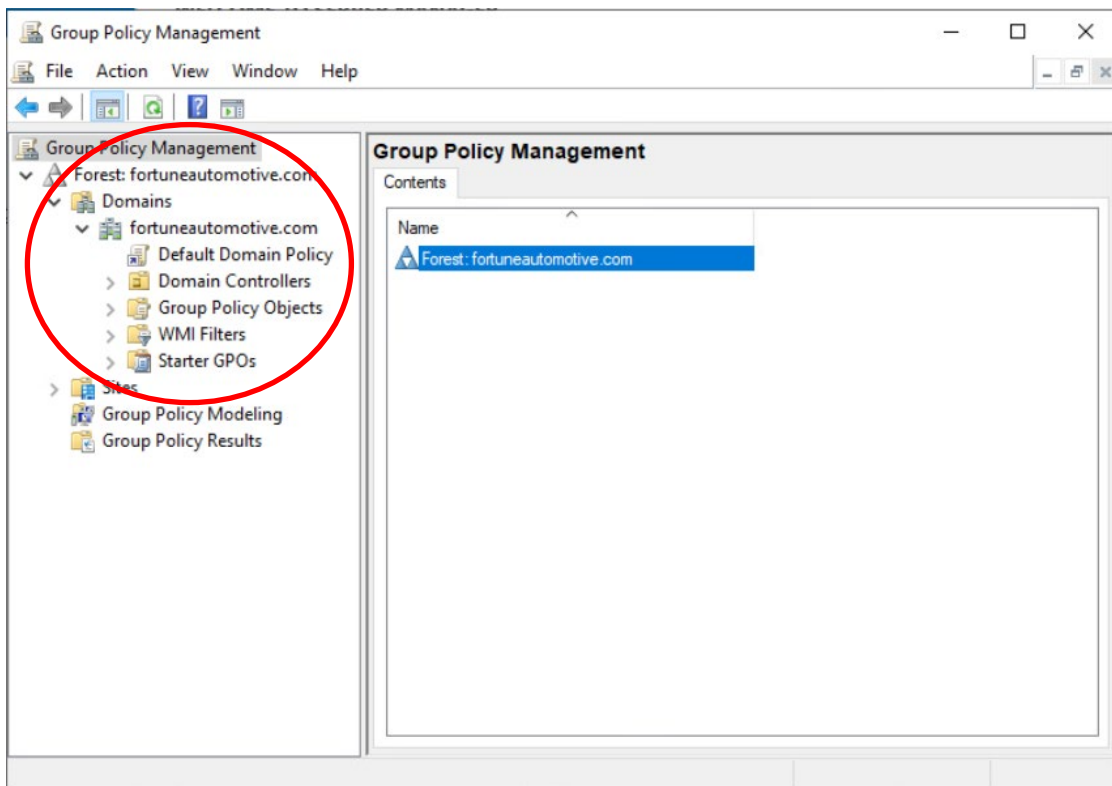


- 7) Type in **Administrator** for the user account
- 8) Type in the **password** you created in lab 2 for this account (*if you cannot remember it, please contact your instructor to reset it for you*). Press the **Enter** key on your keyboard to continue.

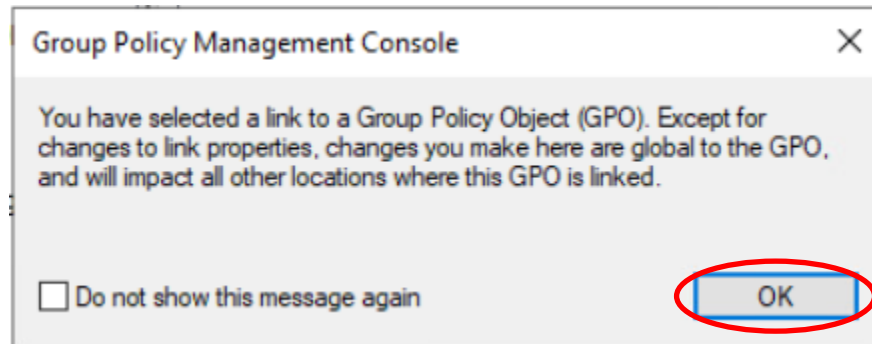


9) Once the login process finishes, the **Server Manager** should open automatically.

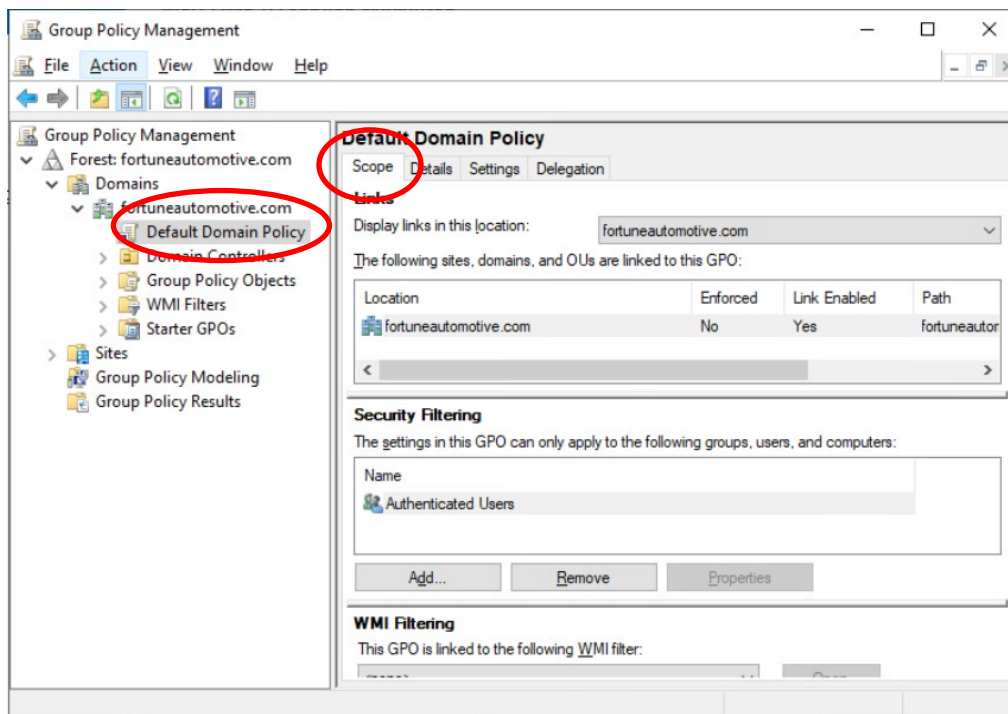
10) Click on the **Tools** Menu and select **Group Policy Management**.



- 11) Once Group Policy Management opens, **expand the options under Forest fortuneautomotive.com**. You will notice folders similar to the screenshot above. Note there is a shortcut to an object called **Default Domain Policy**. Because this policy is shown immediately under the domain name fortuneautomotive.com this indicates the policy is applied to all objects in the domain.

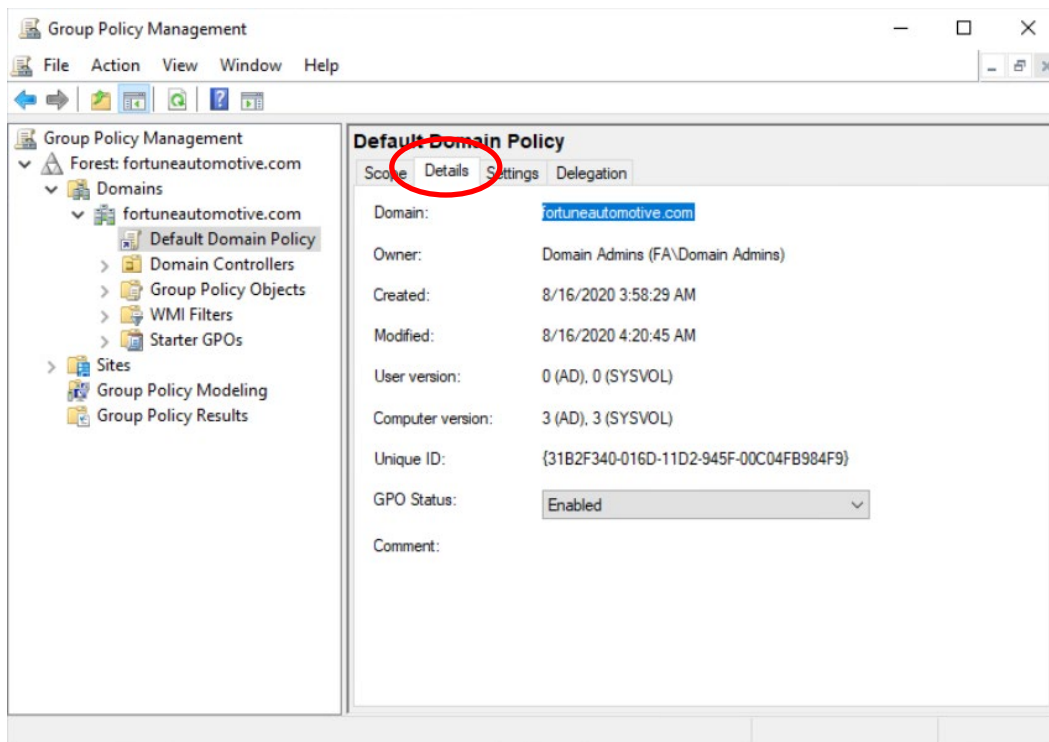


- 12) Click on the **Default Domain Policy**. This will immediately pop up a prompt that explains any changes you make to this specific policy will be applied everywhere the Group Policy Object (GPO) is linked in AD. Click **OK** to continue.

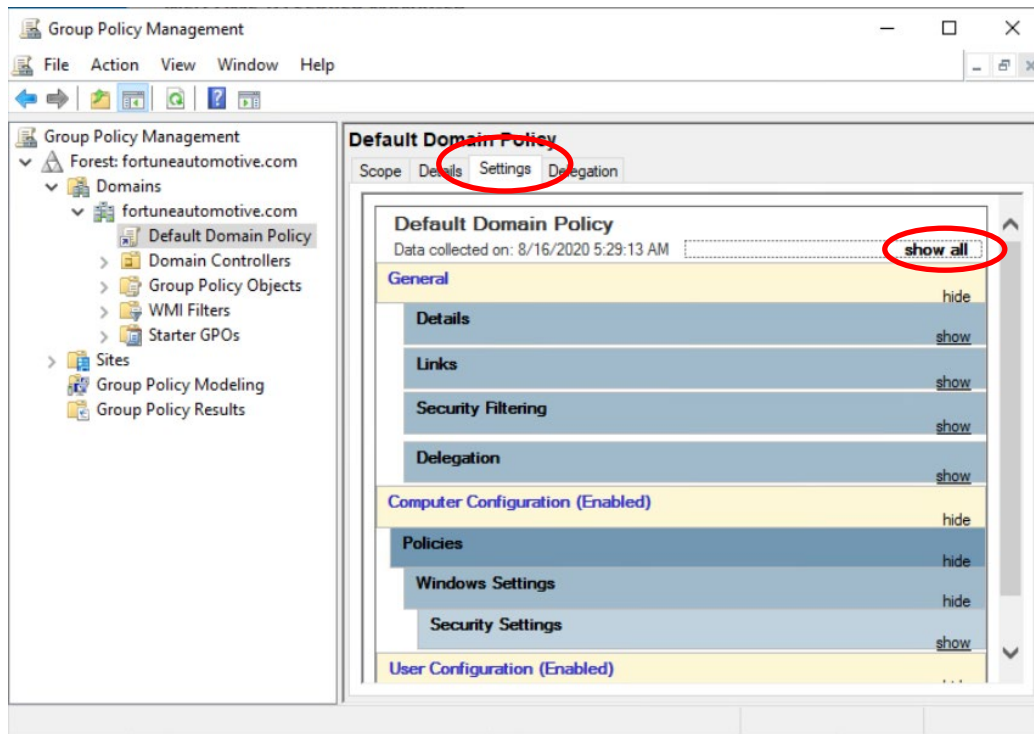


- 13) The **Scope** tab provides some initial information about this policy. This tab explains where the GPO is linked (as previously noted at the domain fortuneautomotive.com) and what security is applied to this GPO (in this case Authenticated Users). What this **security filter** means is the GPO settings will be

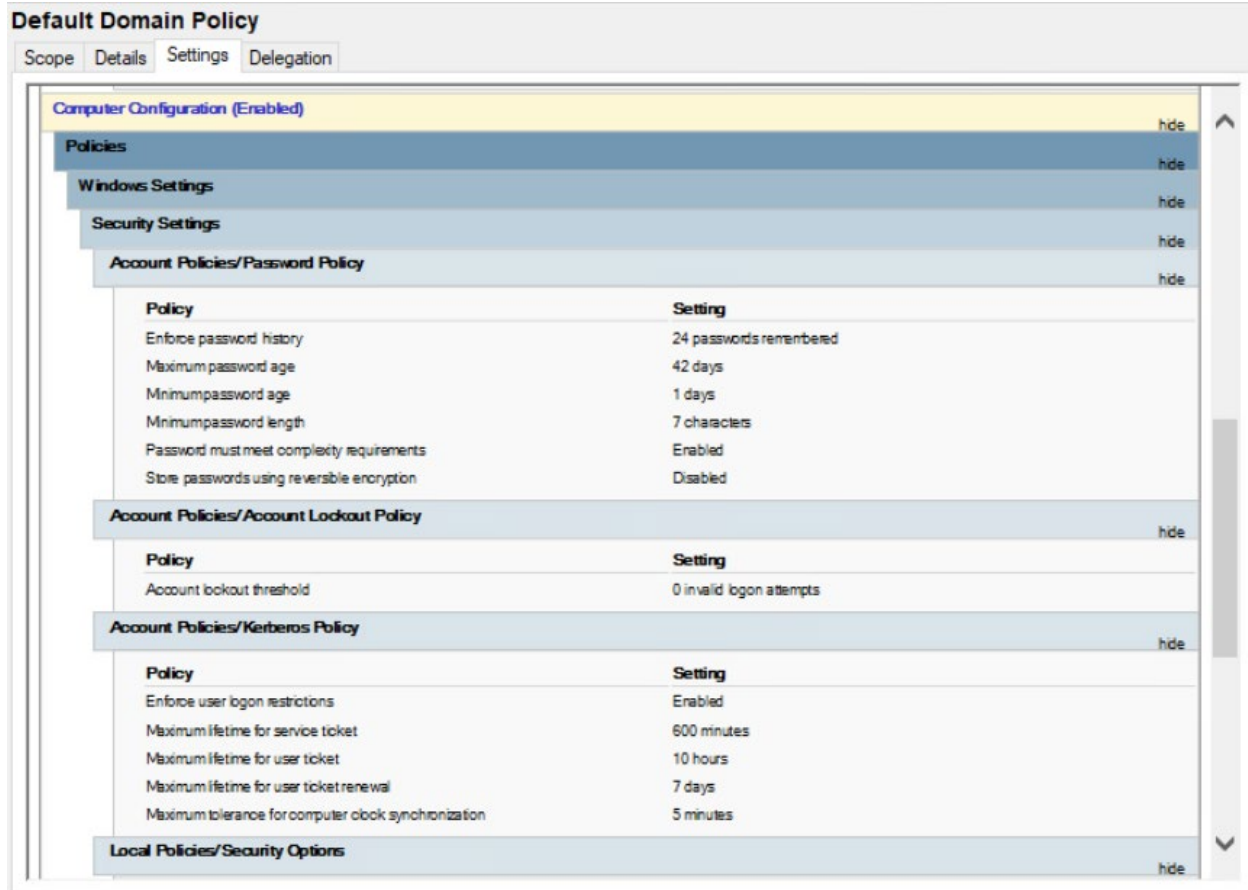
applied to any authenticated users in this domain, so all users should have these settings applied to their computers by default. You can further restrict this to specific Security Groups, so if you wanted a policy to only apply to Human Resources department, you would remove Authenticated Users and Add the security group you have for Human Resources. Once the settings are saved, this GPO would only be applied to HR users and not, for example, Sales users.



- 14) The **Details** tab shows basic information about the domain. Note the GPO Status is set to Enabled. This means all policies contained within this GPO are applied and active. This can be set to Disabled (to prevent settings from being applied) or you can restrict the GPO to apply User or Computer settings only. For the purposes of this lab, leave this set to **Enabled**.



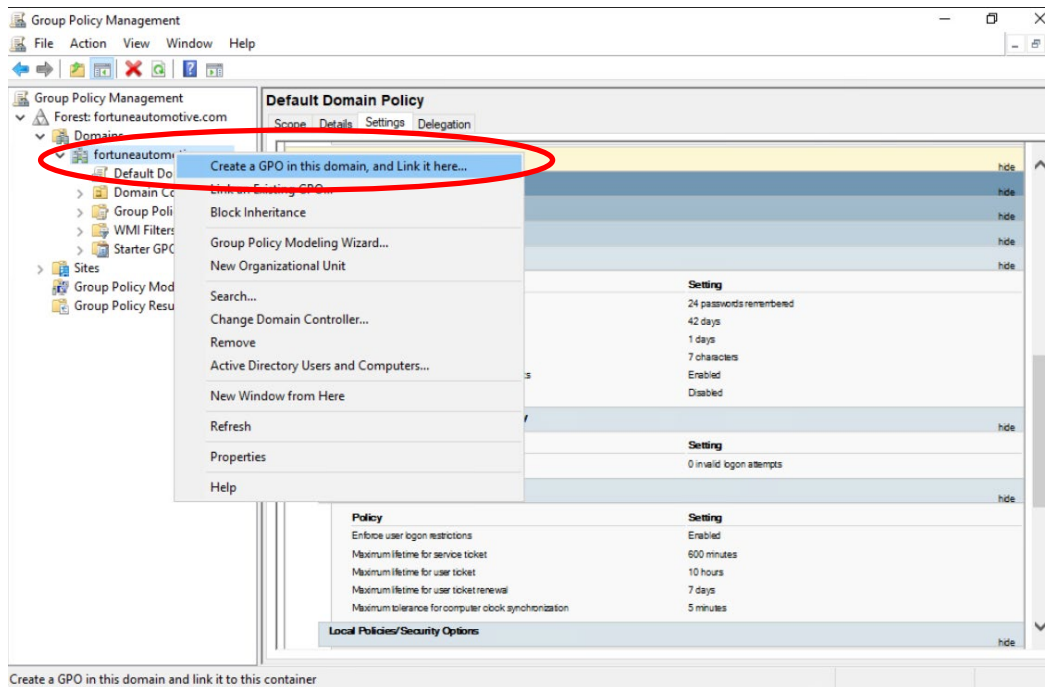
- 15) The **Settings** tab will show you the policies that are included in this specific GPO. Let's look at this in more detail. Click on the **Show All** option in the upper right side of this window.



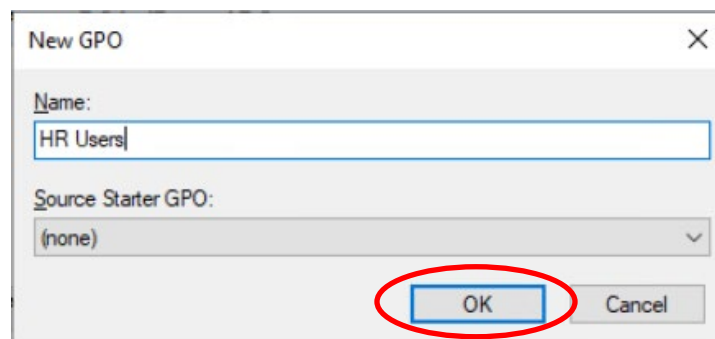
- 16) You will see the page now has a scroll bar. Looking at this immediately you can see some security settings enabled by default. These policies include **Password Policy, Account Lockout Policy, Kerberos Policy, Security Options, and others**. Take a look at these settings and think about what security levels they provide.
- 17) While these are the default policies, they can be changed or overwritten. You will find different organizations will change these in different ways based on the security policies the company decided to implement. For example, some organizations may change the **Account Lockout Policy** from **0 attempts** (meaning accounts will not be locked after a bad password is entered) to **3 attempts** (giving users 3 chances to login before the account is locked out for a period of time).

3. Create a New Group Policy with Some Common Security Settings

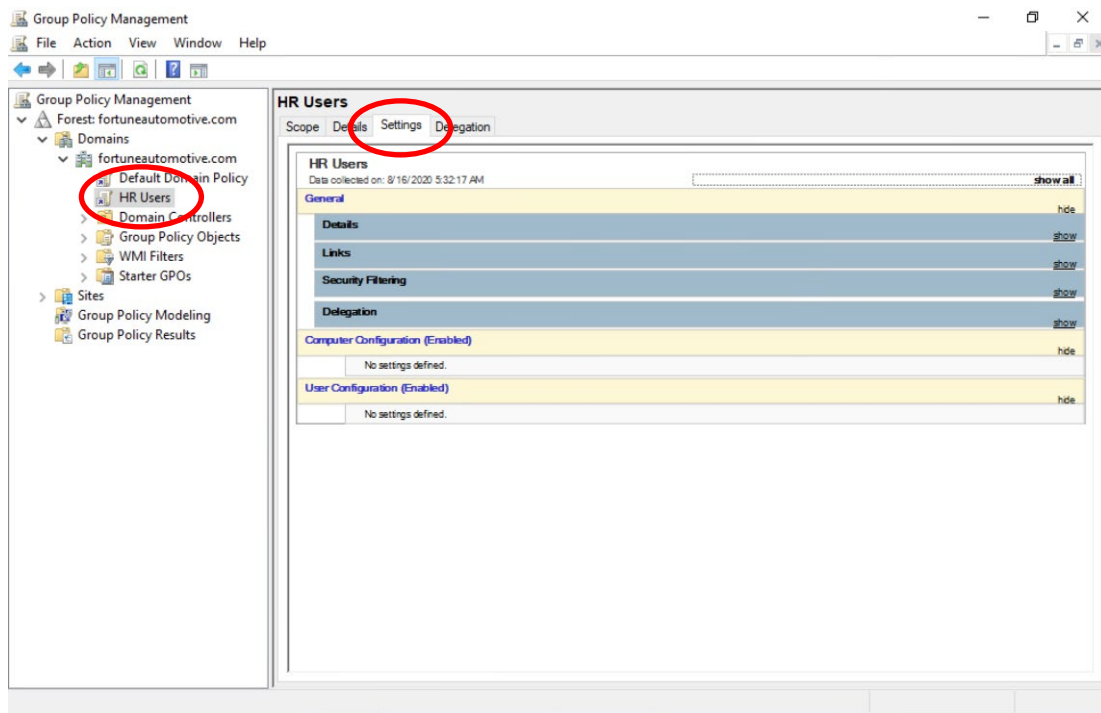
- 1) Now that you have seen what a GPO looks like, let's create one of our own.



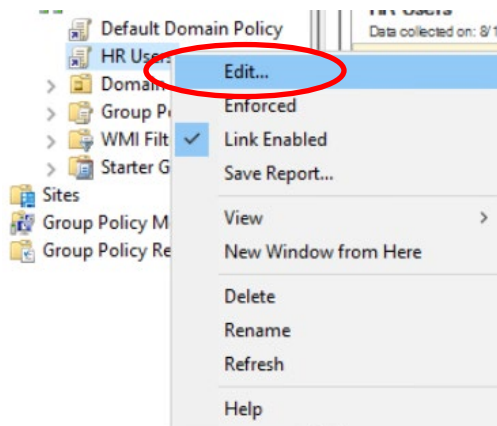
- 2) Right click on the **fortuneautomotive.com** domain and choose **Create a GPO in this domain, and Link it here...**



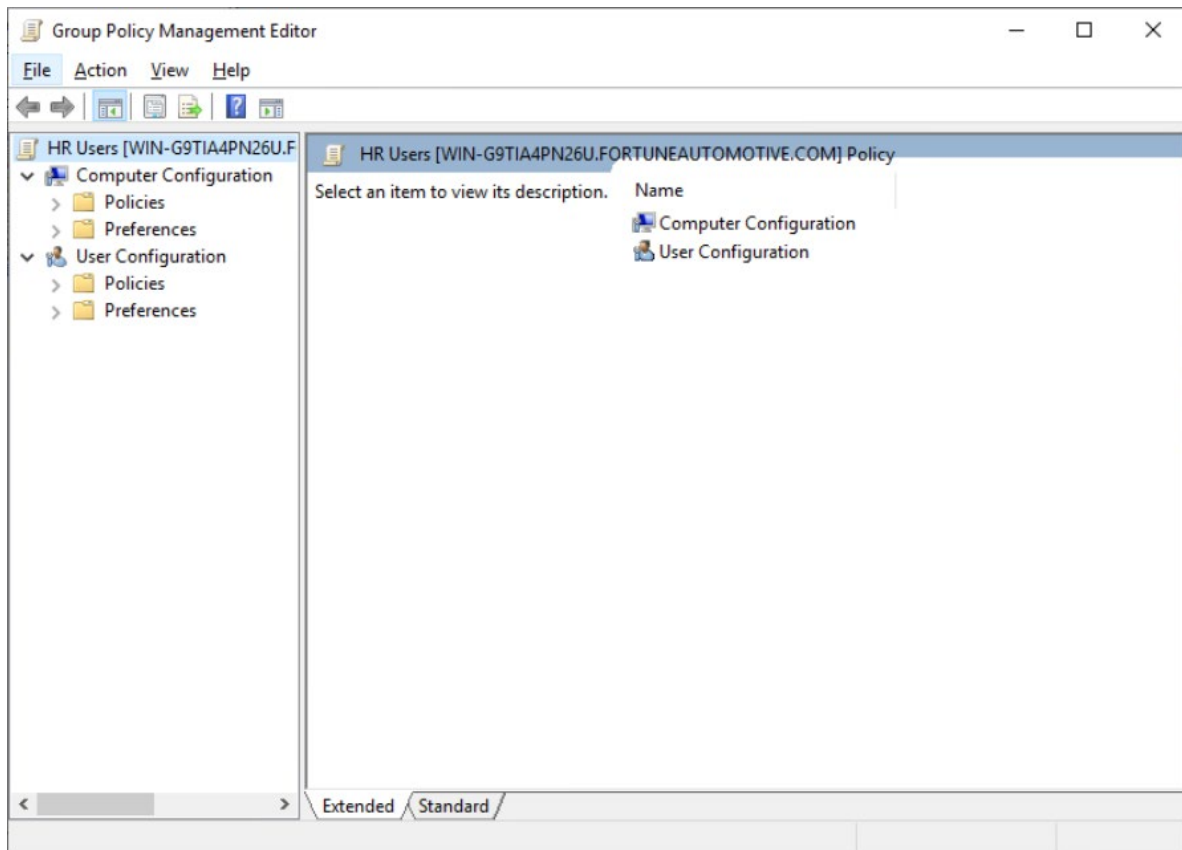
- 3) In the **New GPO** window, give the GPO a name of **HR Users**. Leave **Source State GPO** to **(none)** and click **OK**.



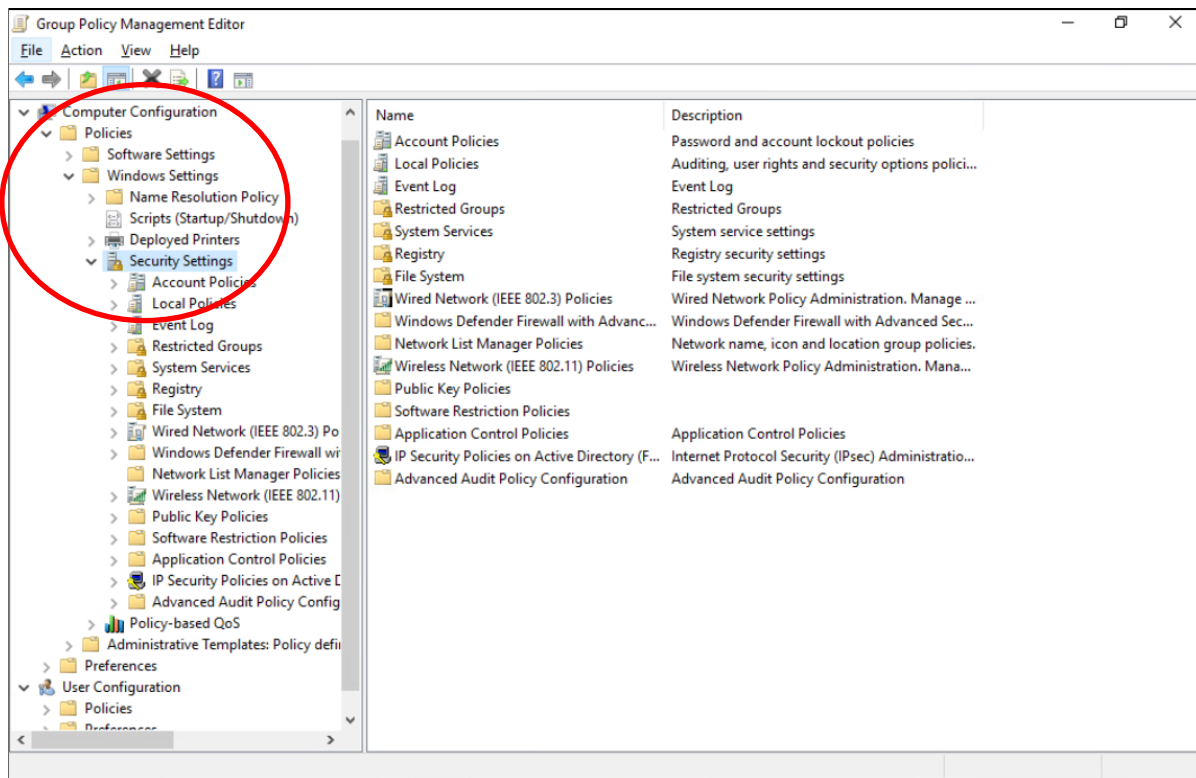
- 4) Click on the **HR Users** GPO that you just created. If necessary, click on the **Settings** tab. You will see that no settings have been created in this GPO yet.



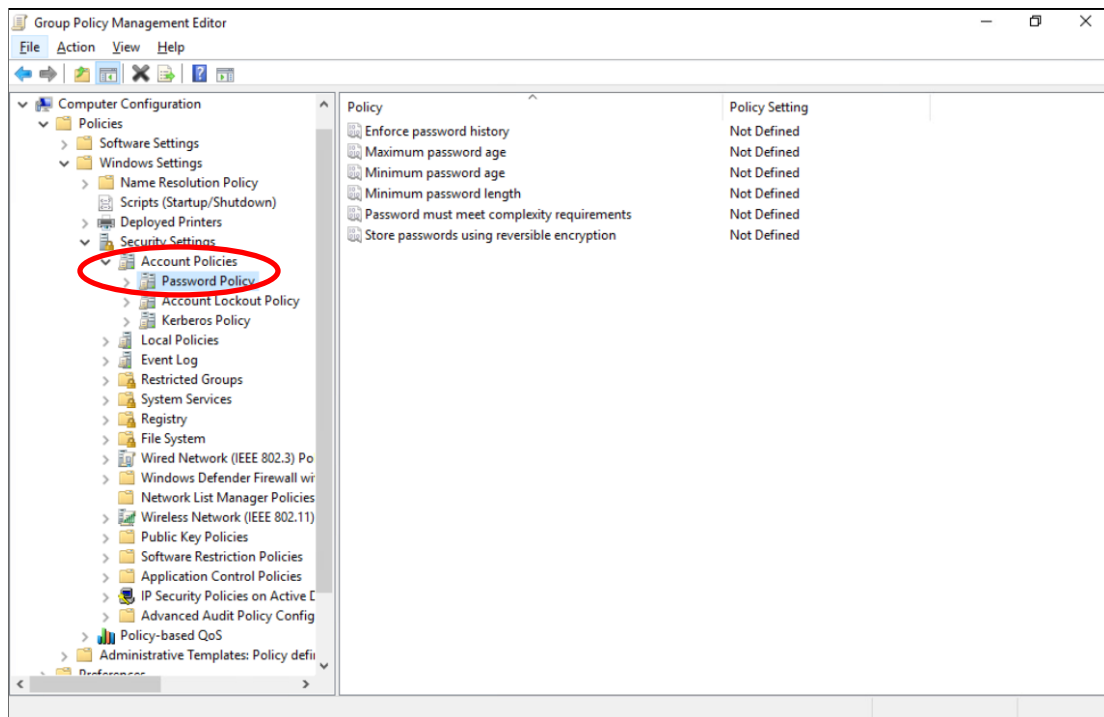
- 5) Right click on **HR Users** and select **Edit...** from the menu.



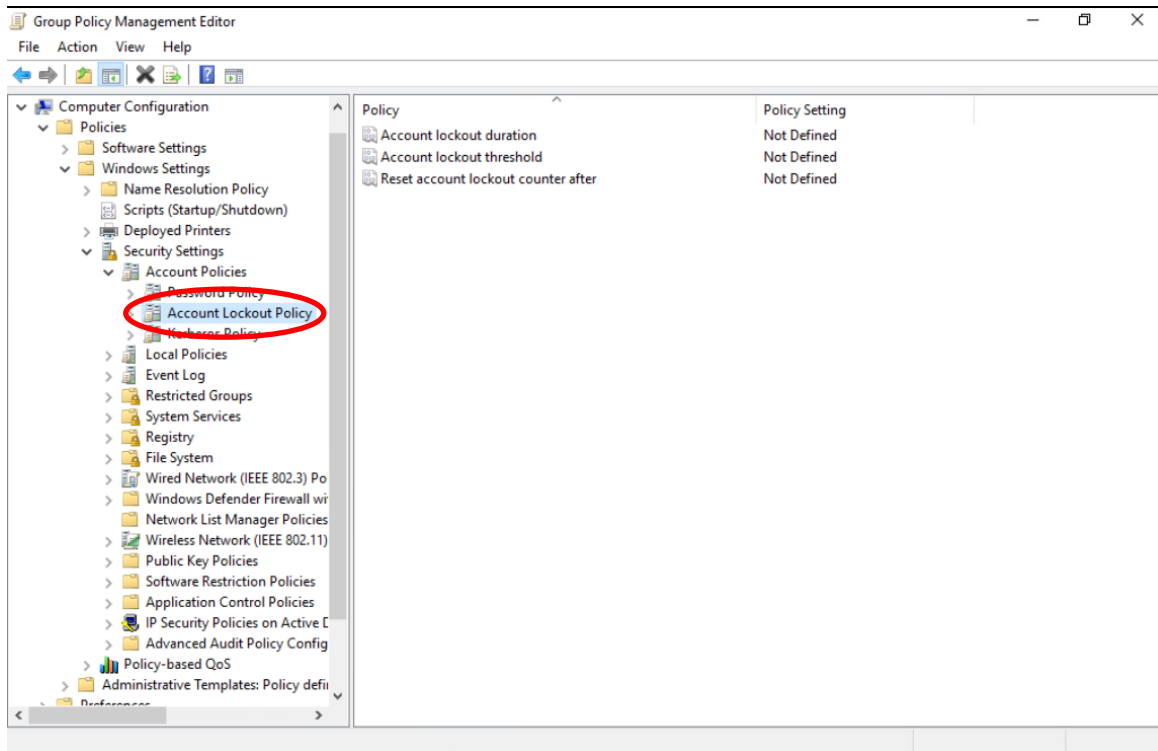
- 6) You will now see the Group Policy Management Editor window appear. On the left-side of the screen you will see Computer Configuration and User Configuration.
- Computer Configuration will allow you to select group policies that will apply only to Computer objects in AD. Computer policies will be applied to a computer at boot time. User Configuration will allow you to select group policies that will apply only to User objects in AD. User policies will be applied to users when they log in.
 - The types of policies in each are different and serve different purposes. You can have both types of policies in a single GPO. For this lab we will look at both policy types.



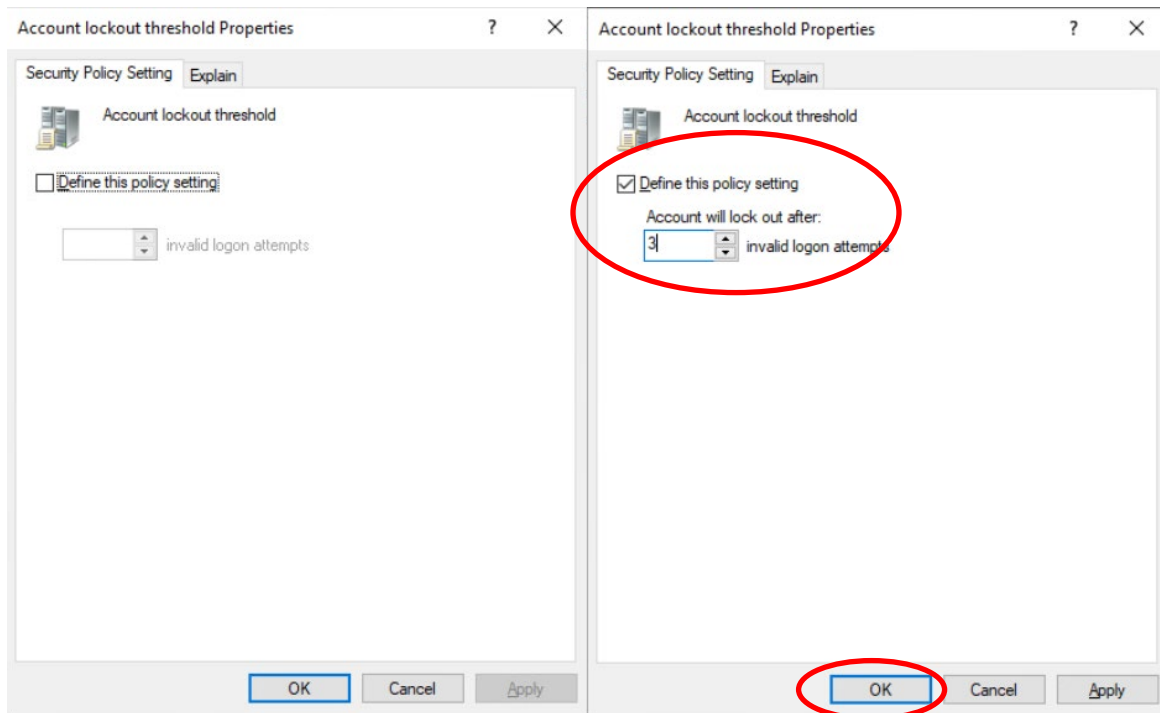
- 7) Expand the Policies folder under Computer Configuration until you get to Security Settings. Highlight **Security Settings** and you will see over a dozen sections where security policies can be defined.



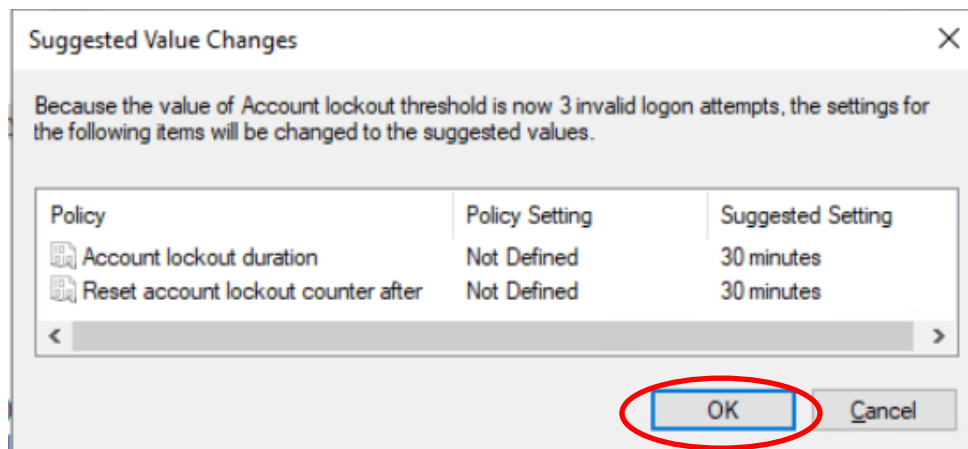
- 8) Expand **Account Policies** in the left-hand side of the window and highlight **Password Policy** so you can see the options.
- 9) The possible Password policies should look familiar because they were included in the Default Domain Policy.



- 10) Now highlight the **Account Lockout Policy** in the left-hand side window. In the Default Domain Policy, the only setting enabled was the Account Lockout Threshold. Double click on the Account Lockout Threshold policy.



- 11) This will open a properties window so you can change the threshold settings. Since this setting is not defined in your policy, it will appear the same as the screenshot on the left. Check the box to **Define this policy setting** and change the number from 0 to **3 for invalid logon attempts**. Click OK to save this setting and close the Properties window.

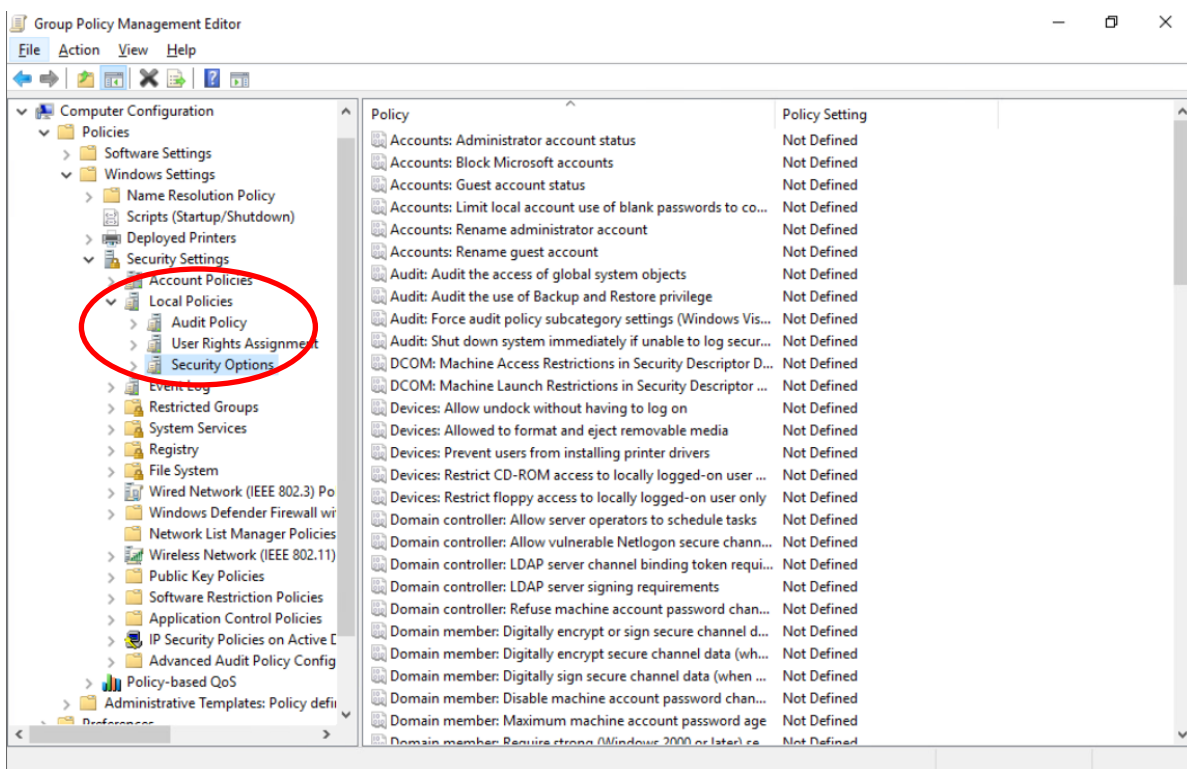


- 12) You will now be immediately presented with a pop-up window with Suggested Value Changes. You will notice the other two policies listed with their current policy setting and what the GPO would recommend for the settings to be changed to. If you do not make these changes, then once an account is locked out after 3 bad logon attempts, the account would remain locked out until an

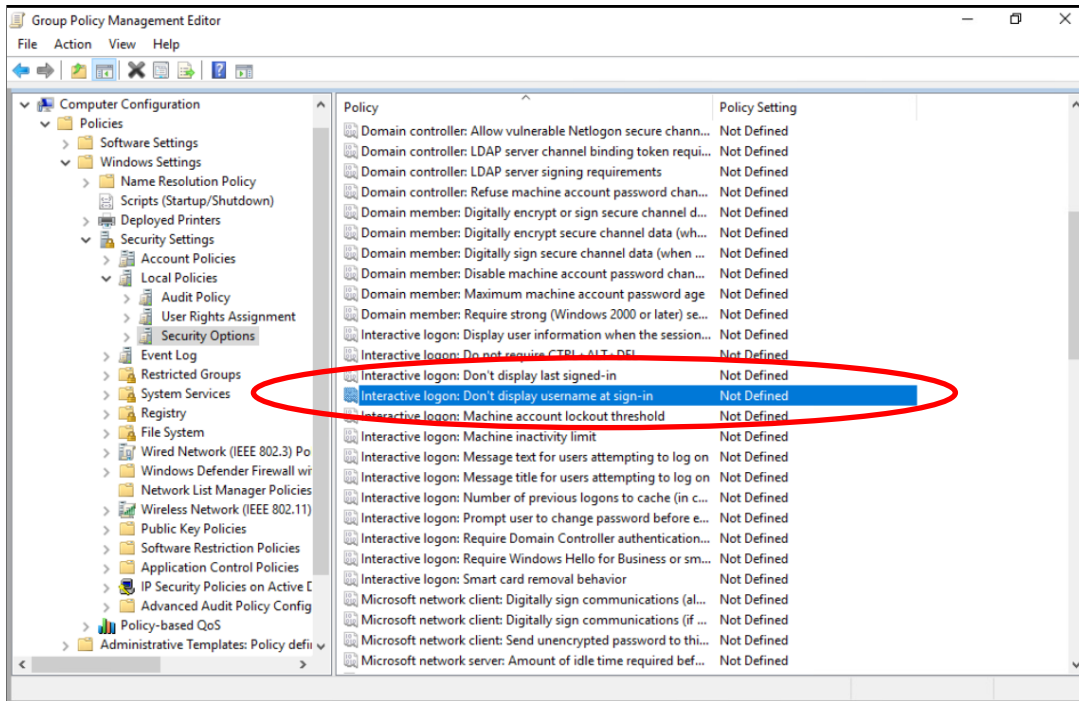
Administrator re-enabled the account for the user. With the suggested setting of 30 minutes, this would mean the account would remain locked out for 30 minutes and would reset the lockout counter after the 30 minutes had passed. Click **OK** to continue.

Policy	Policy Setting
Account lockout duration	30 minutes
Account lockout threshold	3 invalid logon attempts
Reset account lockout counter after	30 minutes

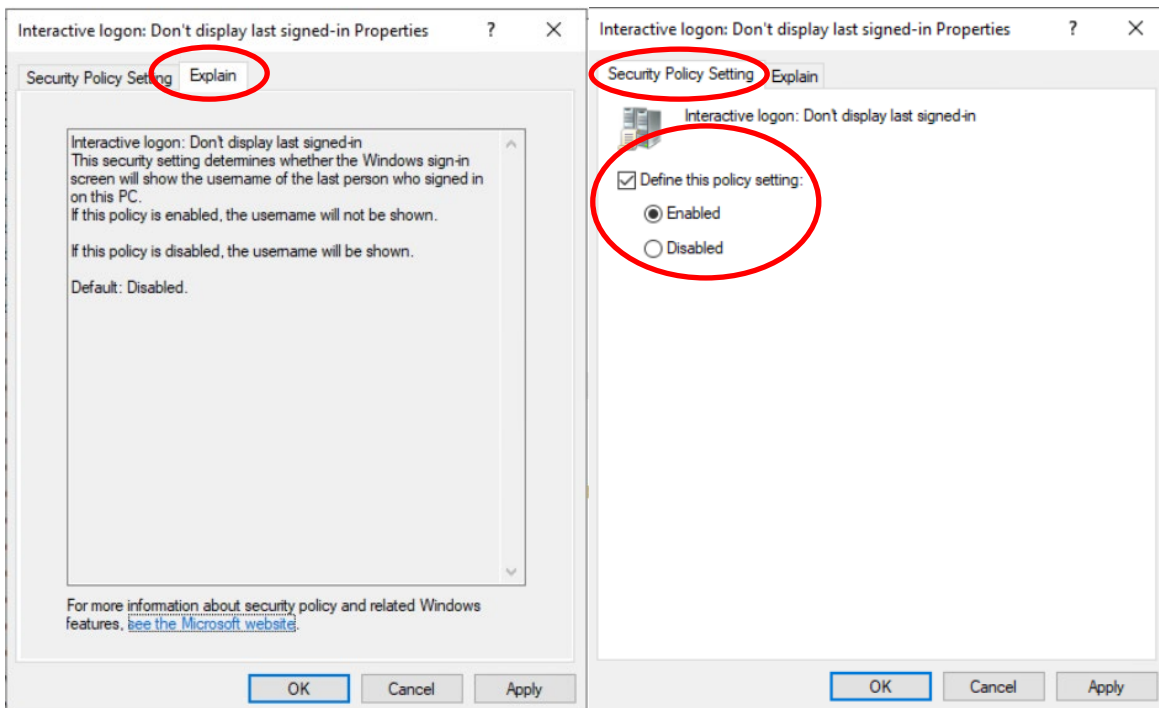
13) Notice that all three policies have now been enabled with the settings above.



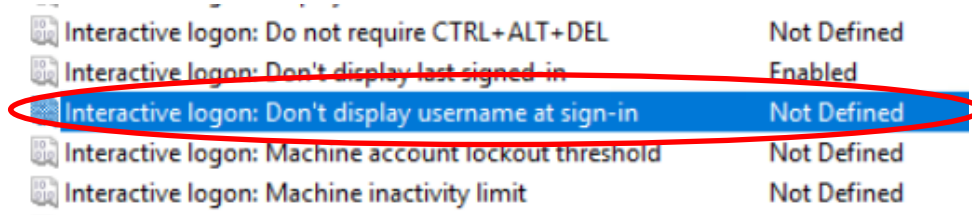
14) In the left-hand side of the window, expand the **Local Policies** section and highlight **Security Options**.



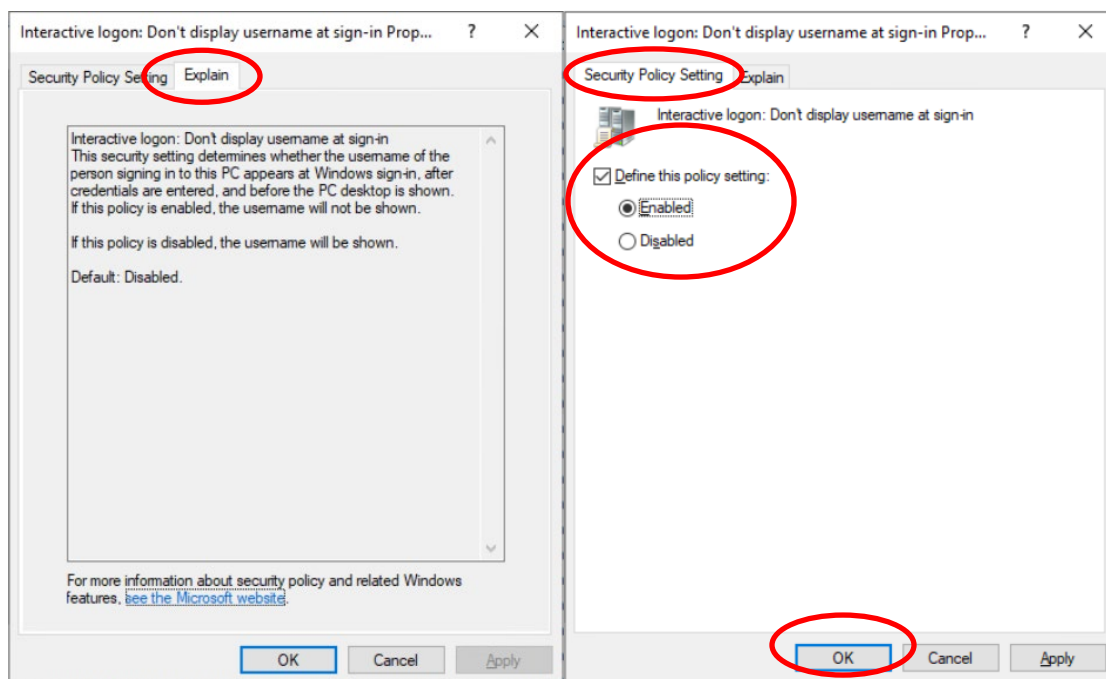
- 1) You will notice there are lots of policy options to choose from. Let's pick three easy ones to see the results of. Start by double clicking on the **Interactive logon: Don't display last signed-in** policy.



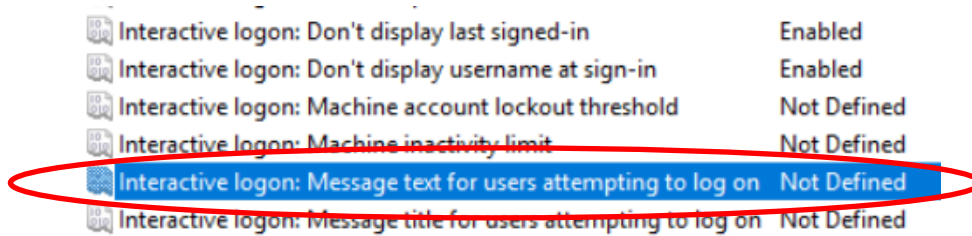
- 2) Click on the **Explain** tab to learn more about this policy. Once you have finished reading the policy information, click on the **Security Policy Setting** tab, check the box to **Define this policy setting**, and choose **Enabled**. Click **OK** when finished.



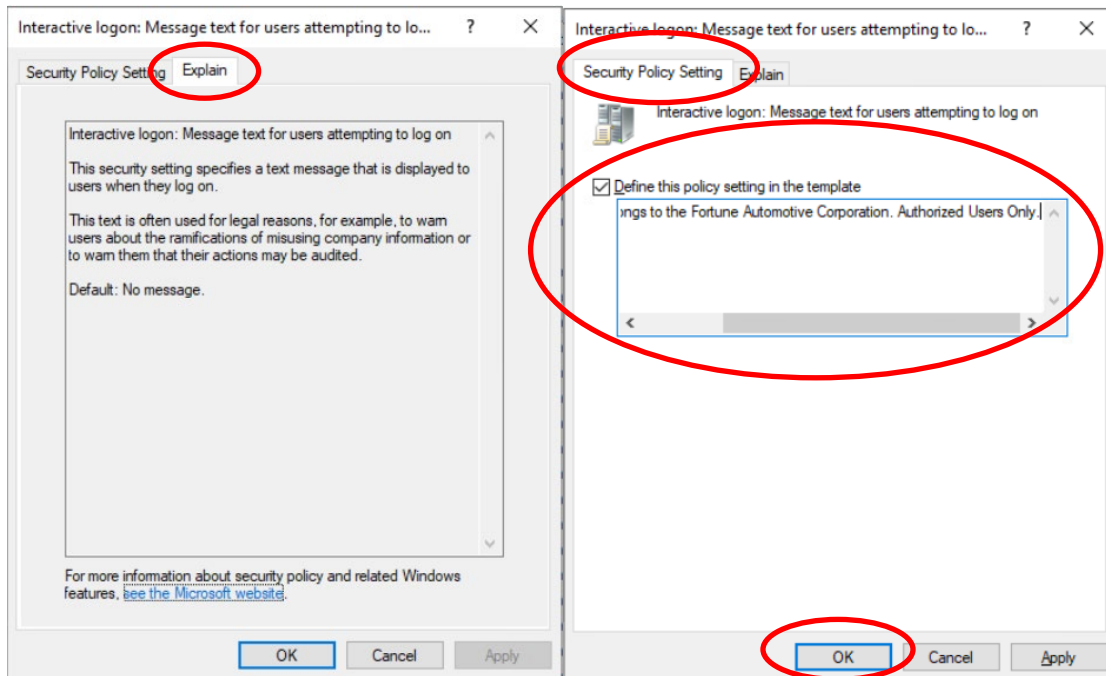
- 3) Now double click on the Interactive logon: **Don't display username at sign-in**.



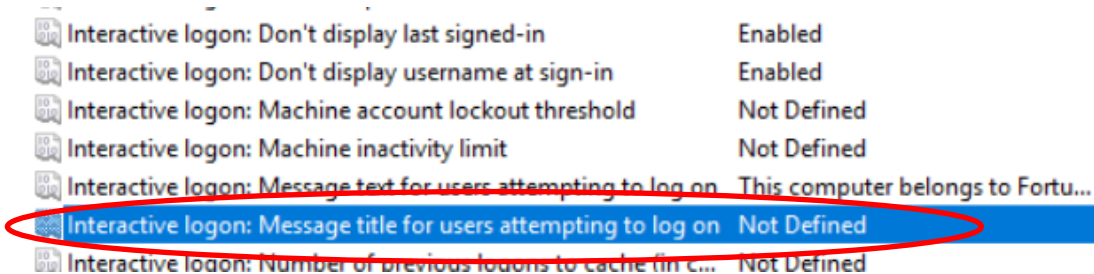
- 4) Click on the **Explain** tab to learn more about this policy. Once you have finished reading the policy information, click on the **Security Policy Setting** tab, check the box to **Define this policy setting**, and choose **Enabled**. Click **OK** when finished.



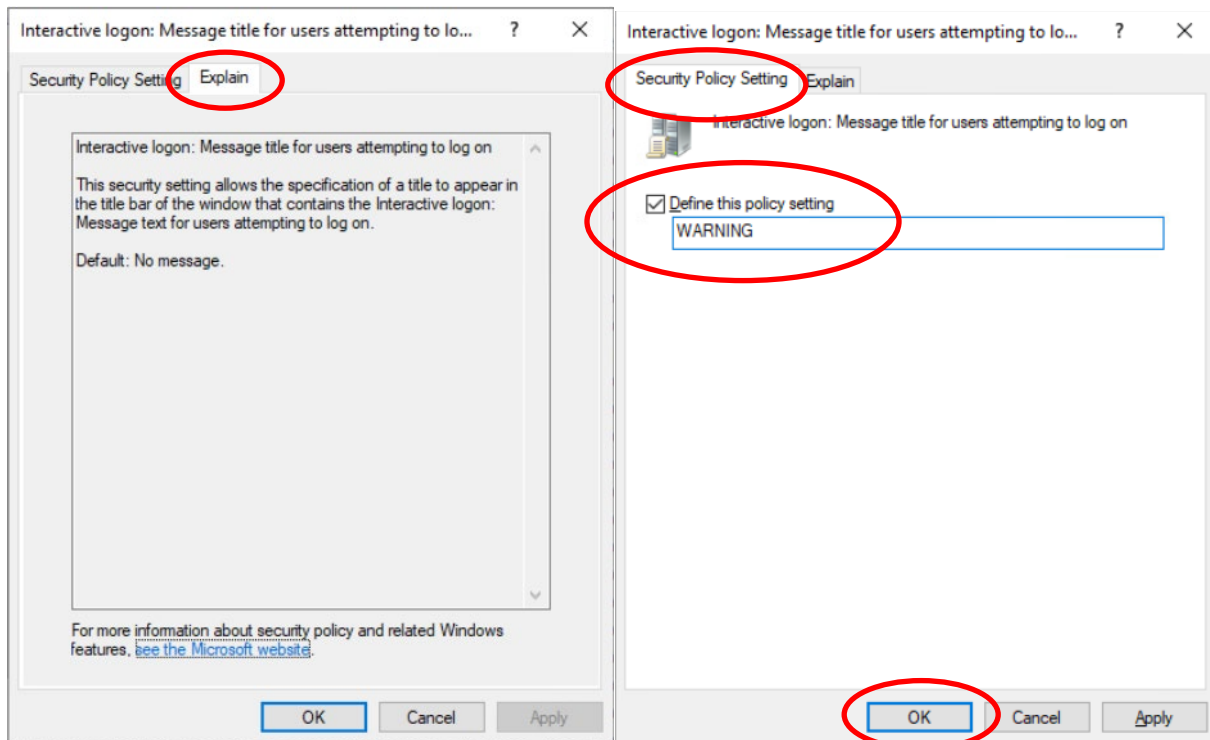
- 5) Now double click on the Interactive logon: **Message text for users attempting to log on**.



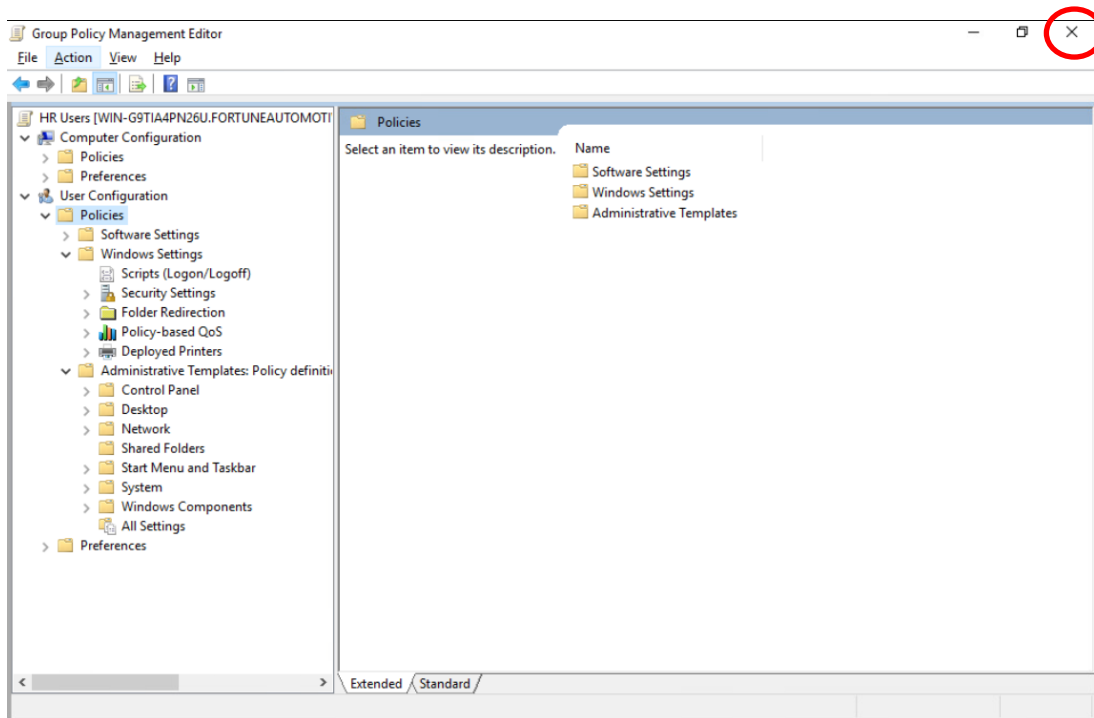
- 6) Click on the **Explain** tab to learn more about this policy. Once you have finished reading the policy information, click on the **Security Policy Setting** tab, check the box to **Define this policy setting in the template** and type the following message in the box: ***This computer belongs to the Fortune Automotive Corporation. Authorized Users only.*** Click **OK** to save this policy setting.



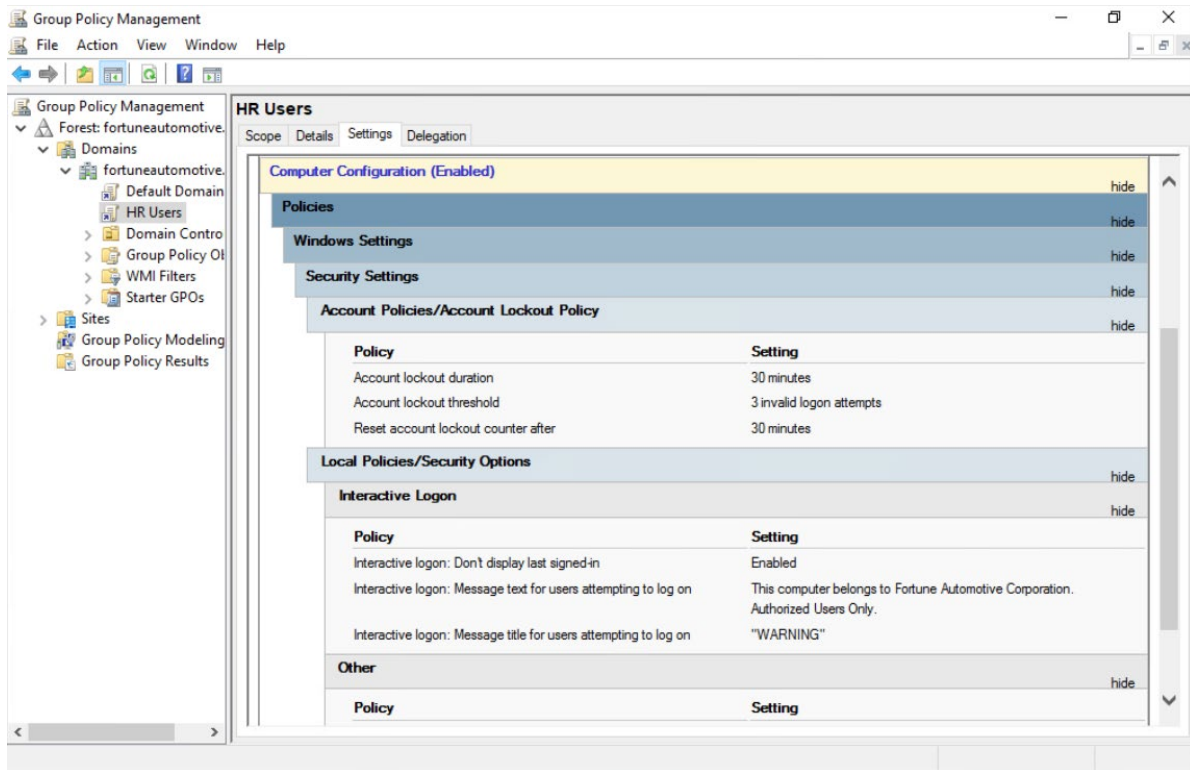
- 7) Now for the final setting. Double click on the policy setting for **Interactive logon: Message title for users attempting to log on**.



- 8) Click on the **Explain** tab to learn more about this policy. Once you have finished reading the policy information, click on the **Security Policy Setting** tab, check the box to **Define this policy setting** and type the following message in the box: **WARNING**. Click **OK** to save this policy setting.
- 9) With these three policies set you are accomplishing two things. The first policy makes it so the last user who logged on to this computer will not appear automatically when you press CTRL+ALT+DEL to logon. This prevents someone from knowing what your user account naming convention is and what a valid user account will be. This is half of the information needed to breach a system. The second and third policies will immediately present the user with a disclaimer when they attempt to log on. Note that in the real world, these messages should be crafted by an organization's legal and HR departments.

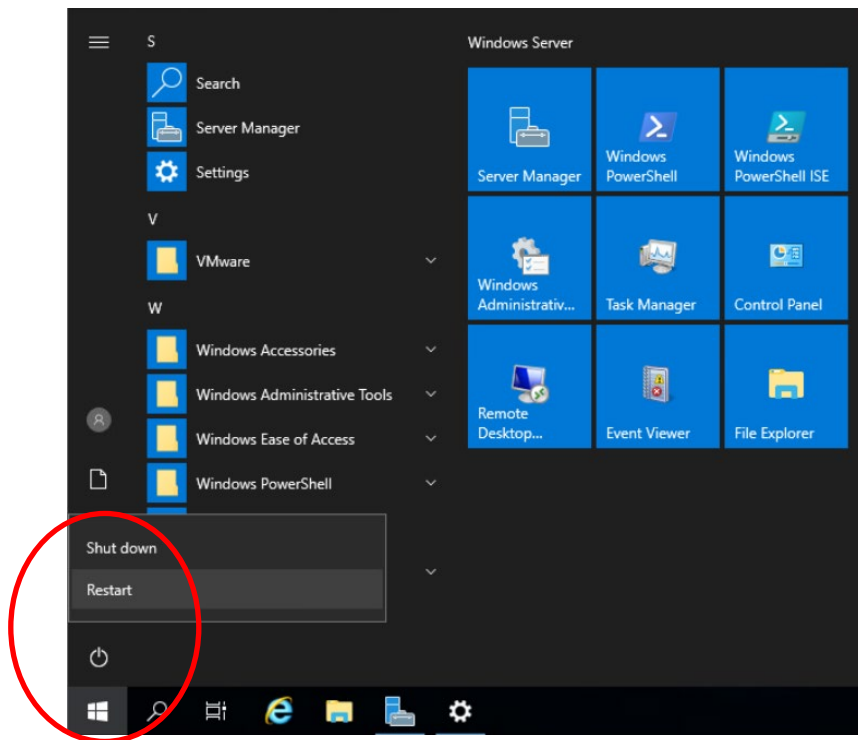


- 10) Take some time to look around the Computer Configuration settings and possible User Configuration settings. You will notice there are few security-related policies in User Configuration. This is because most of the User-based policies are designed to control the look and feel of the Windows desktop operating systems. Most organizations use these settings to create a standardized desktop for all users. The reason for this is so a user can move from one computer to another and always have the same experience. Feel free to open a few policies and read about what they do. We will not be enabling any of these settings in this lab.
- 11) Once you have finished looking at the possible settings, you can close the Group Policy Management Editor window by clicking on the **X** in the upper-right corner.

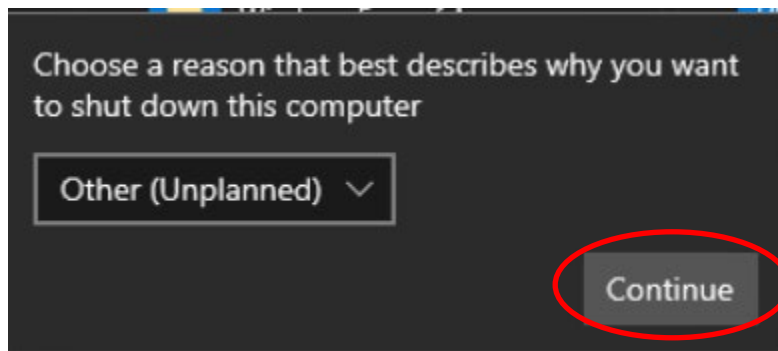


12) To see the settings you just created, you need to refresh the window. If you hit **F5**, it will eventually refresh (you will get a few error messages before it does). Otherwise, just click on the **Default Domain Policy** in the left-hand side of the window, then click back on **HR Users**. Click on the **Show All** option in the upper right corner to see the policies you just created.

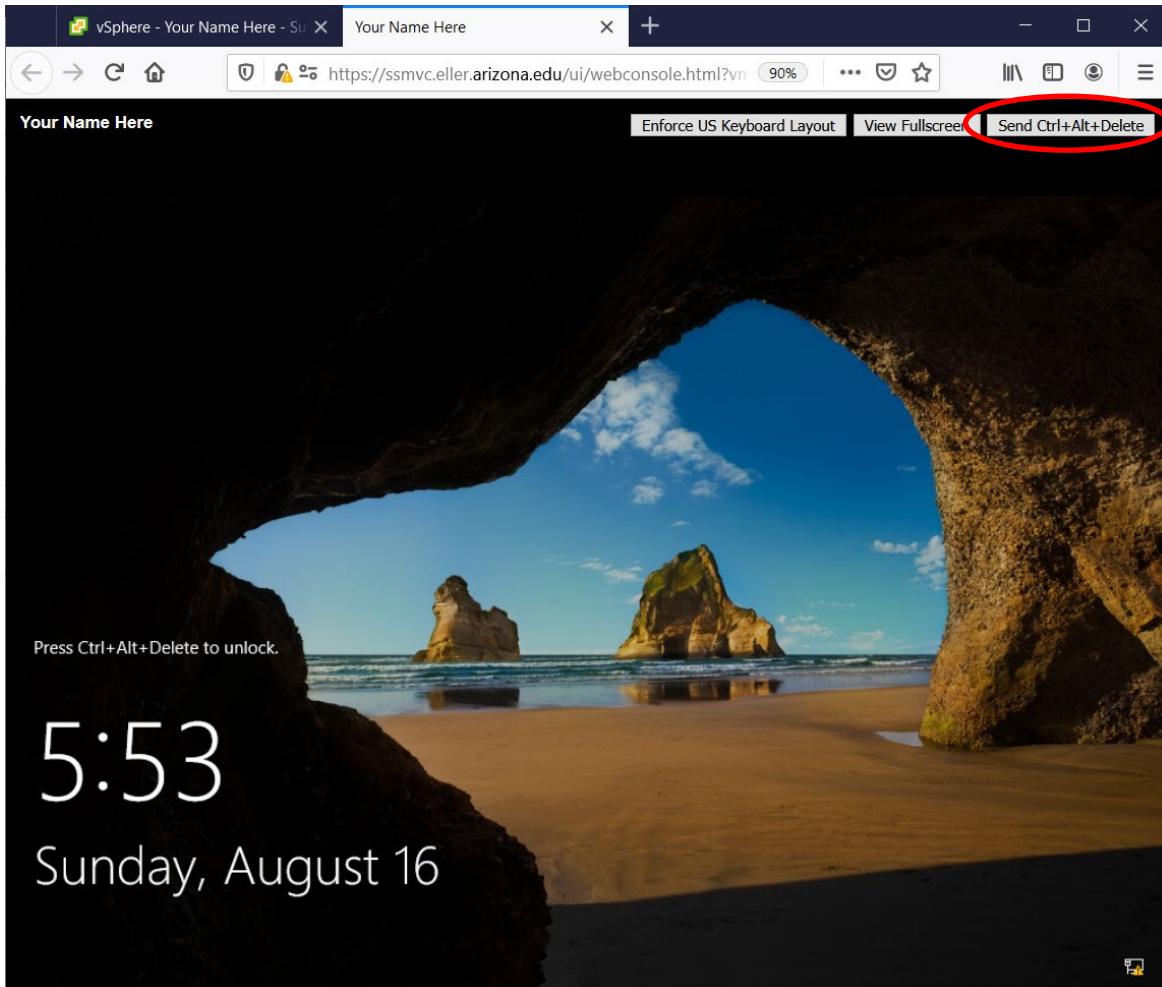
4. Reboot Your Server to See Effect of Settings



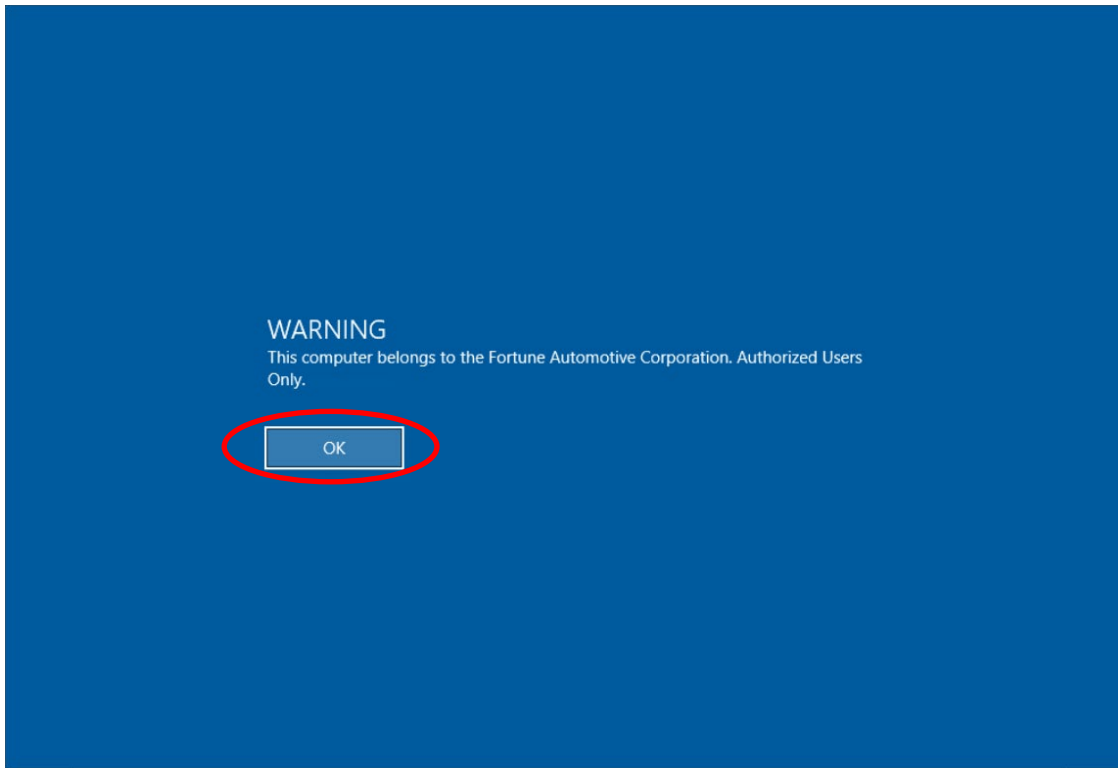
- 1) Now to see the changes, you should reboot the server.
 - a. Click on the **Start** button in the lower left corner.
 - b. Click on the **power** button and choose **Restart**.



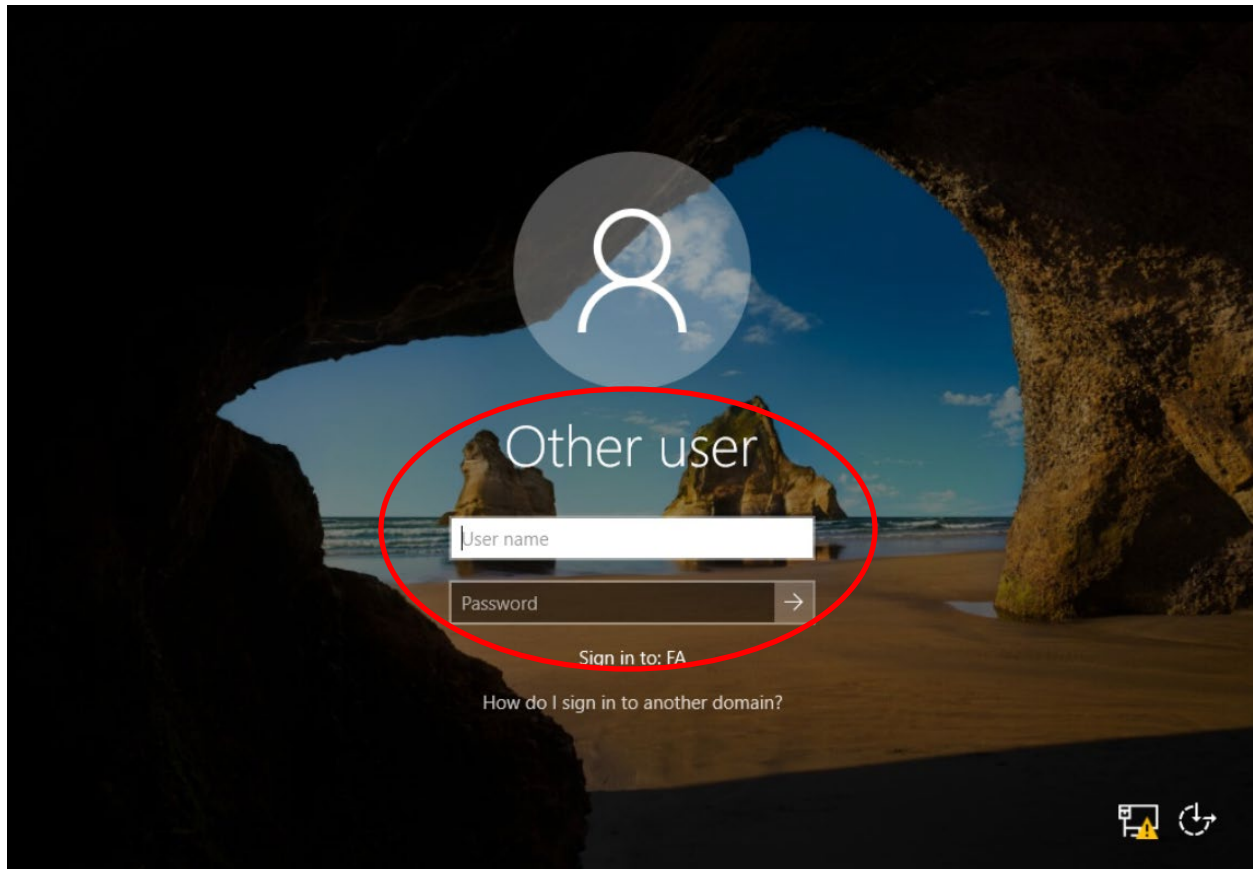
- 2) Choose any reason from the list and click **Continue** to restart the server.



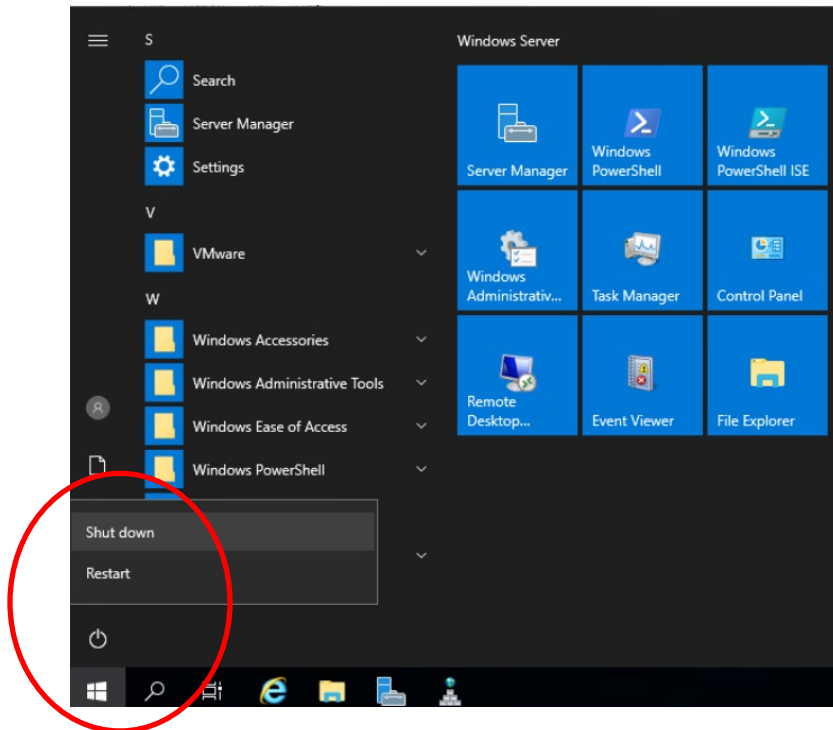
- 3) When the server boots back up, click on the **Send Ctrl+Alt+Delete** button in the upper right-hand portion of the browser window (highlighted above).



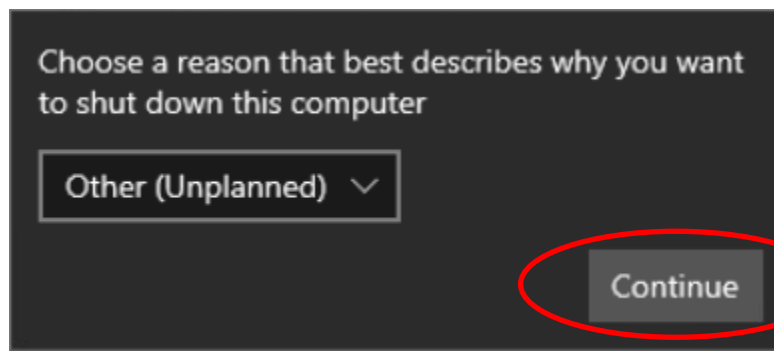
- 4) You should be immediately presented with the WARNING disclaimer message you created. Click **OK** to continue to the login prompt.



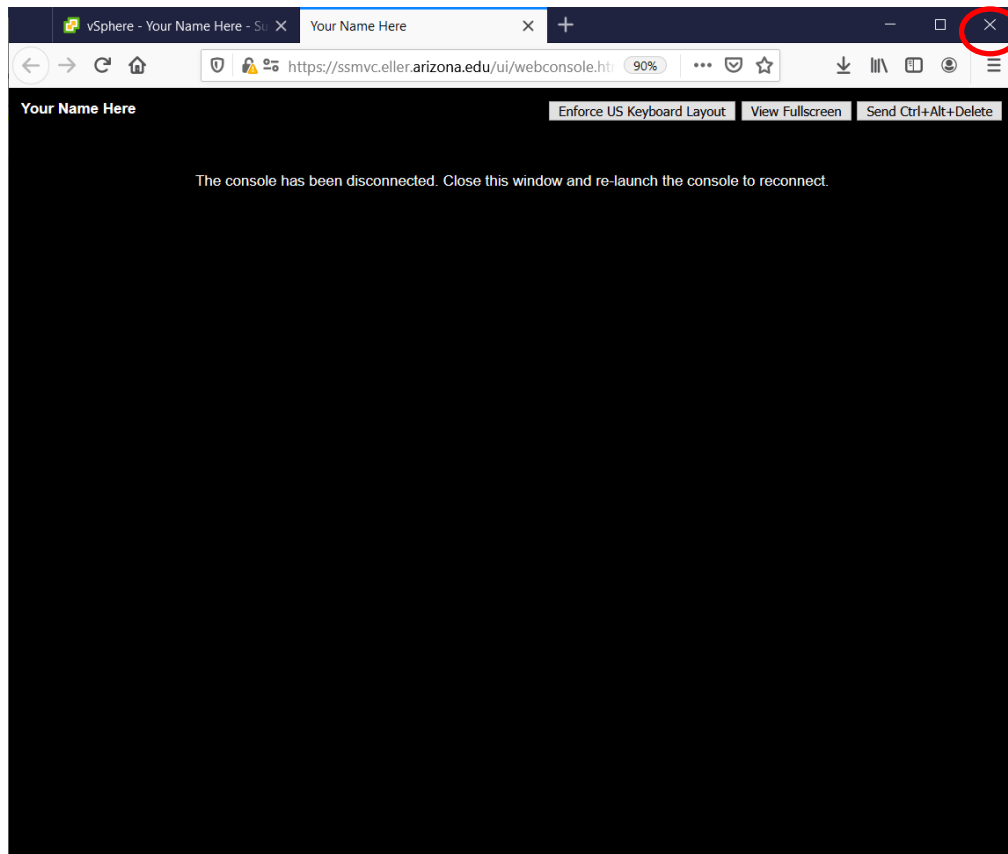
- 5) You will immediately notice that you are presented with the Other User log on screen. You will need to **type your username (Administrator) and password** to log on. This is the result of the first policy you configured.
- 6) Once you have logged on you can choose to play with other Computer and User Configuration settings to see what they do. When you are finished, shut down your server.



- 7) Click on the **Start** button in the lower left corner of the screen to bring up the Start screen. In the lower left corner you will see a power button. Click on the **power** button and choose **Shut down** from the menu.



- 8) You will be asked to select a reason for the shutdown. **Choose any option** and click **Continue** to shut down the server.



- 9) When the server is completely shut down the screen will be black with the statement “The console has been disconnected”. Close the window for your server by clicking on the X in the upper right-hand corner of the open tab.

5. Research & Write a Paper Discussing Group Policy

- 1) Now that you have a basic understanding of group policy and what it can do, you will need to do some additional research into other possible group policy security settings.
- 2) Google and Microsoft TechNet are good websites to help you research what is possible.
- 3) Write a paper explaining a minimum of 3 security group policy settings **that are not used or discussed in either the Default Domain Policy or the HR Users policy you created. This would include any Password policies.**
- 4) See Lab Deliverables for more information.

Lab Deliverables

At this point you should have the following:

- a. A new Group Policy Object configured with a few basic security settings and assigned to the root of your active directory.
- b. An understanding of how group policy can be used and some of the settings that are possible for both computer objects and user objects within Active Directory.
- c. A written paper explaining a minimum of 3 additional security settings that can be applied using group policy. These security settings should not be used in either the Default Domain Policy or your HR Users policy.
 - i. Explain what each policy will do when enabled and disabled
 - ii. Including specific information on what settings are possible and what setting is recommended to be used and why.
- d. Your paper should be written using Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced.
- e. Your paper must include a cover page, a body (including introduction and conclusion), and a reference page with a minimum of 3 references.
 - i. Citations are REQUIRED for any direct quotes or paraphrased materials used in your paper. Failure to do so will result in a loss of up to 25% of the total points.
 - ii. The paper must be formatted properly. Do NOT use a list or outline format for your paper. This is an incomplete paper and will result in a loss of points.

Submit the following via the D2L assignments section for the lab:

- Your completed paper.

Lab Rubric

Lab #4 will be graded in two parts: your active directory GPO and your paper. Here is the breakdown for how your lab will be graded:

Sections	Additional Information
Following Instructions (10%)	Please make certain you follow the instructions for the Lab Deliverable.
Group Policy Object Creation (25%)	You must create the HR Users GPO as instructed in this lab with the minimum set of policies as outlined in these instructions.
Group Policy Security Settings Discussion (40%)	The content of your paper must include a discussion of 3 or more possible security settings that can be applied to a computer or server via GPO. You must explain what the setting will do, how it will do it, what happens when enabled and disabled, what options are available with each, what setting is recommended, and why an organization would use these settings.
References (25%)	You must provide a minimum of 3 references and use proper citations with direct quotes and paraphrased materials.

Lab Resources

- Google
- Microsoft TechNet