How To Map Network Drives With Group Policy (Complete Guide)
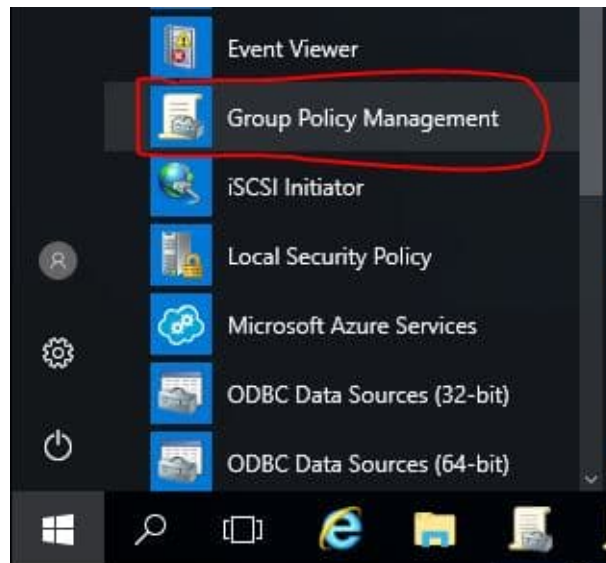
In this guide, I'll show you step by step instructions on how to map network drives with Group Policy.

In this example, I'm going to map a network drive for the HR department. I'll use item level targeting so it only maps this drive for users in the HR organizational unit.
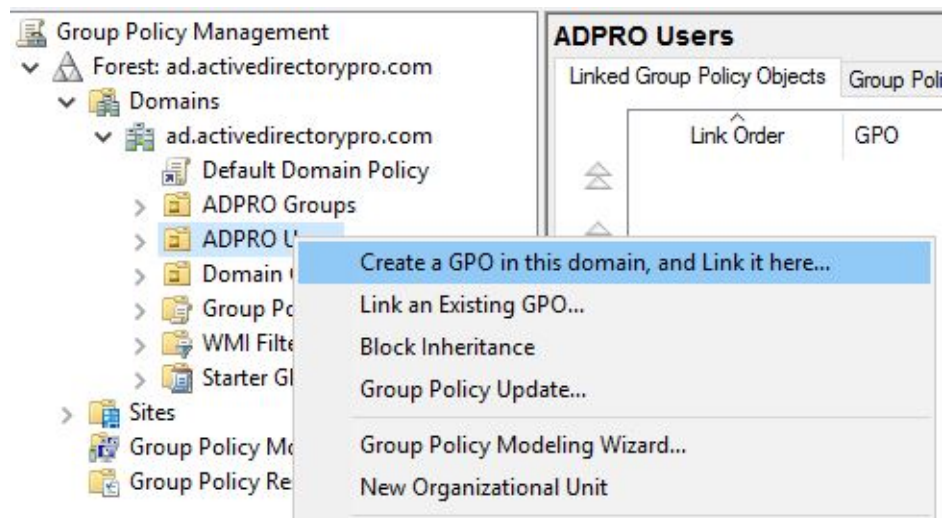
You could also use a Security Group to target a specific group of users. This will map to a network share that only the HR department has access to.

Step 1: Create & Link a new GPO

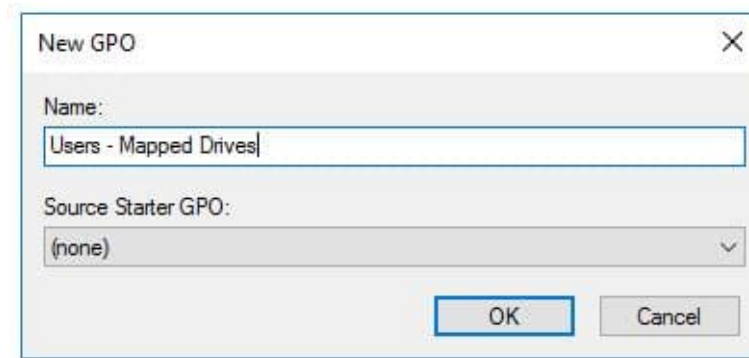1. Open the Group Policy Management Console

2. In the Group Policy Management Console, Right Click and Select "Create a GPO in this domain, and Link it here"

3. Name the new GPO

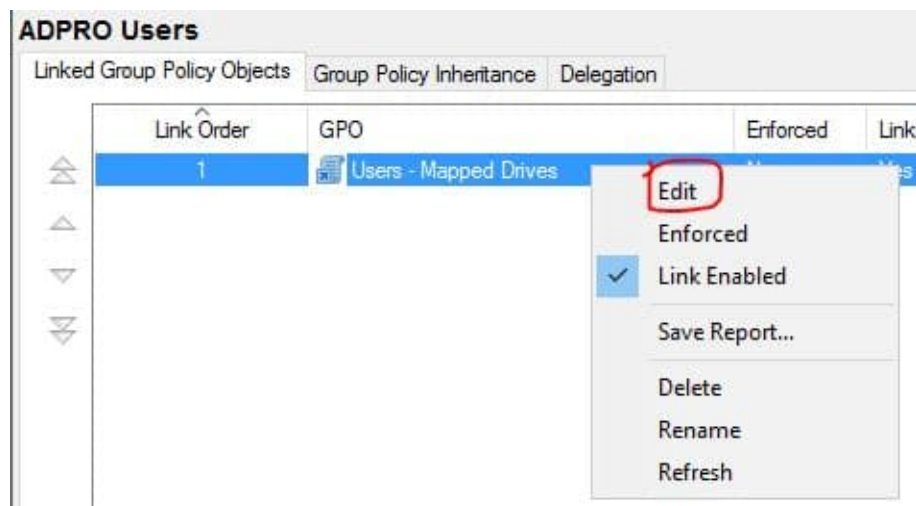You can name the new GPO whatever you like, I've named mine "Users – Mapped Drives
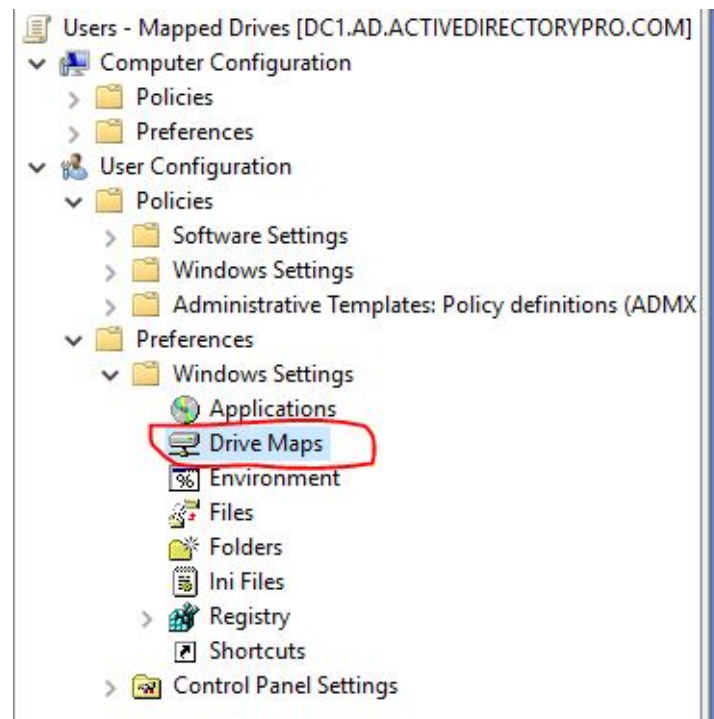
I can later add additional drive mappings to this GPO.

The new GPO is now created and linked, now it's time to configure the settings.
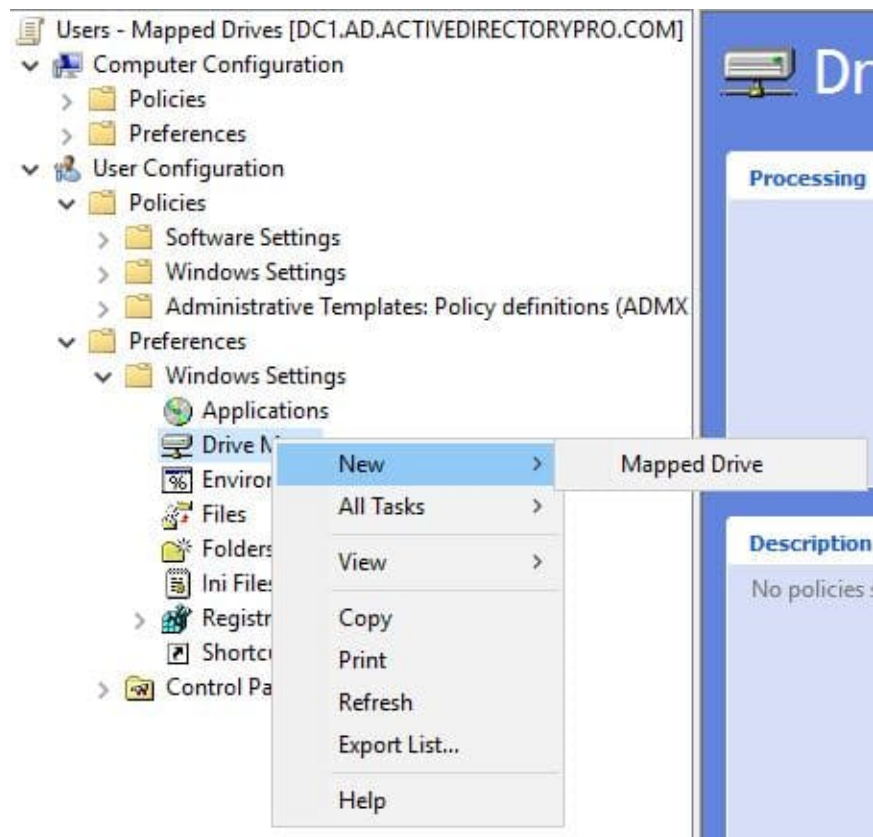
Step 2: Configure GPO Settings

1. On the GPO right click and select edit

2. Navigate to User Configuration -> Preferences -> Windows Settings -> Drive Mappings
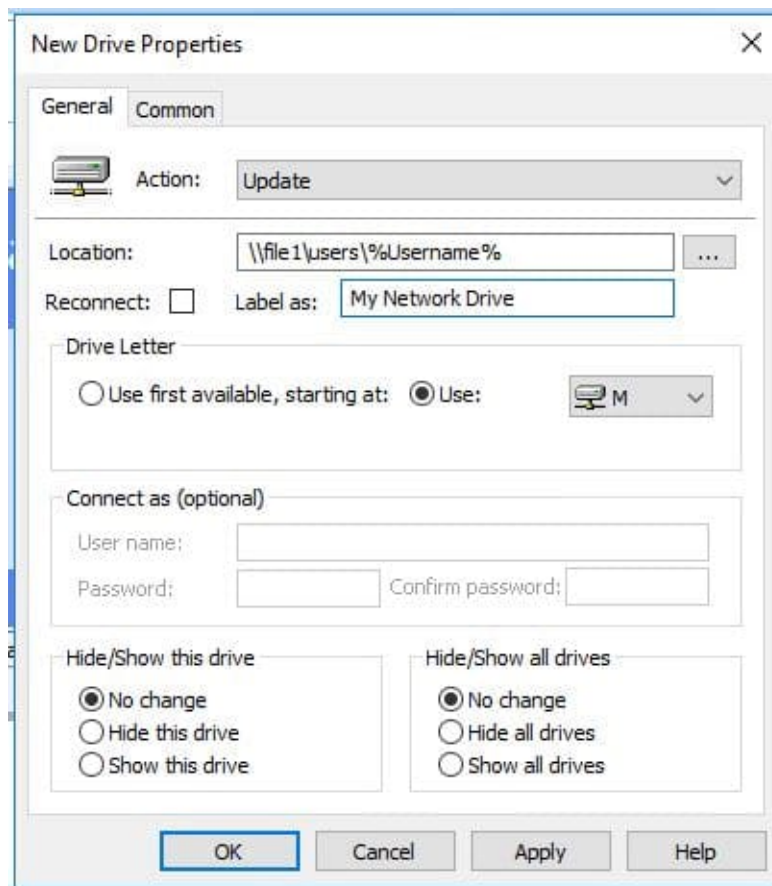

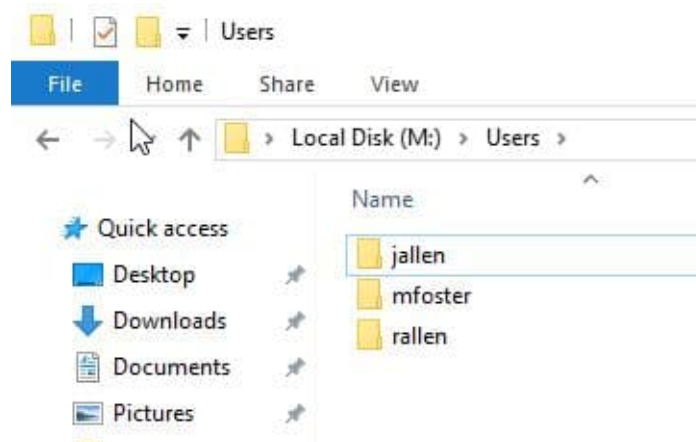3. Right Click Drive Mappings, Select New – > Mapped Drive

4. Configure Drive Mapping Properties

The %UserName% is a variable that will match the user's logon name.

Just to be clear you must have folders setup on a network share that matches the location and users logon name.

My file server is file1, the share is users and in the user's folder is a folder for each user. Screenshot below of users folder on file1 server.

Just have the user log off and back on and it should map the M drive