Creating an Active Directory Logon Script for a user

Overview

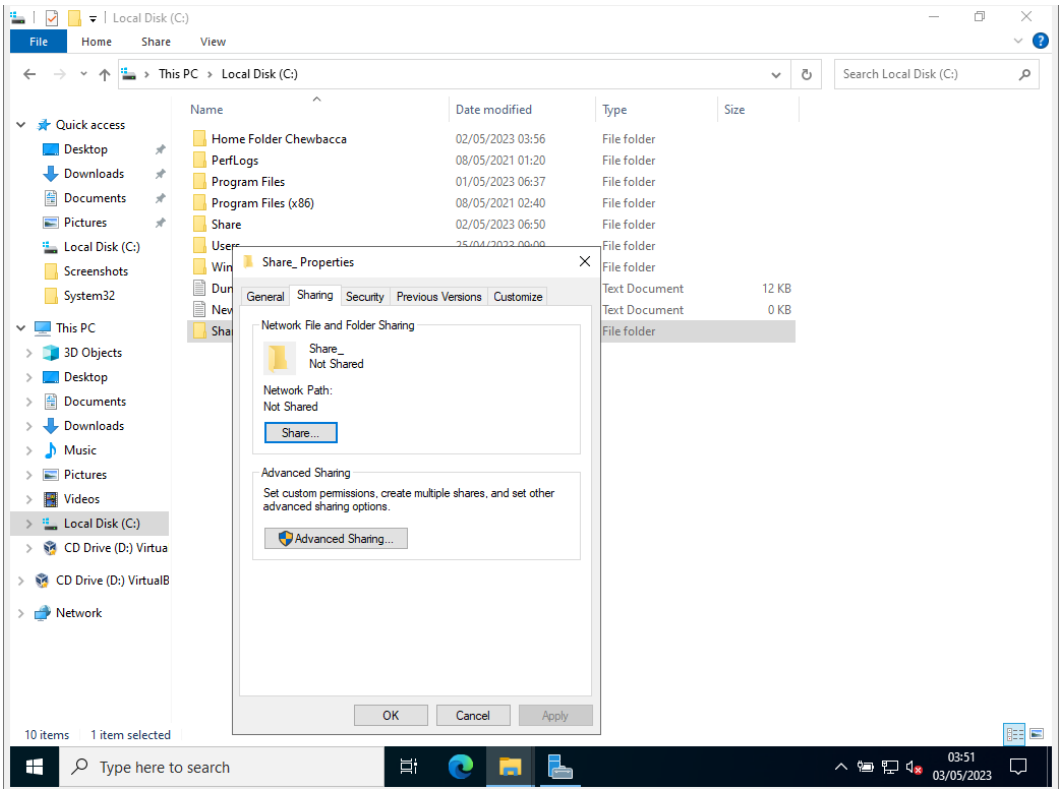
Logon scripts are files you can assign to user accounts which **run automatically when users log in**. They provide various functions from mapping drive letters to network resources, installing applications, setting up printers etc. After a logon script has been written it needs to be saved in a **batch file**.

In this guide we will be creating a batch file for our Windows 10 VM user so the logon script we will create executes upon login. This logon script will include a shared folder for the necessary users to access across the network. We will make use of various tools including: batch files, Group Policy Management and Windows PowerShell.

Task 1: Create a Shared Folder

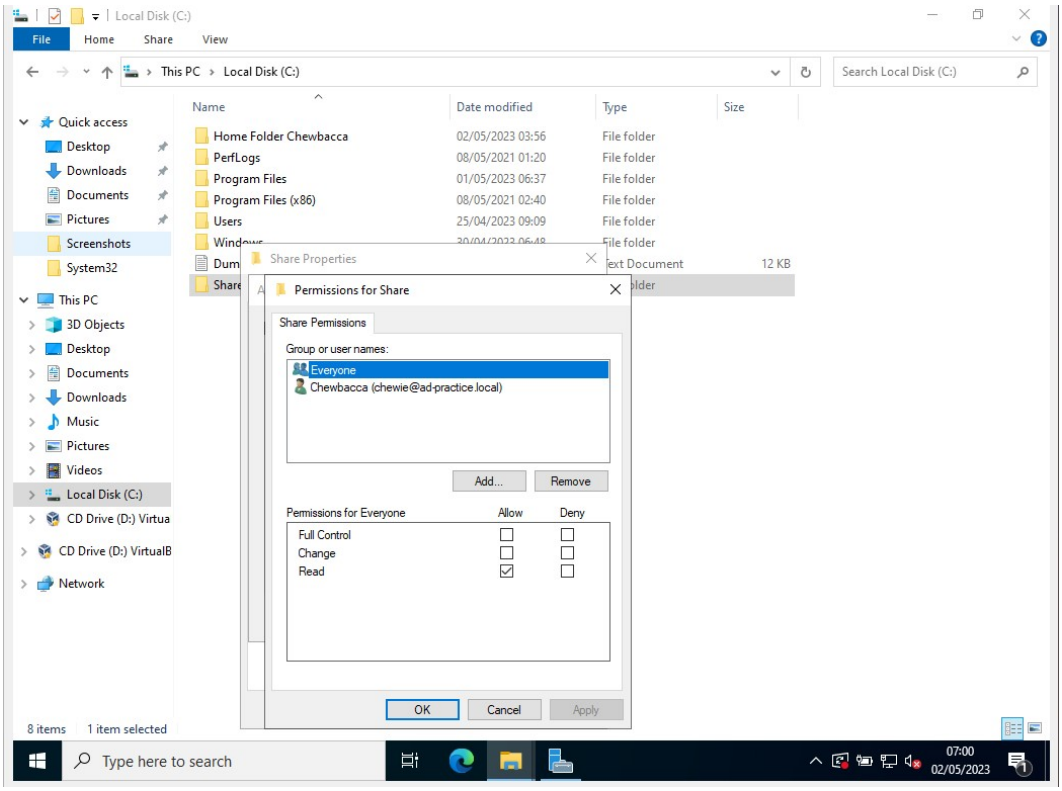
First we are going to create the shared folder to be used throughout the network by users who have the correct permissions. Documents placed in this folder can then be accessed and collaborated on by those with the correct access.

1. Connect to your VM that is set as your Domain Controller and login.
2. Open **File Explorer** and select **Local Disk (C:)** under **This PC**.
3. **Right-click on a blank space in the right pane** > **New** > **Folder** and rename the folder to “**Share**”.
4. **Right-click Share** > **Properties** > in the **Share Properties** dialog box, click the **Sharing** tab > click **Advanced Sharing**.



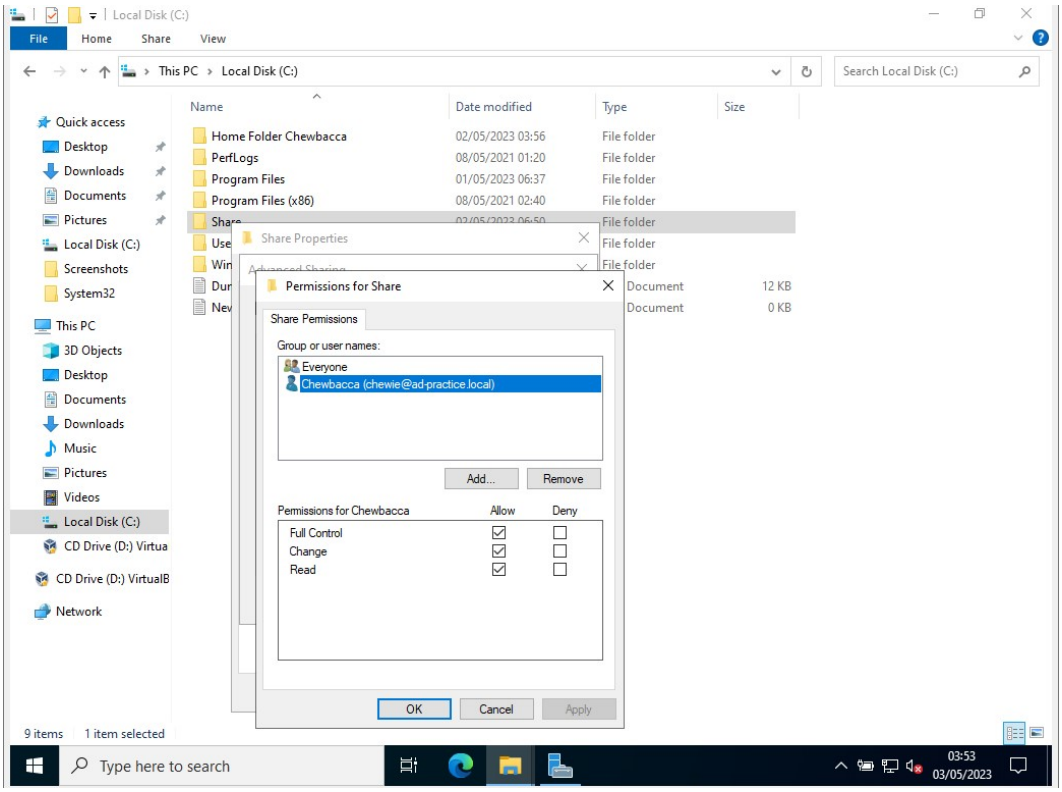
Sharing tab - Share folder Properties

5. In the **Advanced Sharing** dialog box, tick the **Share this folder** checkbox > click **Permissions** > in the **Permission for Share** dialog box, click **Add**.



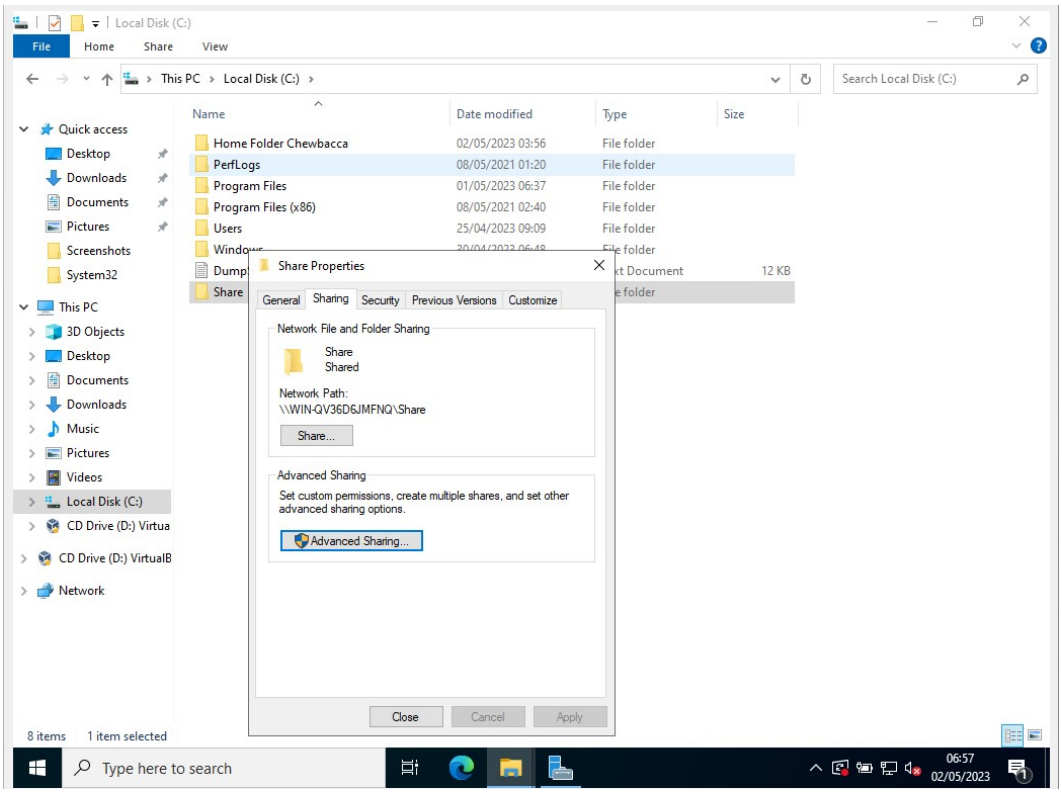
Adding members under Share Permissions

6. In the **Enter the object names to select** field, type in the user of your Windows 10 Enterprise VM > click **Check names >** click **OK**.
7. In the **Permissions for Share** dialog box, ensure **the user** is selected >tick the **Full Control** checkbox > click **OK** and **OK** again.



Permissions for Share window - Full Control permissions for chosen user

8. Back on the Share Properties dialog box, you will see that the share has been created > **copy the address displayed under Network Path** > click **Close**.



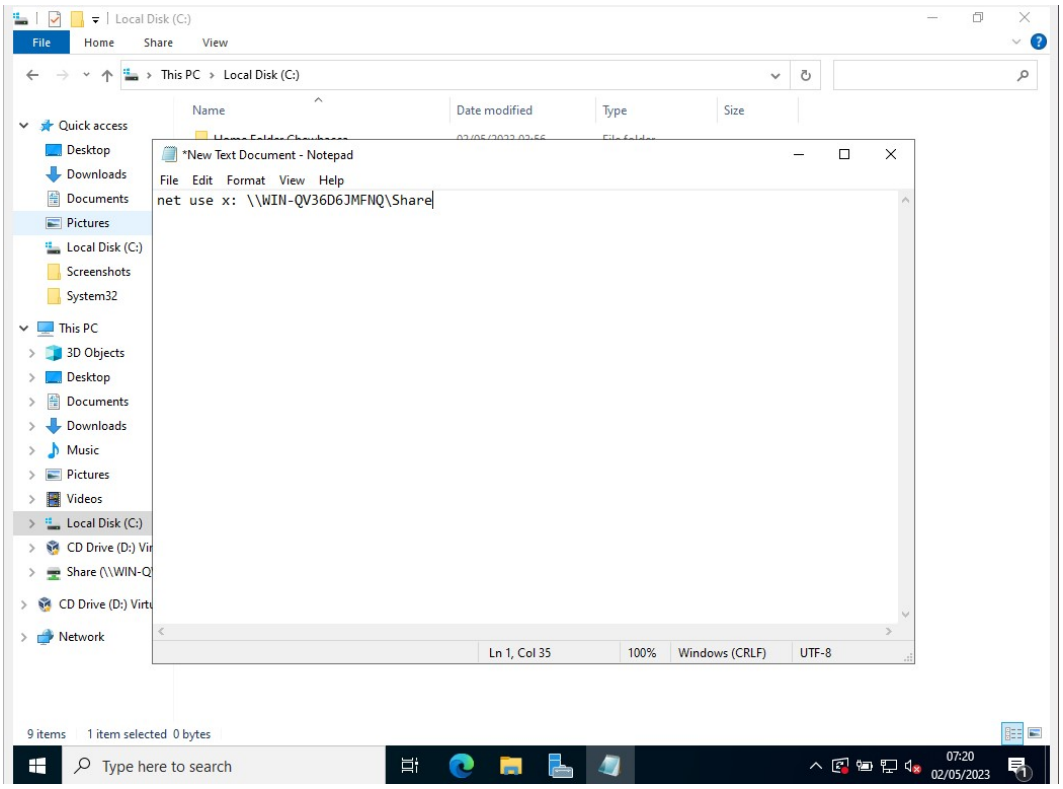
Confirmation of the Share been created

Task 2: Create a Batch File

Batch file instructions are written in a shell script and run with administrative privileges. A batch file is a script file that stores commands to be executed in a serial order. For this task we will create a batch file named XShare.bat. This file will share a folder as a drive on our network.

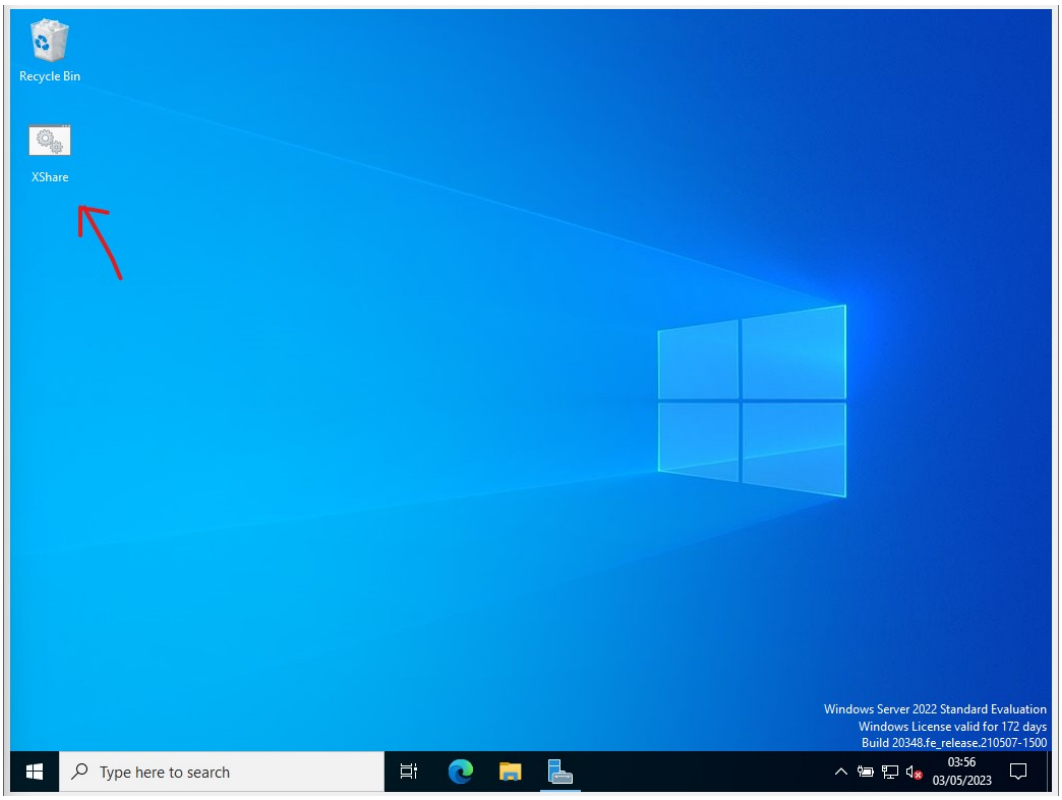
9. On Local Disk (C:) of File Explorer, **right-click on a blank space on the right pane** > **New** > **Text Document**.
10. **Open** the **“New Text Document”** file and type: **net use x: [network path]**.

> 💡 **Note**: The Network Path is what we copied from the Share folder properties so make sure to copy over the Network Path you see on your computer.



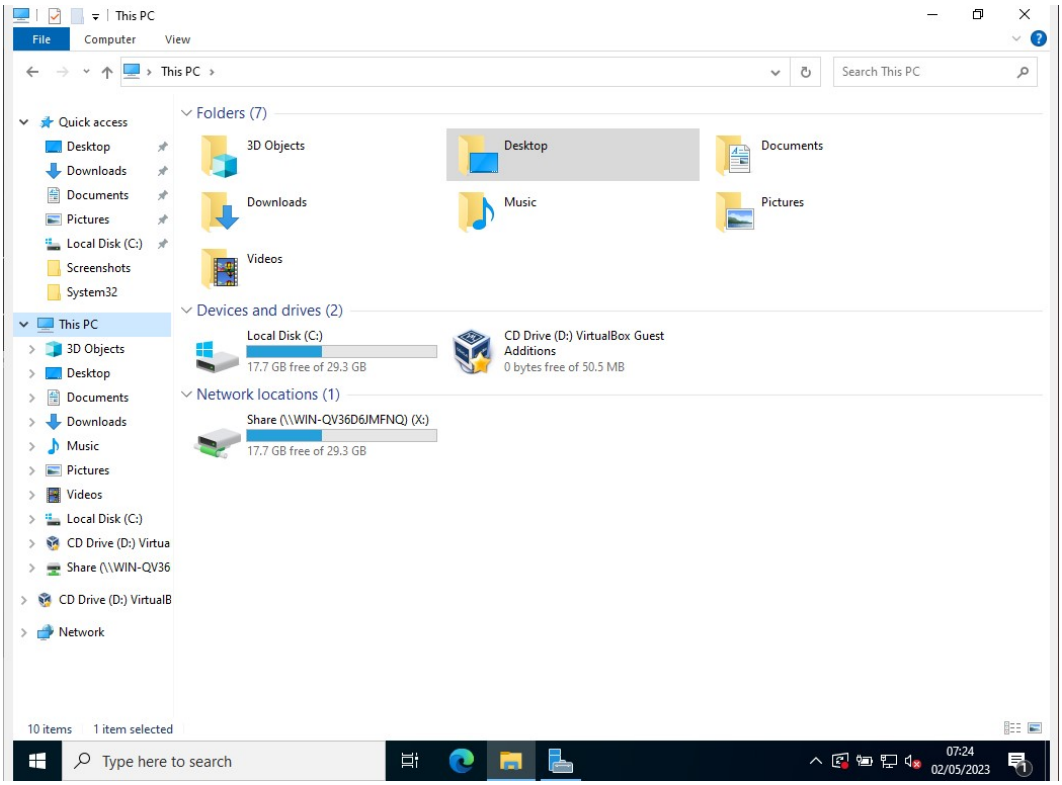
Creating the batch file

11. Click **File** > **Save As** > click **Desktop** on the left pane for the file's location > **change the File Name to XShare.bat** > click **Save**.
12. Minimise File Explorer and on the Desktop you will find the newly created XShare batch file. **Right-click XShare** > click **Run as administrator**.



XShare.bat file location - Desktop

13. Maximise File Explorer > click **This PC** > you should now see the newly created Share (\\WIN-QV36D6JMFNQ) (X:) under **Network Locations**.



Shared drive successfully created

14. **Right-click on Share** > click **Disconnect**. The Share will now disappear from view.

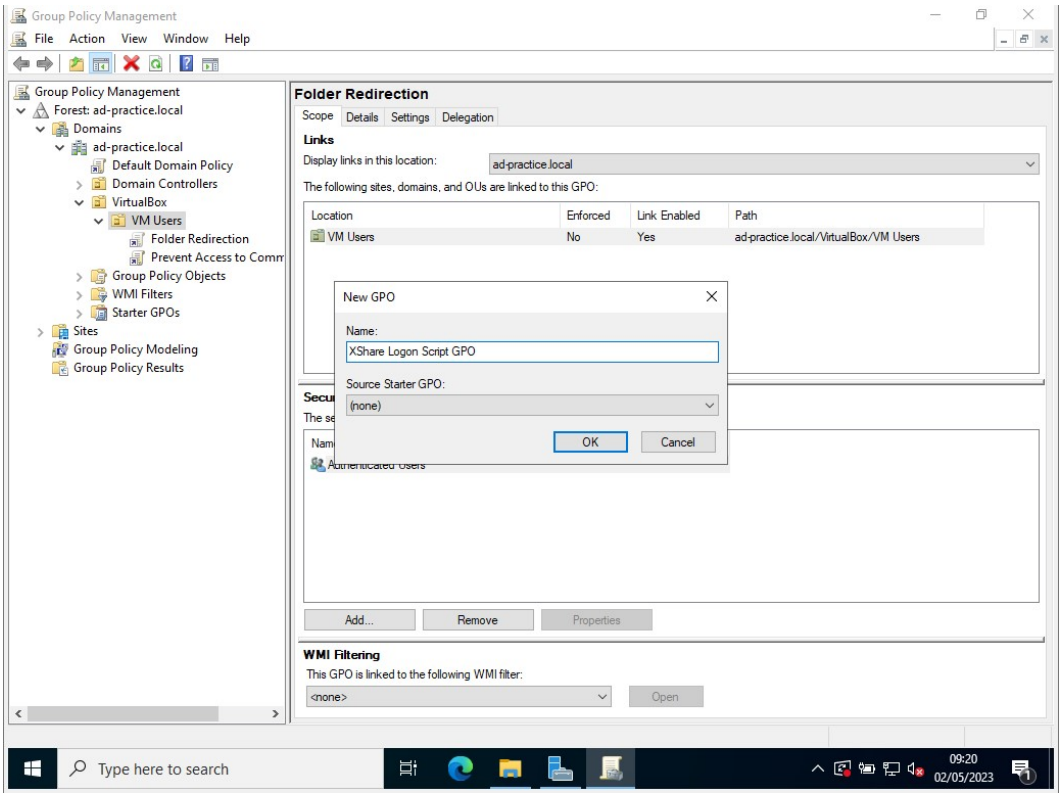
Task 3: Create a GPO Object and Attach a Group Policy

Now we are going to create a Group Policy Object (GPO) and attach a group policy to it.

15. Maximise Server Manager > **Tools** > **Group Policy Management**.
16. In the **Group Policy Management** window, right-click **Group Policy Objects** > **New**.

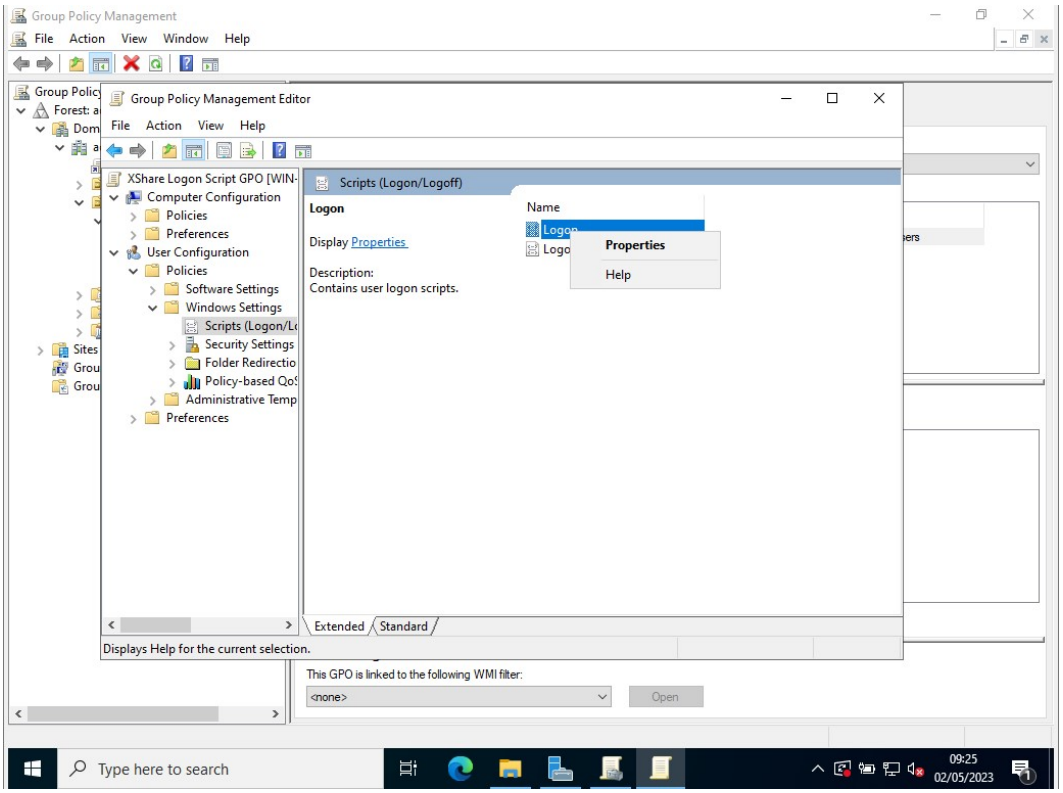
> If you wish to link the GPO inside an Organisational Unit (OU) as you may have placed the Windows 10 VM user in one on *Active Directory Users and Computers*, then **right-click the OU** > **Create a GPO in this domain, and Link it here…** In my case, I created an OU called VirtualBox and created an OU inside it called VM Users and linked my Windows 10 Enterprise VM user here - this is where I will be creating the GPO.

17. In the **New GPO** window, type **XShare Logon Script GPO** in the Name field > click **OK >** right-click **XShare Logon Script GPO > Edit**.



Naming the GPO Object

18. On the **Group Policy Management Editor** window, expand **User Configuration** > **Policies > Windows Settings > Scripts (Logon/Logoff**) > **right-click Logon** > **Properties**.



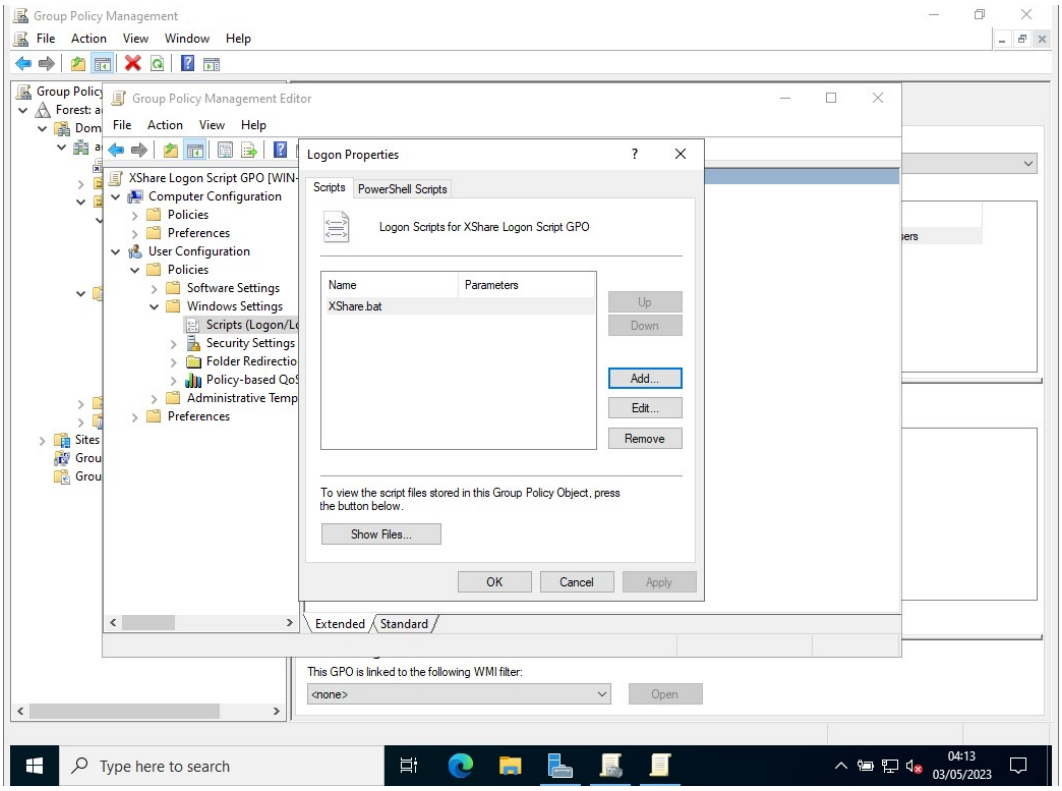
GPM Editor - Accessing Logon Script settings

19. On the **Logon Properties** window, click **Show Files**. The Logon window will be empty.

    a. Maximise the other **File Explorer** tab from earlier or open another from the Taskbar > click **Desktop** > **right-click the XShare batch file** > **Copy** > restore the **Logon** window > **right-click on the pane** > **Paste**.

20. Restore the **Group Policy Management Editor** window, on the **Logon Properties** window, click **Add** > on the **Add a Script** window, click **Browse**.

21. **Click XShare** > **Open** > **OK** > **Apply** > **OK** > close the **Group Policy Management Editor** window.



Logon Properties - XShare.bat file added to Logon Script for GPO

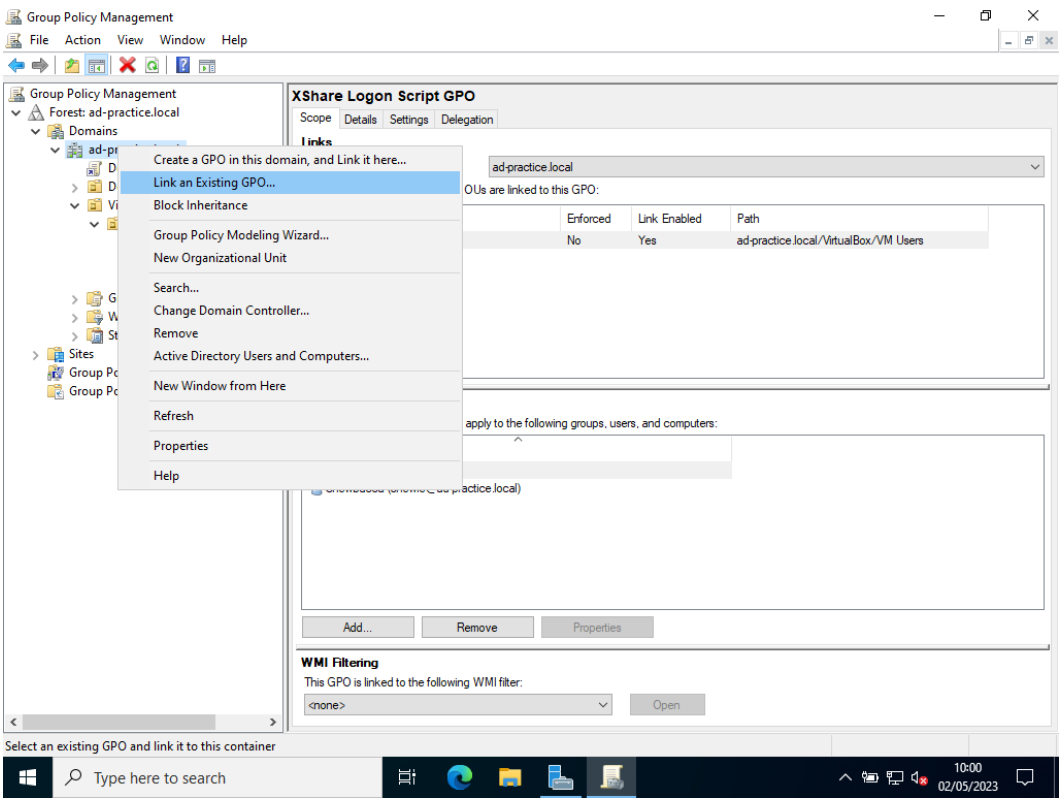
22. On the **Group Policy Management** window, click **XShare Logon Script GPO** > Under **Security Filtering** in the right pane, click **Add**.

    a. In the **Enter the object name to select** field, type the user we created for our Windows 10 Enterprise VM > click **Check Names** > **OK** - you should now see your Windows 10 Enterprise VM user listed under the Security Filtering section.

23. **Linking the XShare Logon Script GPO**:

    a. If this GPO Object was created inside the OU then it has already been link enabled.

    b. If built directly under the Group Policy Object node, right-click your domain immediately under the **Domains** node, click **Link an Existing GPO** > on the **Select GPO** window, click **XShare Logon Script GPO > OK** - it will now populate under your domain.



Linking the XShare Logon Script GPO to your domain

Task 4: Update the Group Policy

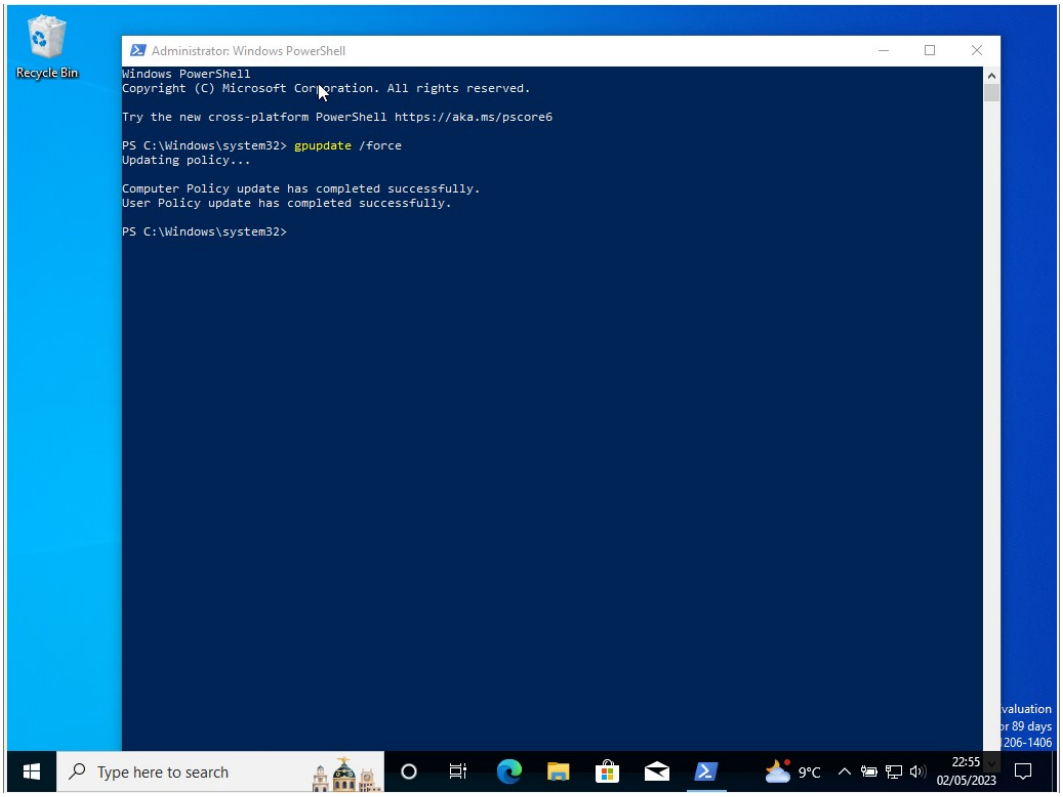
For the rules we created in the **XShare Logon Script GPO** to take effect, we either need to wait until the next update runs or as an administrator we can force the update immediately via Command Prompt or Windows PowerShell.

24. Logon to your Windows 10 Enterprise VM as the relevant user (who we added to the Security Filtering section).

25. **Right-click** the **Start** charm **> Windows PowerShell (Admin)** - you will now be in the **Administrator: Windows PowerShell** console.

> If prompted by a User Account Control window to provide authentication as an administrator, click Yes or provide the appropriate username and password.

26. In the **Administrator: Windows PowerShell** console, type **gpupdate /force** > **press enter**.



Administrator: Windows PowerShell console - gpupdate /force command

27. Next type the command **gpresult /R** > press **enter**. The result from the command shows that the GPO has been successfully applied to the user account.
27. Open File Explorer, you will find the **Share (X:)** drive appears on the left pane.

Conclusion

Congratulations, you have created a shared folder. A shared folder enables you to share the folder's contents in your Windows file system across all computers where your account can be accessed in the network, and with other users by invitation. We created a batch file (XShare.bat) stored in a Group Policy Object inside our domain to execute as a Logon script so the Share folder is available to our user upon login.