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Lab Title: Configuring Directive Controls Using a Login Warning Banner

Objective

The objective of this lab was to configure and test a directive security control by implementing a login warning banner on a Windows system. The lab focused on guiding user behavior through policy notification, ensuring users are informed of acceptable use requirements, and validating that the directive control is displayed during the authentication process.

Tools & Environment Used

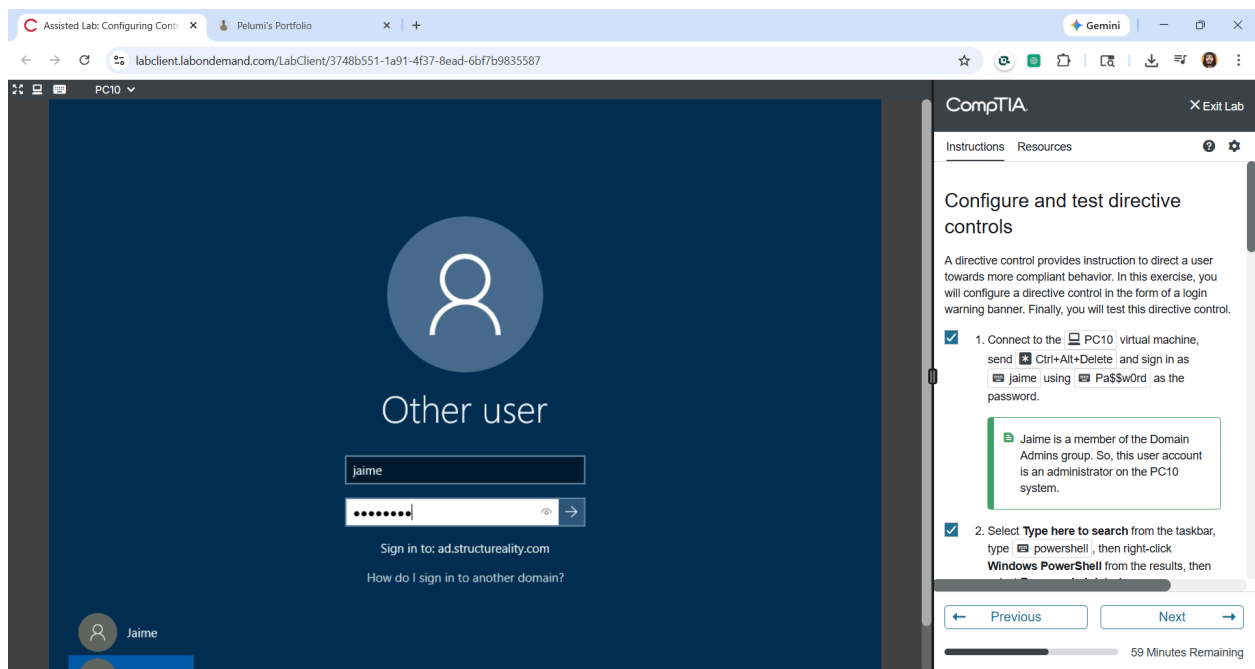
- uCertify Virtual Lab
- Windows Client Machine (PC10)
- Windows PowerShell (Administrator)
- Windows Registry
- Domain User Account (Administrator)

Lab Overview

Directive controls provide instructions to users to promote compliant behavior. Unlike preventive or detective controls, directive controls rely on communication rather than enforcement or logging. This lab demonstrated how to configure a directive control in the form of a login warning banner, apply it using registry settings, and verify that it appears during system login.

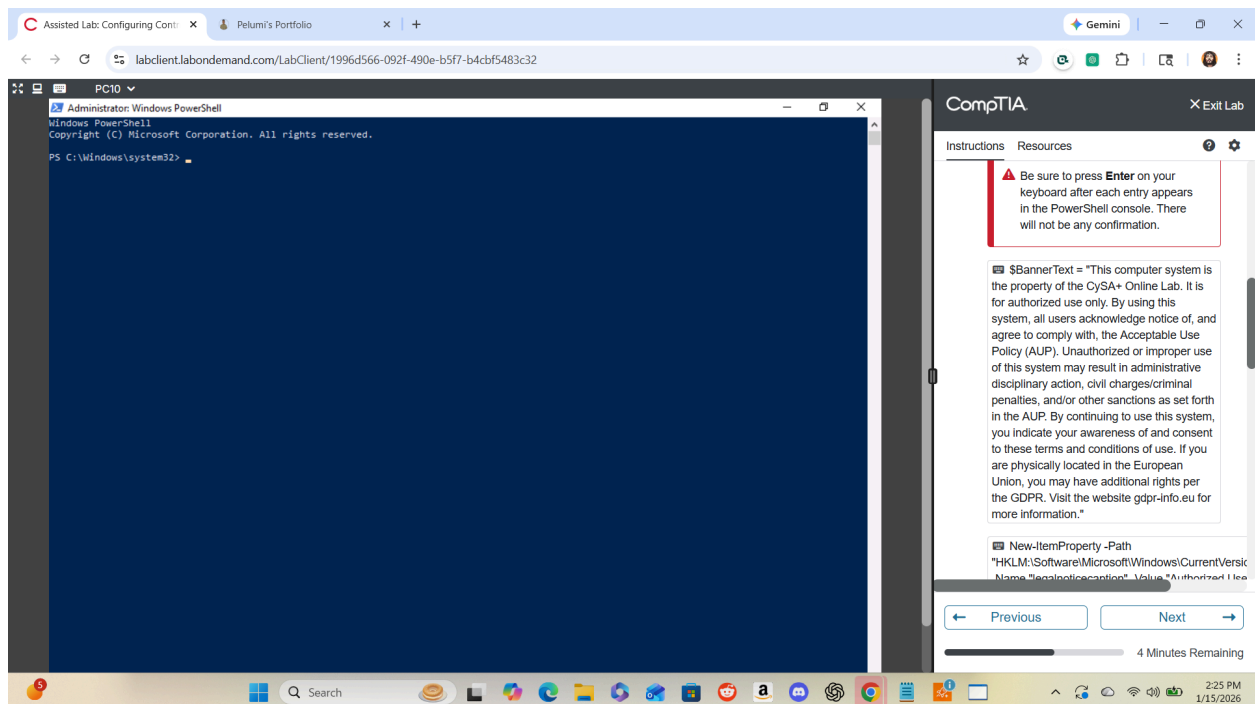
Step 1: Signing In as an Administrator

The system login screen was accessed by sending Ctrl + Alt + Delete. The user signed in as jaimie using the provided administrative credentials. Administrative privileges were required to modify system registry settings.

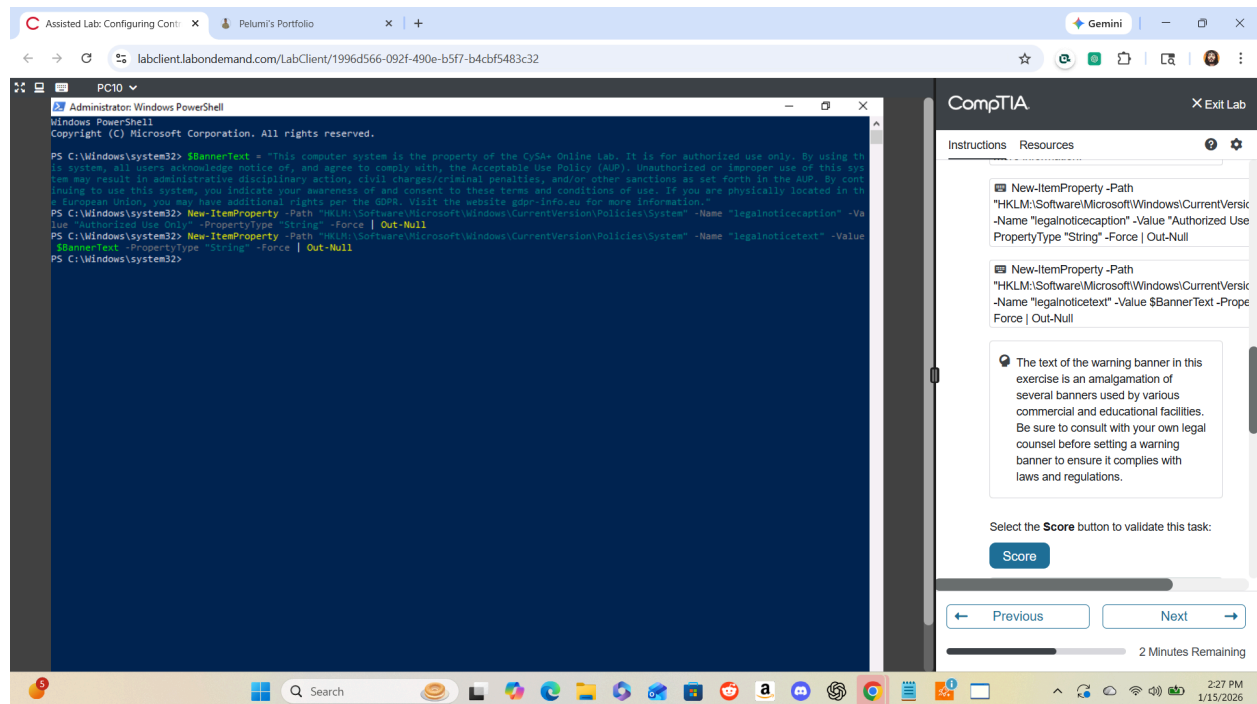


Step 2: Opening Windows PowerShell

From the taskbar search box, PowerShell was searched. Windows PowerShell was right-clicked and opened using the Run as administrator option to allow system-level configuration.



Step 4: Defining the Warning Banner Text In the PowerShell console, a variable was created to store the full warning banner message. This text informed users that the system is for authorized use only, referenced acceptable use policy compliance, and warned of potential disciplinary or legal consequences for misuse.



Created the Legal Notice Caption Registry Entry

Using PowerShell, a registry property was created at the following path:

HKLM:\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System

The property name legalnoticecaption was set with a value of: Authorized Use Only

This defined the title displayed at the top of the login warning banner.

Step 5: Creating the Legal Notice Text Registry Entry

A second registry property named legalnoticetext was created at the same registry path. The value was set using the previously defined banner text variable. This configured the body text of the login warning banner.

Step 6: Signing Out of the System

The administrator signed out of the PC10 system using the Start menu to prepare for validation of the directive control.

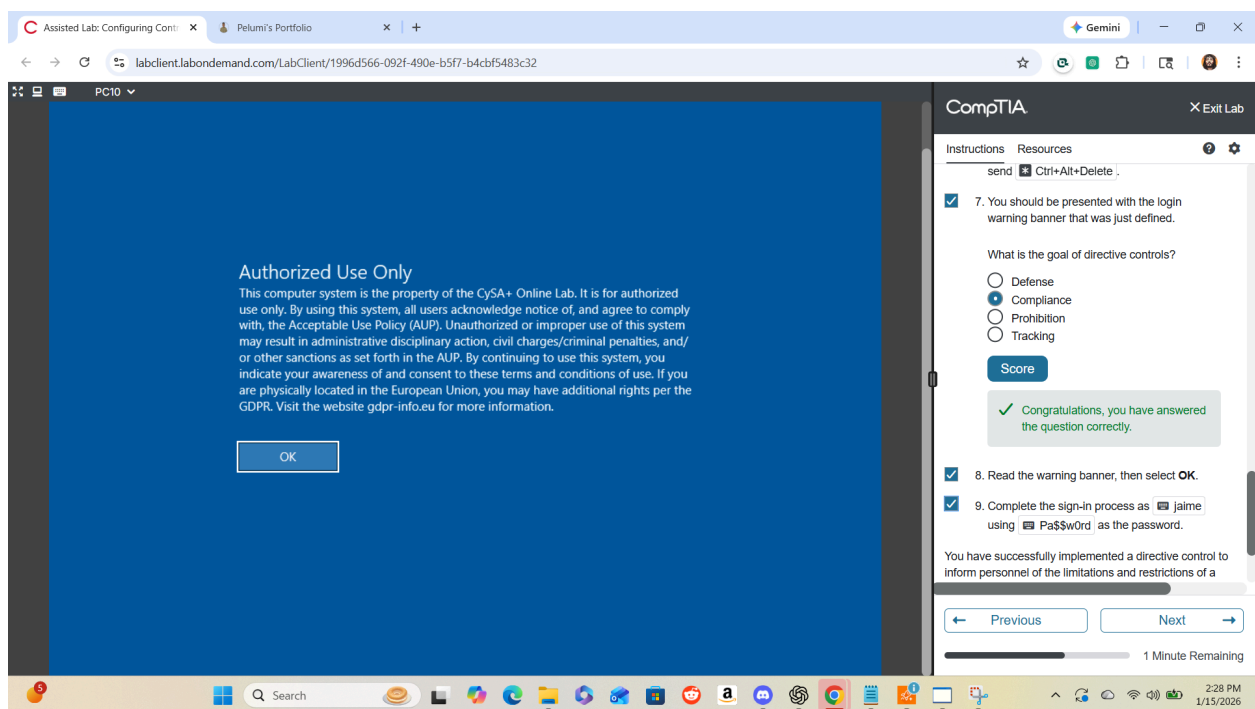
Step 7: Validating the Directive Control

The system login screen was accessed again by sending Ctrl + Alt + Delete. The login warning banner was displayed before authentication, showing the Authorized Use Only message and policy text. The OK button was selected to acknowledge the notice.

Step 8: Confirming the Goal of Directive Controls

The lab knowledge check confirmed that the goal of directive controls is: **Compliance**

This reinforces that directive controls are intended to guide user behavior rather than block or track actions.



Results

- A login warning banner was successfully configured
- Registry keys legalnoticecaption and legalnoticetext were created
- The directive control displayed prior to user authentication
- Users were informed of acceptable use and compliance requirements
- The directive control was tested and validated

Conclusion

This lab demonstrated the successful implementation of a directive security control through the use of a login warning banner. By informing users of acceptable use policies and system restrictions prior to authentication, the organization promotes compliant behavior and

establishes clear expectations. Directive controls serve as an important first layer of security by aligning user actions with policy requirements.

Key Takeaways

- Directive controls guide user behavior through instruction
- Login banners communicate acceptable use and legal notice
- Registry-based configuration allows centralized policy enforcement
- Directive controls support compliance, not enforcement or monitoring
- Validation requires confirming the banner appears during login