

# Group Policies for RDS

**Prepared for**

Service Providers

**Prepared by**

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# Revision and Signoff Sheet

## Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Change Reference
March 16, 2018	Manish Dhall	1.0	Initial draft for review/discussion

## Reviewers

Name	Version Approved	Position	Date

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# Introduction

Group Policy is a feature of the Microsoft Windows NT family of operating systems that controls the working environment of user accounts and computer accounts. Group Policy provides centralized management and configuration of operating systems, applications, and user settings in an Active Directory environment.

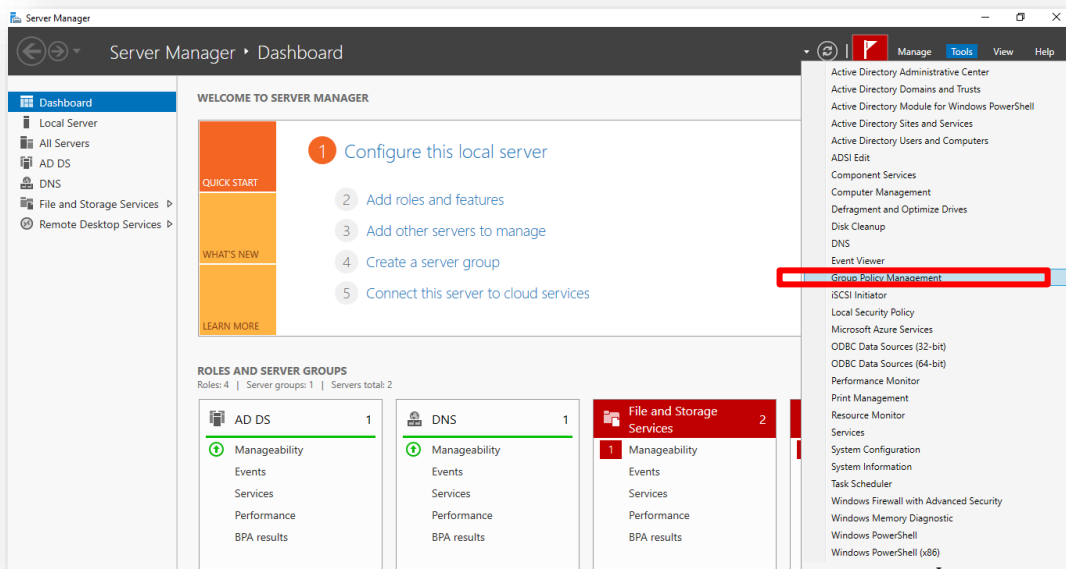
## Prerequisites

Prerequisites to configure Group policies in an RDS environment are as follows.

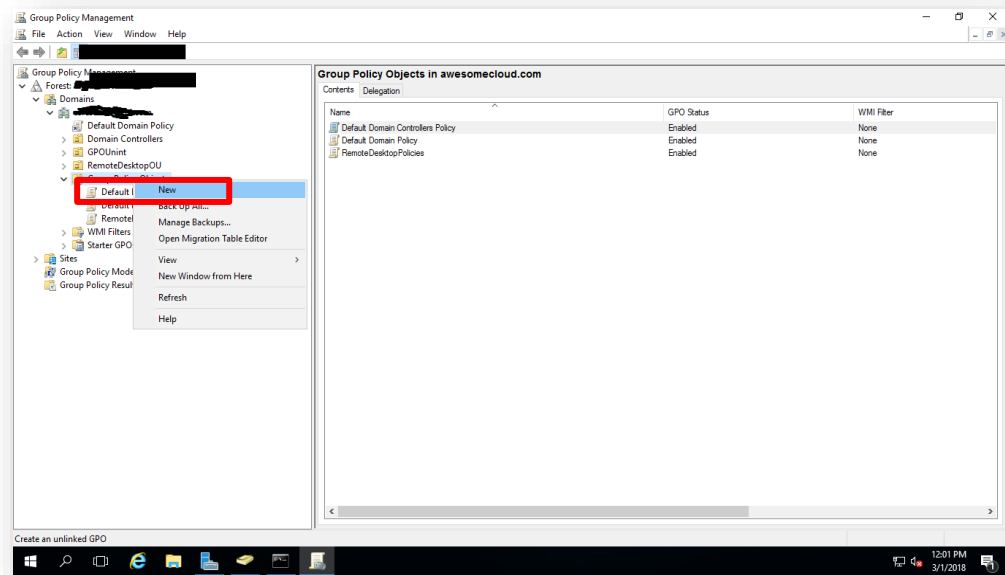
1. You must have an Organizational Unit in Domain Server Active Directory
2. Move users to the newly created organizational unit where group policy will be applied.
3. Move computers to the newly created organizational unit where group policy will be applied.

## Deployment Guide

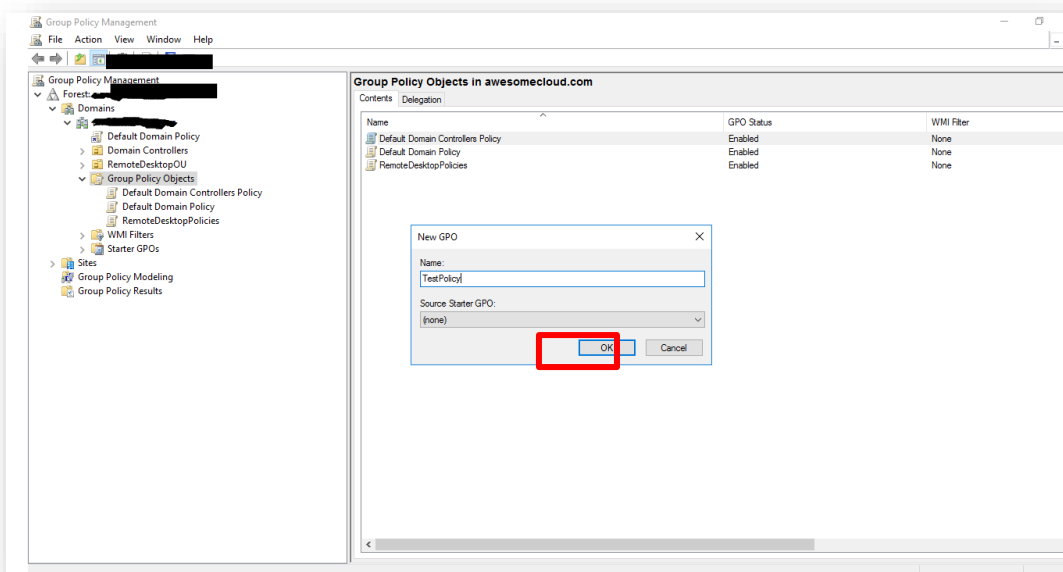
1. Open **Server Manager** in Active Directory VM and select **Group policy management** under the **Tools** tab



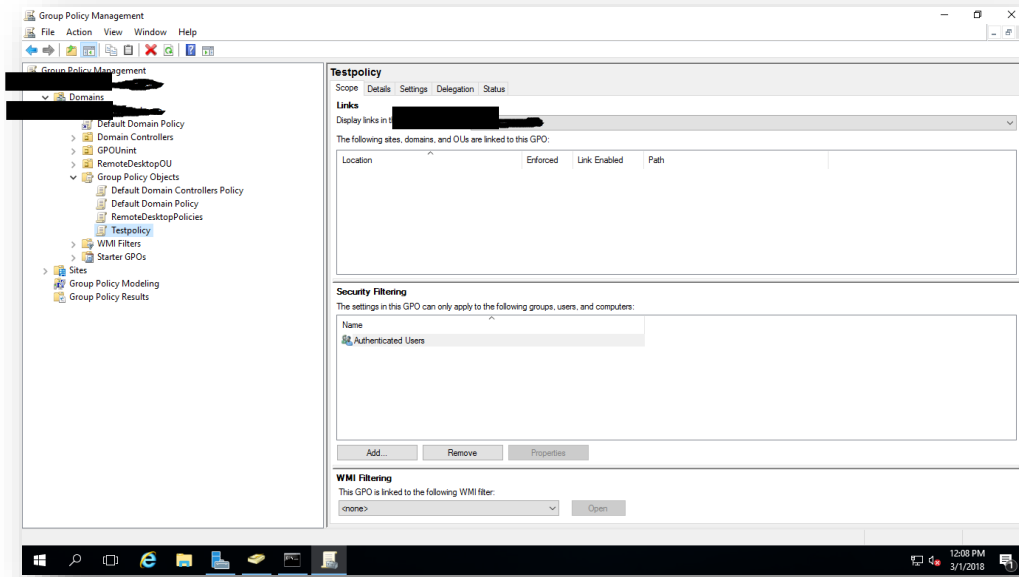
- Expand **Domains** and navigate to the **Group Policy Objects** folder. Right-click the **Group policy object** folder and select **New**



- Specify a policy name and click **OK**



4. Ensure the new policy is created and displayed under the domain in the **Group policy objects** tree view

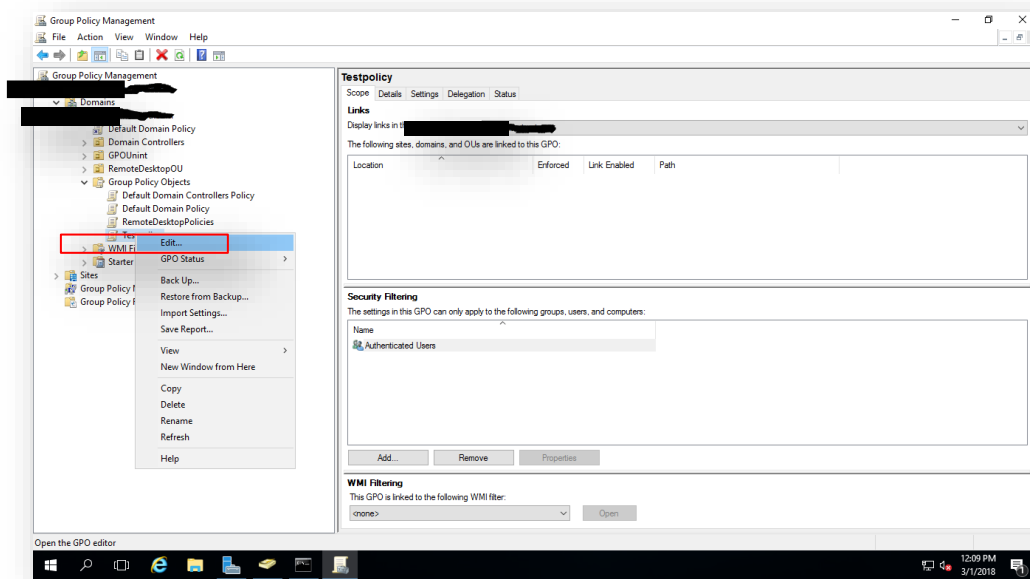


We recommend the following policy settings for an RDS deployment

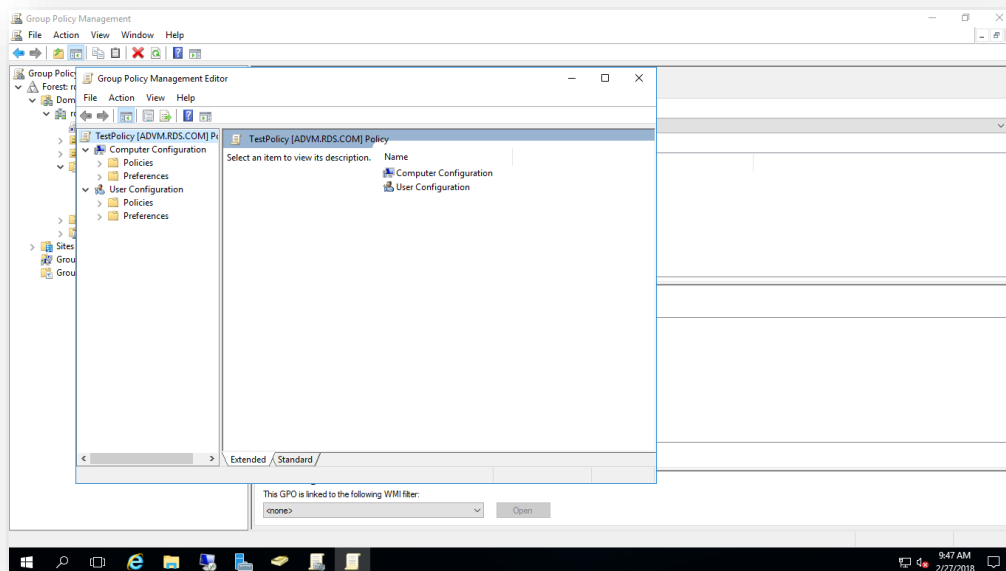
1. Limit the number of Monitors to improve performance
2. Desktop Wallpaper Locking
3. Context Menu Locking
4. Task bar locking
5. Control Panel locking
6. Start Menu locking
7. Prevent saving a file to desktop
8. Prevent adding of printers

## Steps to Limit the Number of Monitors:

1. Right-click on a policy in the tree view and click **Edit**

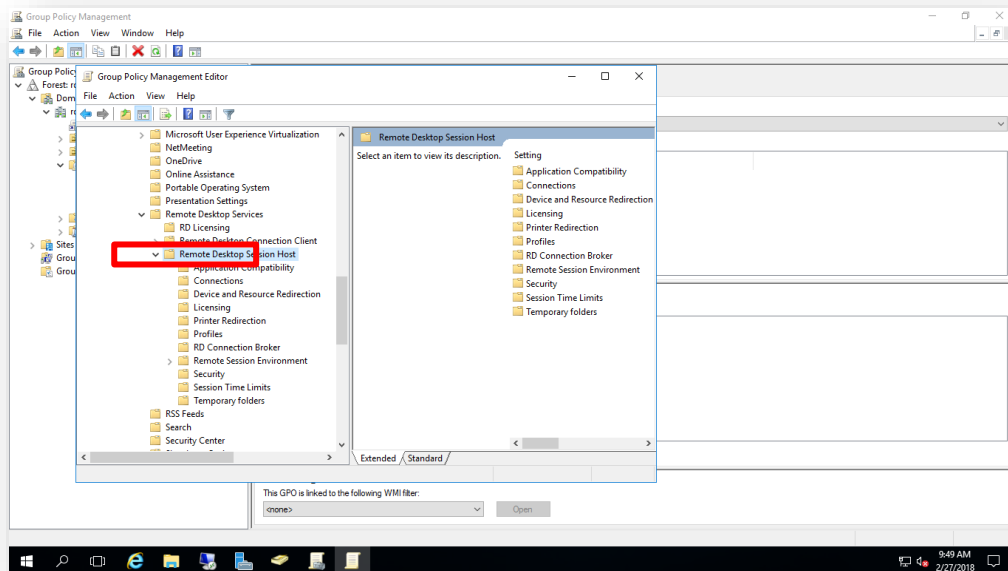
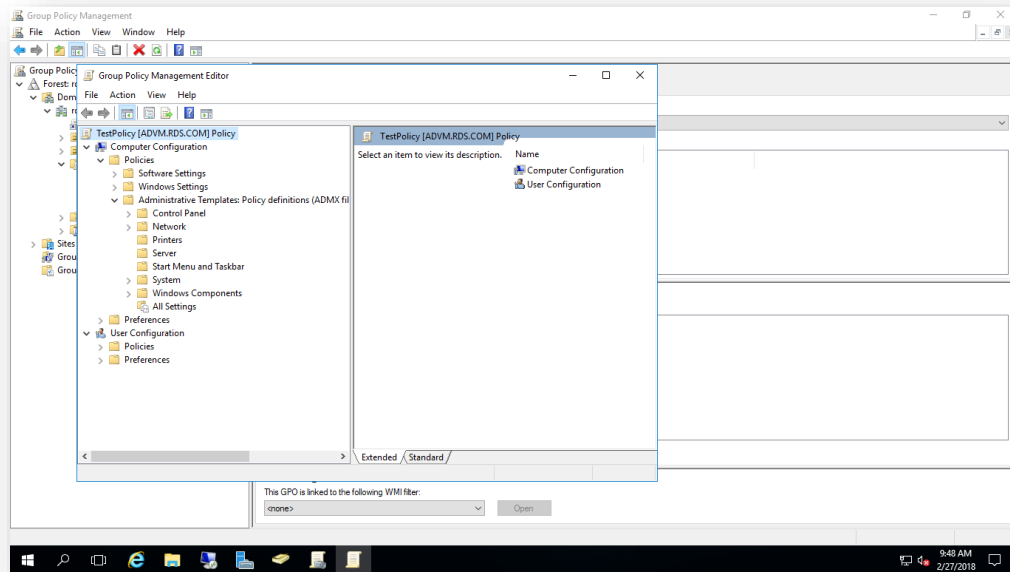


2. Group Policy Management Editor should be displayed

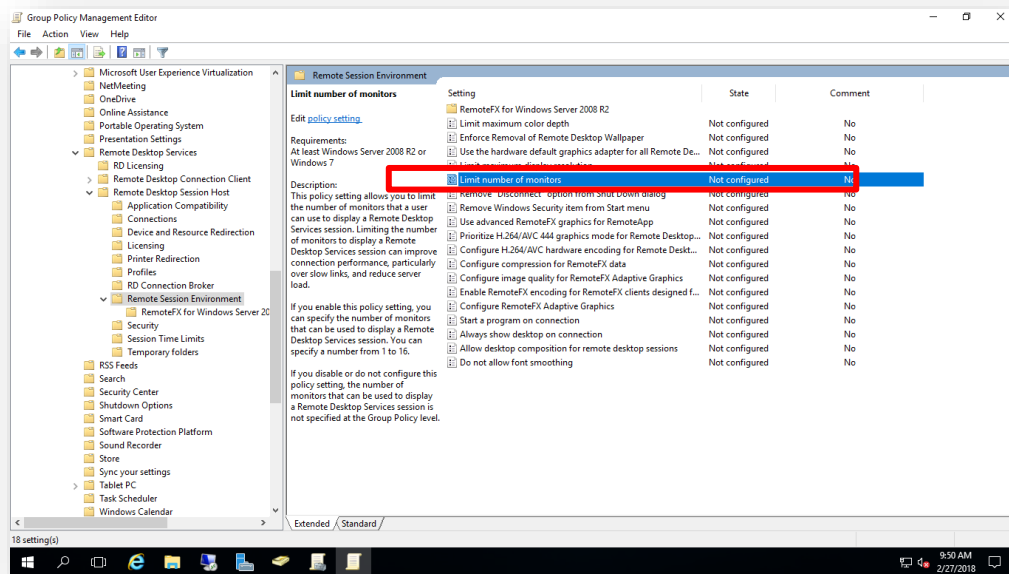




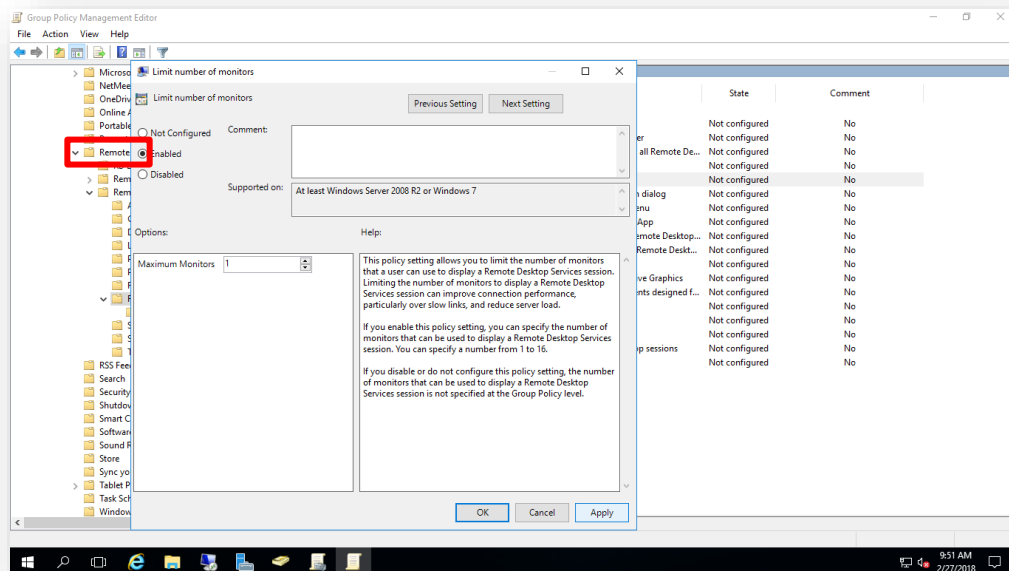
3. Navigate to **Computer Configuration > Policies > Administrative templates: policy definitions(ADMX files) retrieved from the local computer > Windows components > Remote Desktop services > Remote Desktop Session Host > Remote Session Environment**



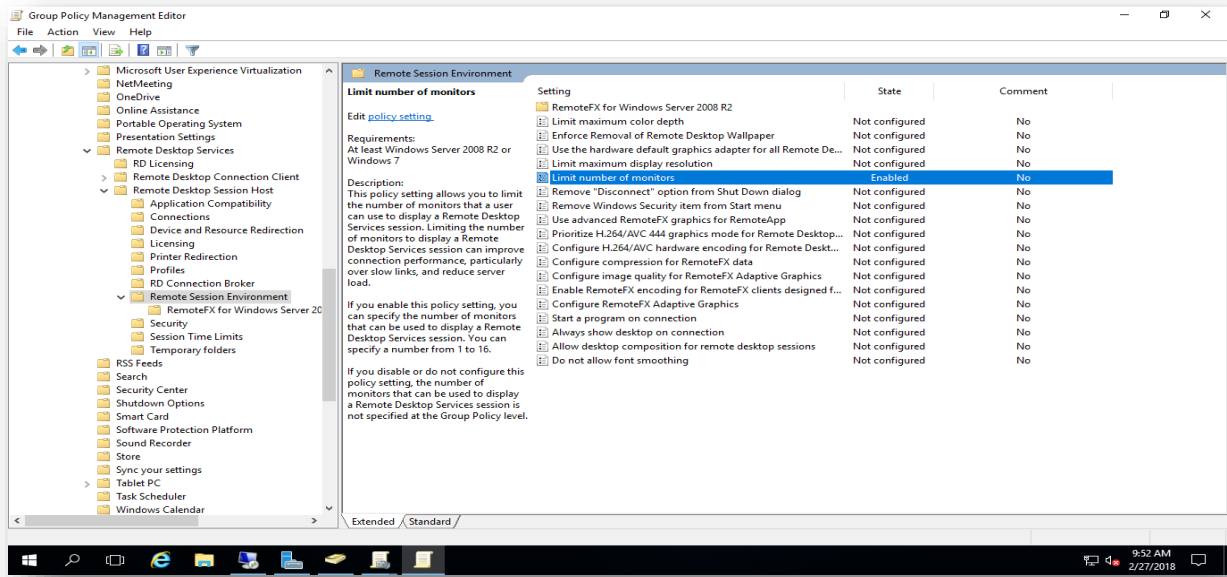
4. In the details section of the window, all existing settings should be displayed
5. Locate the GP setting called **Limit number of monitors** and double-click on the setting



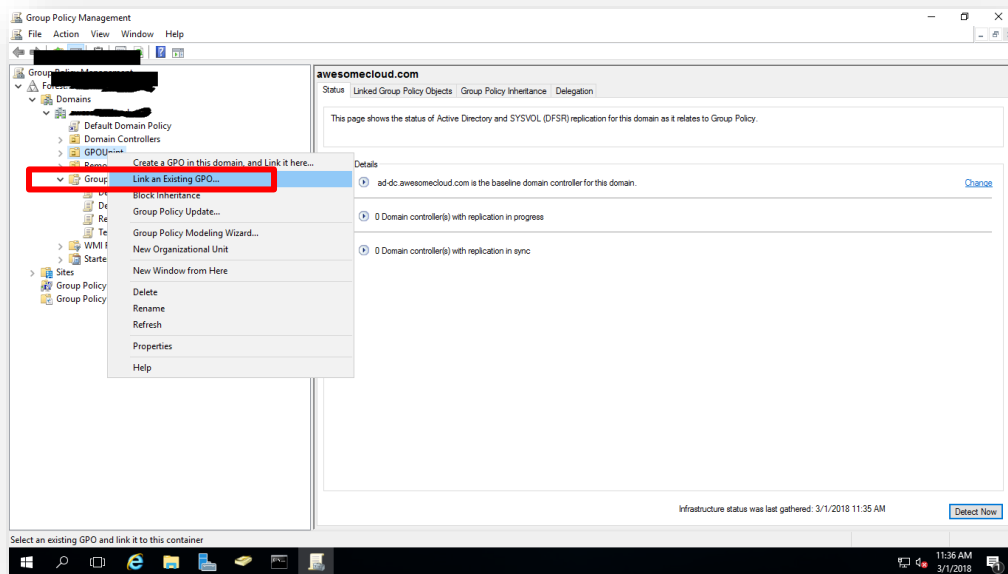
6. Now click the **Enabled** radio button and in **Options**, specify how many monitors you want in the **Maximum Monitors** dropdown
7. Click **Apply** and **OK**

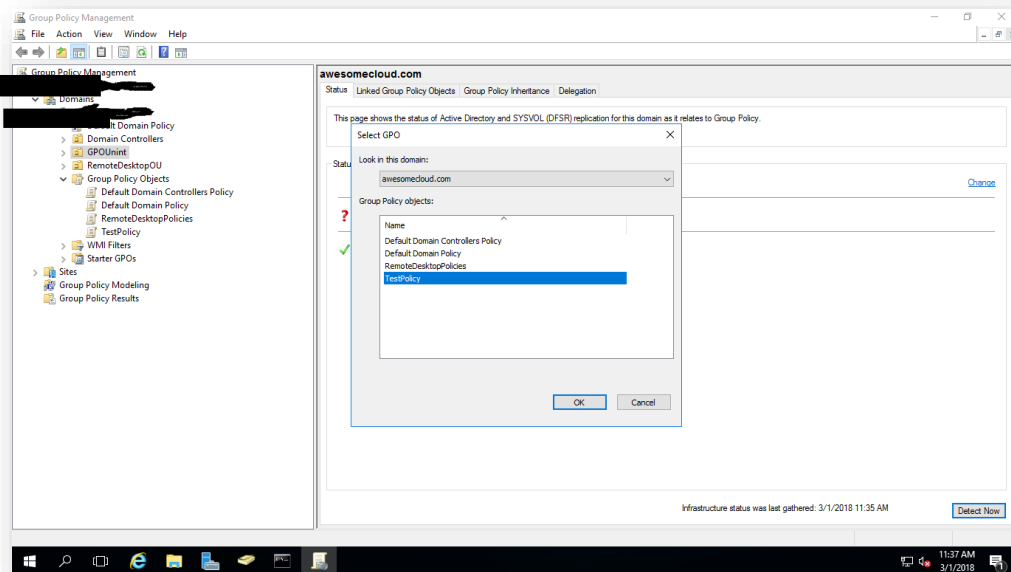


8. Confirm whether the policy is enabled or not
9. Close the Group Policy Management Editor window

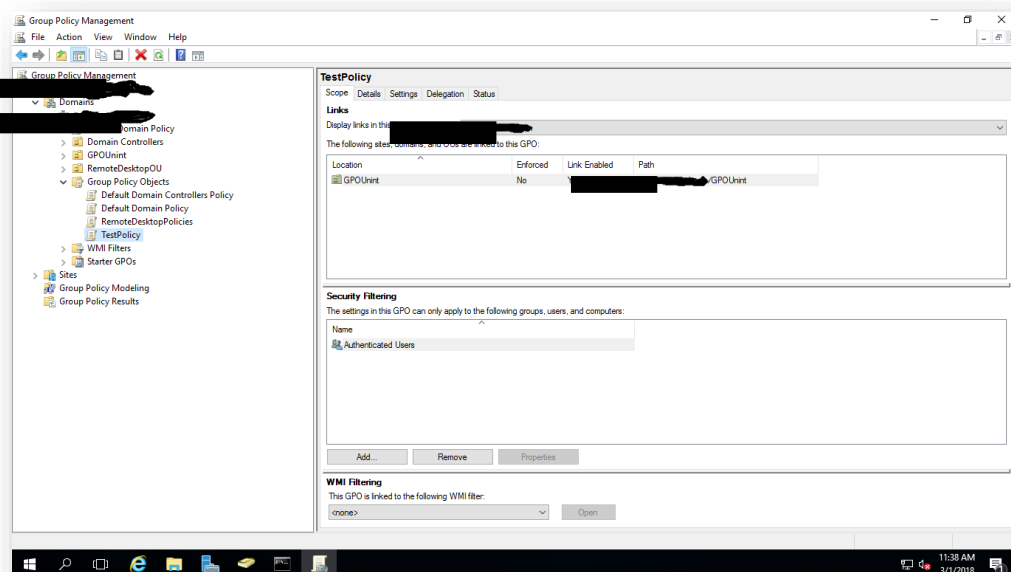


10. Now map the new or revised policy to your organization unit

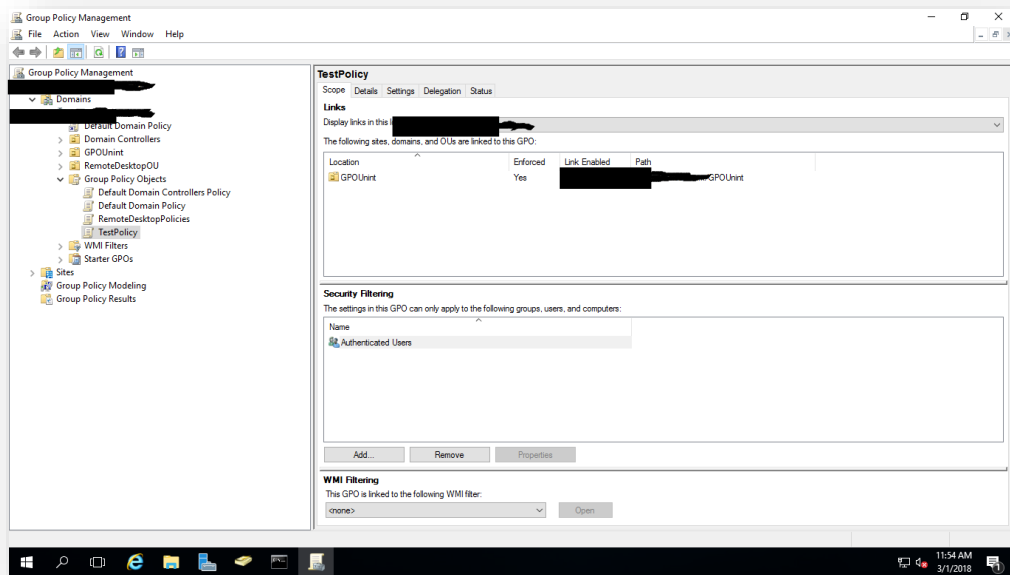
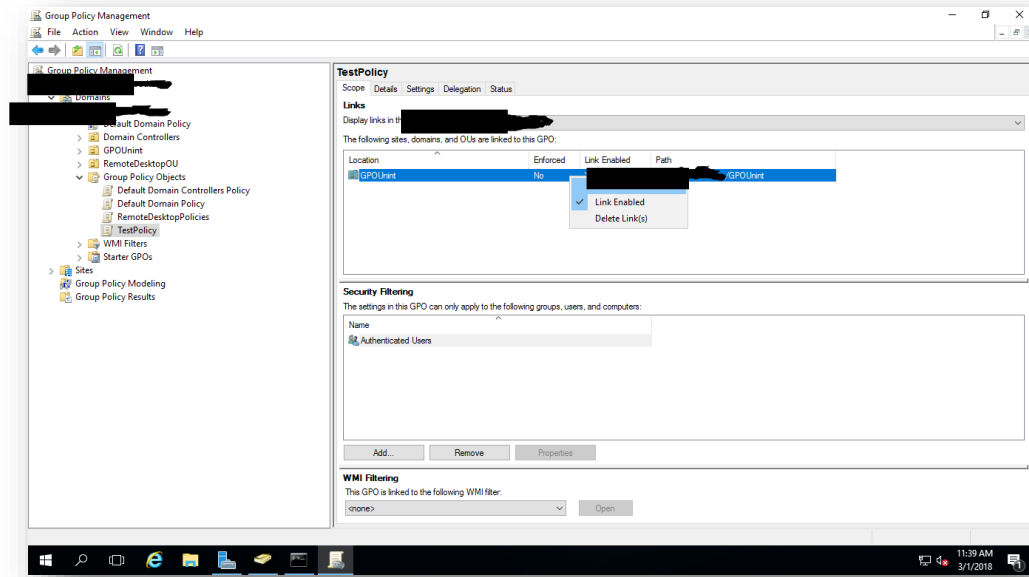




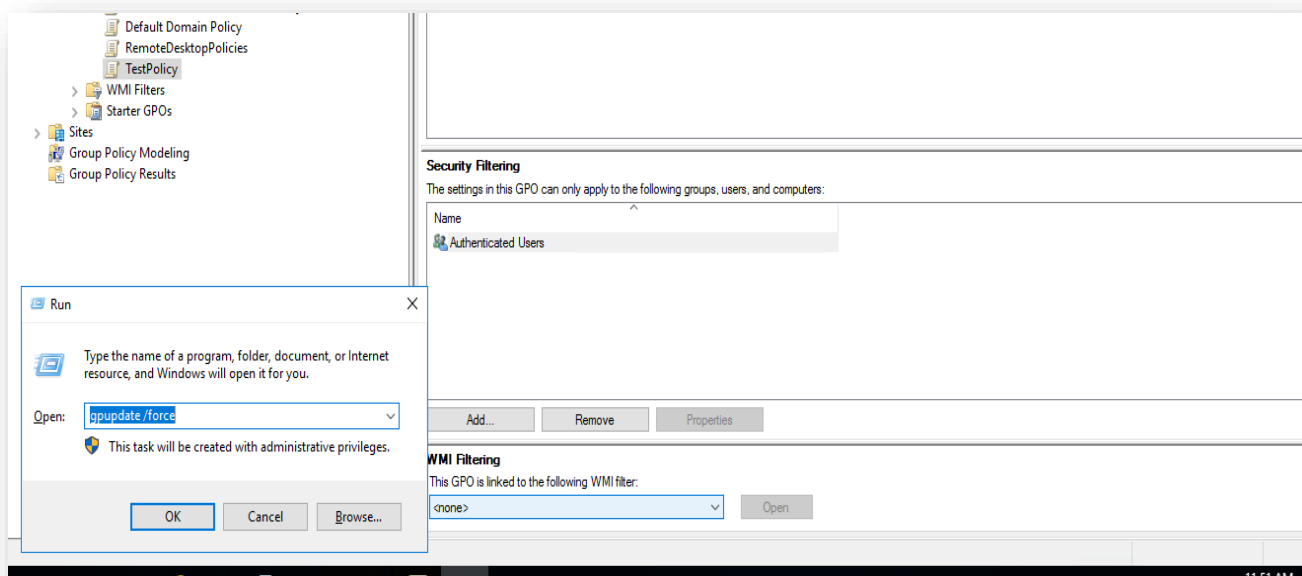
11. Ensure that the policy is linked from the Policy Scope tab



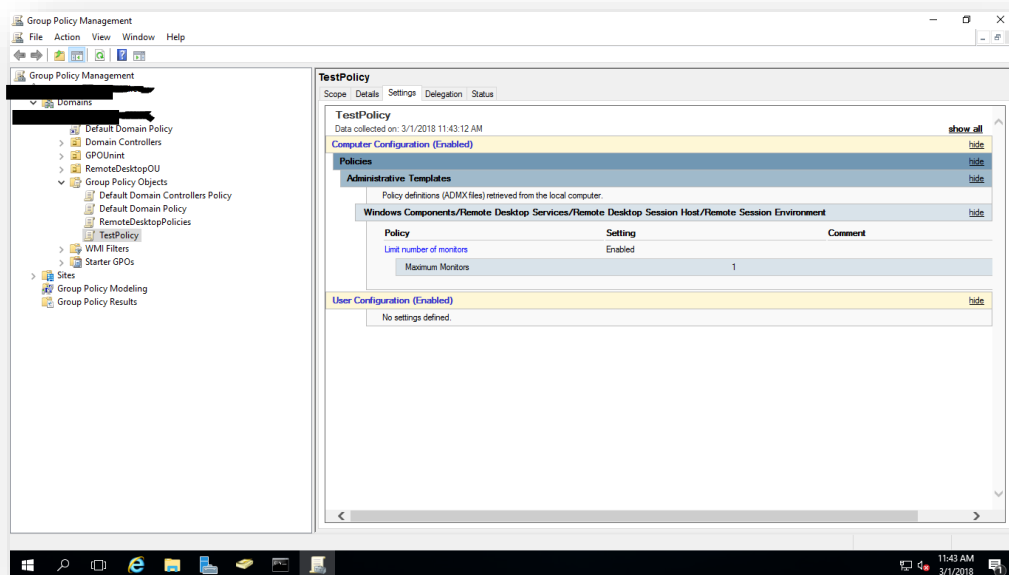
12. On the **Policy Scope** tab, right-click on **Organizational Unit** and click **Enforced** to reflect the policy immediately



13. Navigate to a Run window and enter **gpupdate/force** to update the policy



14. Ensure that the policy is updated in Group Policy Management



Note: You must restart the collection assigned session host server

# Recommended policies:

## Desktop Wallpaper Locking:

1. Group Policy Editor > User configuration > Policies > Administrative Templates > Desktop > Desktop
2. Select **Desktop Wallpaper** policy and configure the policy
3. Click the **Enabled** radio button
4. Provide a path for the wallpaper

## Context Menu Locking:

1. Group Policy Editor > User configuration > Policies > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > File Explorer
2. Select **Remove File Explorer's default context menu** policy, and then configure the policy

## Taskbar locking:

1. Group Policy Editor > User configuration > Administrative Templates > Start Menu and Taskbar
2. Select the **Lock the Taskbar** policy, and then configure the policy

## Control Panel Locking:

1. Group Policy Editor > User configuration > Administrative Templates > Control panel
2. Select the **Prohibit access to Control Panel and PC settings** policy, and then configure the policy

## Start Menu locking:

1. Group Policy Editor > User configuration > Administrative Templates > Start Menu and Taskbar

### Note:

You must execute a PowerShell cmdlet to export a start layout xml to temp location.

From temp location you should copy the xml file to a shared folder location and change xml according to your requirement, and then provide shared file location path in edit box of policy.

```
c:\> Export-startlayout c:\windows\temp\filename.xml (open PowerShell ISE console with administrator mode)
```

Provide either local location path or shared location path in edit box of policy.

Preventing saving of a file to Desktop:

1. Group Policy Editor > User configuration > Administrative Templates > Desktop
2. Select the Hide and Disable All Items on the Desktop policy, and then enable the policy

Preventing addition of printers:

1. Group Policy Editor > User configuration > Administrative Templates > Control Panel→
2. Select the Prevent addition of printers policy, and then enable the policy



# Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
DNS	Domain Name System
GW	Gateway
IIS	Internet Information Services
RDP	Remote Desktop Protocol
RDS	Remote Desktop Services
SQL	Structured Query Language
VM	Virtual Machine