Group Policy wouldn't be very useful if you had to manually assign the same GPO to every user or computer within a domain. And although OUs can help break down Group Policy assignments, even that capability is limiting, because a particular user or computer can be a member of only one OU. Fortunately, GPOs can have *filters* that further refine which users or computers the GPO applies to. Although you can filter GPOs so that they apply only to individual users or computers, you're more likely to use groups to apply your GPOs.

Suppose that you want to use Group Policy to assign two different default home pages for Internet Explorer. For the Marketing department, you want the default home page to be www.dummies.com, but for the Accounting department, you'd like the default home page to be www.beancounters.com. You can easily accomplish this task by creating two groups named Marketing and Accounting in Active Directory Users and Computers, and assigning the marketing and accounting users to the appropriate groups. Next, you can create two GPOs: one for the Marketing department's home page and the other to assign the Accounting department's home page. Then you can link both of these GPOs to the domain and use filters to specify which group each policy applies to.

For the following procedure, I've created two group policies, named IE Home Page Dummies and IE Home Page Beancounter, as well as two Active Directory groups, named Marketing and Accounting. Here are the steps for filtering these policies to link correctly to the groups:

1. Choose Start ⇨ Administrative Tools ⇨ Group Policy Management.

The Group Policy Management console appears. (Refer to Figure 16-2 for a refresher on what it looks like.)

2. In the Navigation pane, navigate to the GPO you want to apply the filter to.

For this example, I navigated to the IE Home Page Dummies GPO, as shown in Figure 16-12.

3. In the Security Filtering section, click Authenticated Users and then click Remove.

This step removes Authenticated Users so that the GPO won't be applied to all users.