



FIGURE 16-14:
A GPO that
uses a filter.

Forcing Group Policy Updates

One of the more frustrating aspects of working with Group Policy is waiting for policy changes that you make to actually become effective. By default, Windows applies Group Policy automatically whenever a user logs on. After the user has logged on, Windows checks for changes to Group Policy every 90 minutes. (You can change that default interval by changing the Set Group Policy Refresh Interval for Computers policy, found under Computer Configuration ⇨ Administrative Templates ⇨ System ⇨ Group Policy.)

You can force a Group Policy refresh at any time by opening a command prompt (press Start, type **cmd**, and then press Enter) and entering the following command:

```
GPUPDATE
```

This command forces an immediate refresh of all GPOs.

Note that this command works only on the computer on which you run it; it doesn't affect other computers on your network. You can force a Group Policy update on all computers in an Active Directory organizational unit by right-clicking the organizational unit in the Group Policy Management Console and choosing the Group Policy Update command.



WARNING

As with all Group Policy changes, make sure you've tested your change on a limited number of computers before forcing an update on all computers!