

Cybersecurity Professional Program

Microsoft Security

Microsoft Security Policies & Authentication

MS-10-L2 User Password Policies



Learn how Active Directory Group Policy Management can configure password policies for users in the domain.



Lab Mission

Set a strong password policy for the entire domain and configure the policy to handle user lockouts.



(S) Lab Duration

20-40 minutes



Knowledge of the ADUC structure

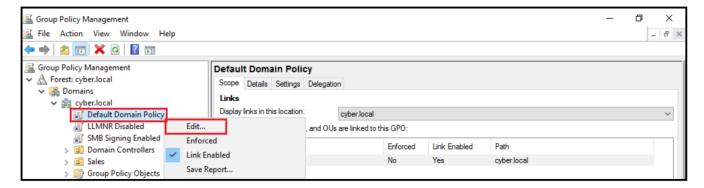


- **Environment & Tools**
 - VirtualBox
 - Windows Server 2016 (DC)
 - Windows 10 (client)

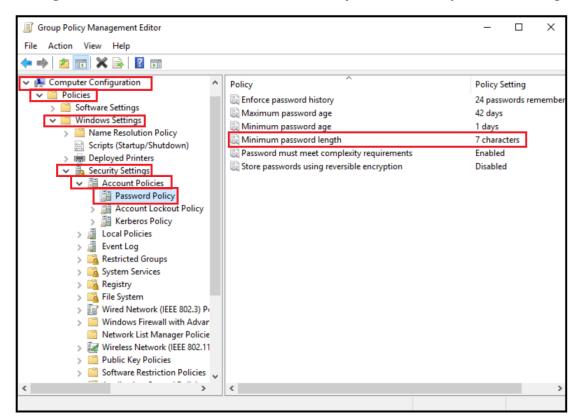
Lab Task 1: Create and Apply Password Group Policy

Use Group Policy Management to create a password policy for all domain users.

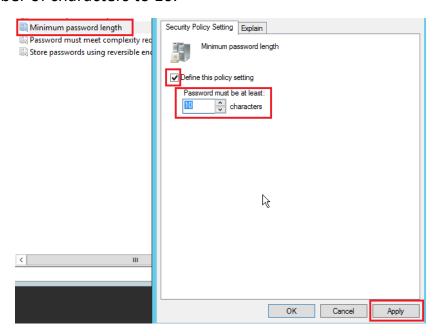
On Server1, open Group Policy Management in Forest: Cyber.local > Domains > Cyber.local, then right-click Default Domain Policy, and select "Edit..."



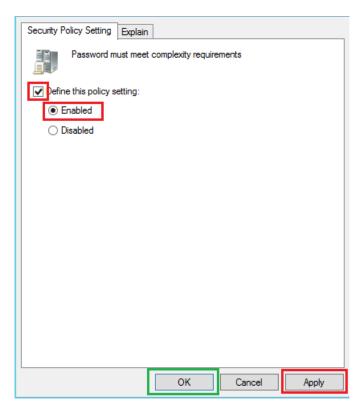
Navigate to Computer Configuration > Policies > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Account Policies > Password Policy > Minimum password length



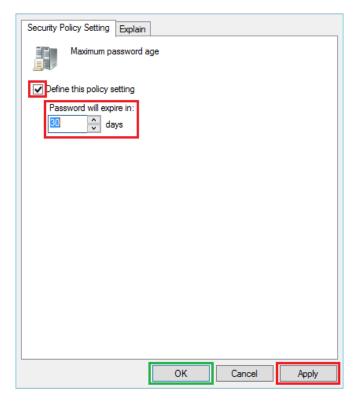
3 Double-click *Minimum password length*, select *Define this policy setting* and set the number of characters to 10.



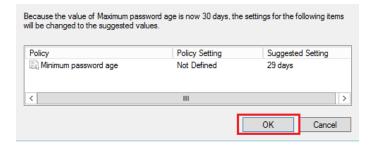
4 Go to Password must meet complexity requirements and verify that the policy is enabled. If not, select *Define this policy setting*, select *Enabled*, click **Apply**, and click **OK**.



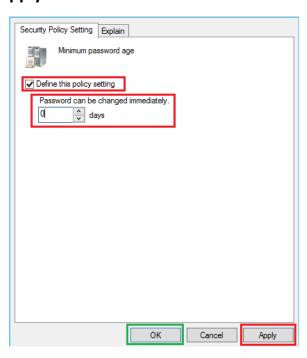
To force a password change each month, double-click *Maximum password age*, select *Define this policy setting* and set the Password to 30 days. Then, click **Apply** and **OK**.



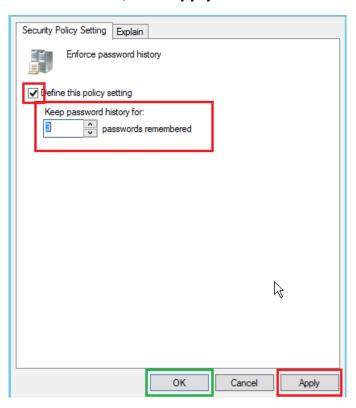
6 In the window with the *Minimum password age* option, click **OK**. This setting will determine how long users must keep a password before changing it.



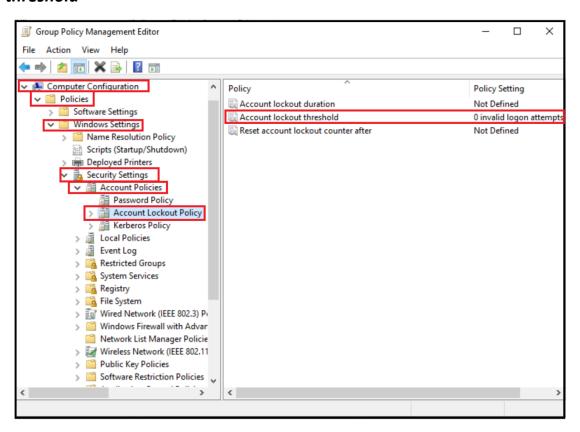
Because we want to test our password policy configuration later in the lab, we need to set the *Minimum password age* to zero. Double-click *Minimum password age* properties, select *Define this policy setting* and set the value to 0 days. Then, click **Apply** and **OK**.



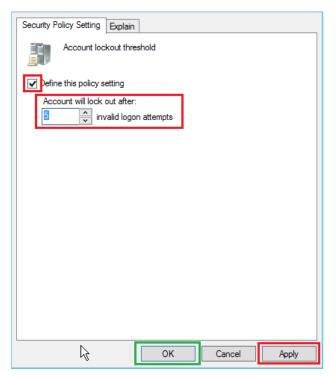
8 Double-click *Enforce password history*, select *Define this policy setting* and change the number to 3. Then, click **Apply** and **OK**.

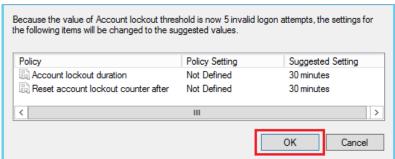


9 Navigate to Computer Configuration > Policies > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Account Policies > Account Lockout Policy > Account lockout threshold

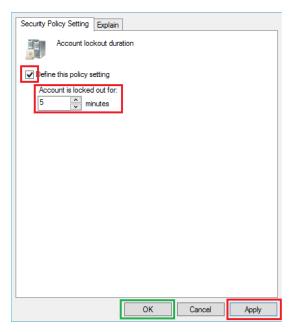


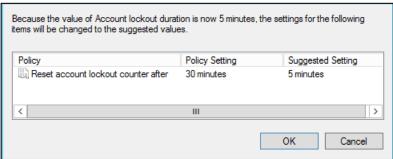
10 Configure the account lockout policy with an account lockout threshold of five invalid logon attempts. A window will appear with a request to change the settings for two other account lockout policies. Accept the changes for now by clicking Apply and OK.





11 Double-click *Account lockout duration* and change the value to 5 minutes. Then, click **Apply** and **OK**. In the message that appears, click **OK**.





Lab Task 2: Verify Password Policies

Check if the group policies were configured correctly and applied.

1 Log into the Client10 VM with a regular user and run *gpupdate /force* from CMD.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.10586]
(c) 2016 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

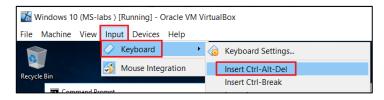
C:\Users\Management>gpupdate /force
Updating policy...

Computer Policy update has completed successfully.

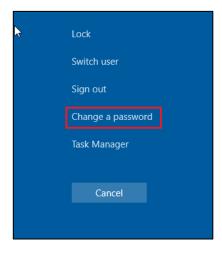
User Policy update has completed successfully.

C:\Users\Management>_
```

Press *Alt+Ctrl+Del* to get the option to change the Password. Note that an easy way to input *Alt+Ctrl+Del* on a VM is through the *Input* tab of the VM toolbar.

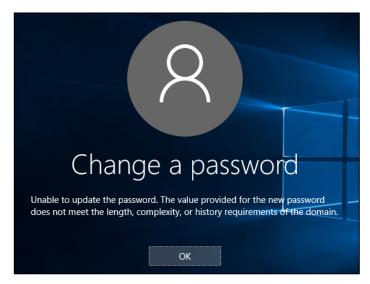


In the next window, select *Change a password* and change the Password to **Abc123!**, which does not conform with the password policy.





4 Verify the Password does not change because the one proposed does not meet the requirements. The following error message should appear:



5 Enter a password that matches the password policy configuration. Repeat steps 1 and 2, but instead, use **Presto123!** as the new Password. The Password should be changed.



6 Log out of the Windows 10 user and force an account lockout by inputting five incorrect passwords. You should receive the following error:

