Managing User Settings With Group Policy

Eli Chang

MSSA Cohort #2

Lab Summary 6

3/9/2020

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After implementing Microsoft Office 2016 in the corporation, the administrators want to use Group Policy to configure the settings for the applications. They use the logon script to provide the users with drive mapping to shared folders. Due to its large and complex size, they want to remove the logon scripts from the Group Policy preferences. Also, the admins want to place a shortcut to the Notepad application for all users in the IT security group. Lastly, the admins need to configure Folder Redirection to redirect several profile folders to home drive for each user so that they can minimize profile sizes.

Administrative Templates

The administrative templates help control the environment of the operating system and the user experience with two sets, such as user-related settings and computer-related settings. Some settings are in both user and computer settings. In computer configuration, there are eight settings: control panel, network, printers, server, start menu and taskbar, system, windows components, and all settings. The other configuration is user configuration, having eight options as same as the computer configuration. Each set would occupy multiple subfolders to organize the settings. The security templates are to manage and configure security settings. In the security templates in GPOs, there are seven settings: account policies, local policies, event log, restricted groups, system services, registry, and file system.

Folder Redirection

Folder redirection is one of the features in the Active Directory to allow folders to be located on the network servers. The administrators could manage the users to use any computers with the user's data. This feature provides many advantages: users can access their data with any computer in the network; users can access offline folders even though it is disconnected; the

users can back up data on servers; users reduce the profile sizes; users have fewer data to transfer.

Group Policy Preferences

Group Policy preferences are one of the extensions to expand the range of configuration settings within a GPO. The options of Group Policy preferences are folder options, drive maps, registry, shortcuts, printers, scheduled tasks, services, and start menu. Besides these options, there are features as well. The Item-level targeting option is a feature to allow Group Policy preferences settings for computers and user objects only. It contains 27 different categories, and the categories can combine to apply to the computer or user objects.

