

# Desktop Wallpaper Policy via GPO

Windows Server 2022 | Windows Enterprise Client

---

## Objective

Enforce a standardized desktop wallpaper for all domain users to promote branding, maintain consistency, and reduce user-driven modifications.

---

## Technologies Used

- Windows Server 2022 (Active Directory Domain Controller)
  - Windows 10/11 Enterprise (Client)
  - Group Policy Management Console (GPMC)
  - Shared network folder for wallpaper image
- 

## Steps Taken: Configuring Wallpaper via GPO

### 1. Create New GPO

- Open **Group Policy Management** on Server
- Right-click the domain (e.g., `kali.local`) → Create a new GPO → Name it: `Desktop Wallpaper Policy`

### 2. Edit the GPO

- Right-click on `Desktop Wallpaper GPO` → Click **Edit**

### 3. Navigate to Policy Path

User Configuration → Policies → Administrative Templates → Desktop → Desktop

### 4. Enable Wallpaper Setting

- Double-click **Desktop Wallpaper**
- Set to: **Enabled**

- Enter wallpaper path:  
\\ServerName\Share\wallpaper.jpg *(Make sure file is shared and readable)*
  - Select **Wallpaper Style:** Fill
  - Click **Apply**, then **OK**
- 

## Expected Outcome

All domain users will receive the same desktop wallpaper upon login, and will be **unable to change it manually**, ensuring visual uniformity across systems.

### Configuration Summary

Setting Name	Value
GPO Name	Desktop Wallpaper
Scope	User Configuration
Wallpaper Path	\\ServerName\Share\wallpaper.jpg
Style	Fill
Permissions	Read-only share for all domain users

## Real-World Significance

Applying a desktop wallpaper GPO demonstrates:

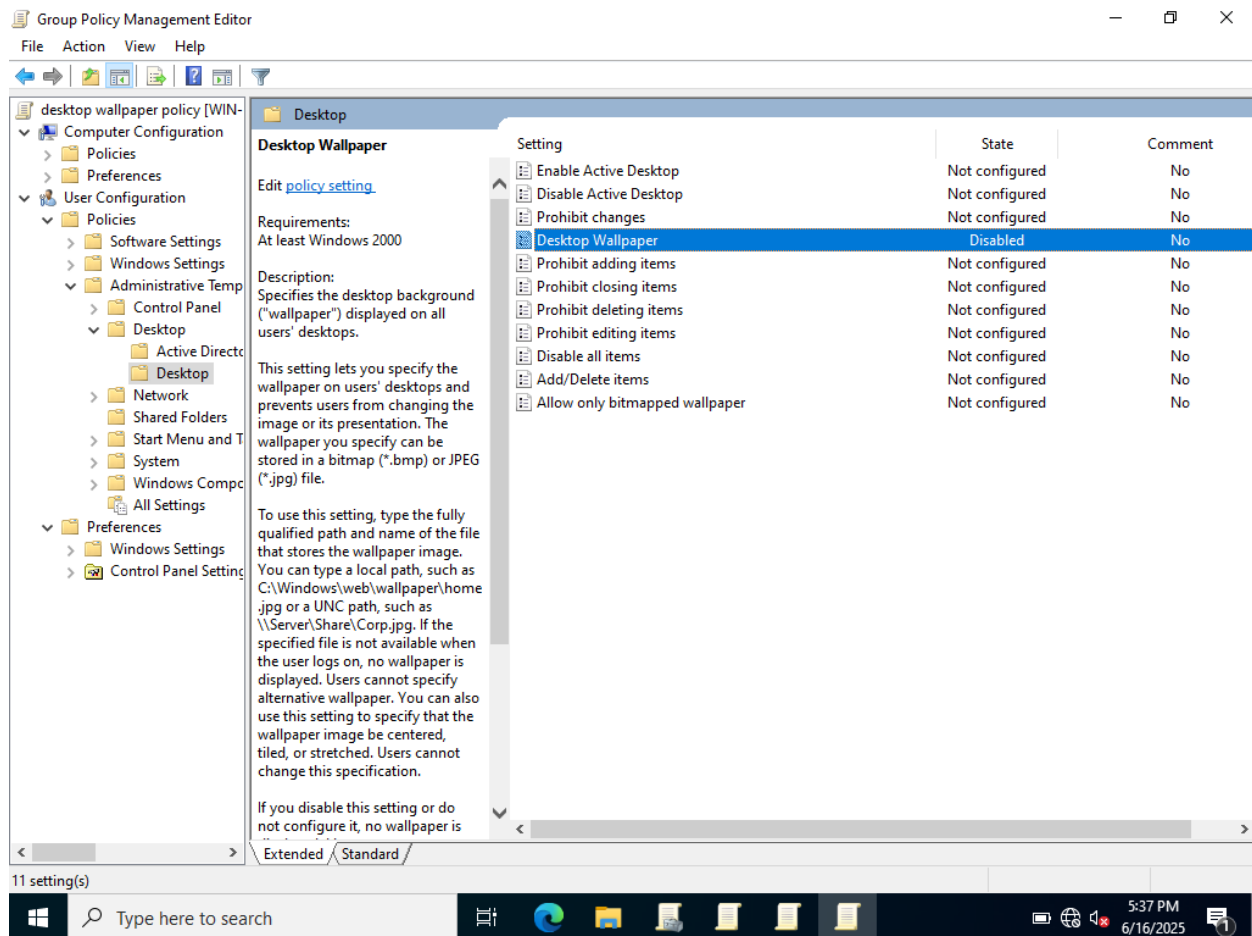
- **Standardization:** Consistent branding across user machines
  - **Security:** Reduces exposure to offensive or custom user images
  - **Control:** Reinforces centralized IT governance
  - **Professionalism:** Corporate appearance for customer-facing staff
- 

## Skills Demonstrated

- Active Directory Group Policy usage
  - Enforcing policies with Administrative Templates
  - User session customization
  - File server sharing and UNC path usage
-

## Notes

- Ensure the wallpaper file is stored in a **centrally accessible shared folder**
- Use .JPG or .BMP formats for compatibility
- For advanced targeting, apply the GPO to specific **OUs** or **user groups**



Group Policy Management Editor

File Action View Help

desktop wallpaper [ADDC01.KA]

- Computer Configuration
  - Policies
  - Preferences
- User Configuration
  - Policies
    - Software Settings
    - Windows Settings
    - Administrative Templates
      - Control Panel
        - Desktop
          - Active Desktop
          - Desktop
            - Enable Active Desktop
            - Disable Active Desktop
            - Prohibit changes
            - Desktop Wallpaper
            - Prohibit adding items
            - Prohibit closing items
            - Prohibit deleting items
            - Prohibit editing items
            - Disable all items
            - Add/Delete items
            - Allow only bitmapped wallpaper
      - Network
      - Shared Folders
      - Start Menu and Taskbar
      - System
      - Windows Components
      - All Settings
    - Preferences

Setting	State	Comment
Enable Active Desktop	Not configured	No
Disable Active Desktop	Not configured	No
Prohibit changes	Not configured	No
Desktop Wallpaper	Not configured	No
Prohibit adding items	Not configured	No
Prohibit closing items	Not configured	No
Prohibit deleting items	Not configured	No
Prohibit editing items	Not configured	No
Disable all items	Not configured	No
Add/Delete items	Not configured	No
Allow only bitmapped wallpaper	Not configured	No

11 setting(s)

Extended / Standard /

Type here to search

8:42 PM 6/15/2025