

Drive Mapping via Group Policy

Windows Server 2022 | Windows 10/11 Enterprise Client

Objective

To automatically assign a shared network drive to domain users using Group Policy, enhancing efficiency and consistency across all domain-joined workstations.

Technologies Used

- **Server OS:** Windows Server 2022 (Domain Controller)
 - **Client OS:** Windows 10/11 Enterprise
 - **Tools:**
 - Group Policy Management Console (GPMC)
 - Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS)
 - File and Folder Sharing
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Drive Mapping via GPO

1. Launch GPMC

- On the domain controller, open **Group Policy Management Console**.
- Right-click the domain (e.g., `kali.local`) → Select **Create a GPO in this domain, and Link it here...**

2. Create a New GPO

- Name it: **Drive Mapping**
- Right-click on it → Click **Edit**

3. Navigate to User Configuration

- Expand:
User Configuration → Preferences → Windows Settings → Drive Maps

4. Create the Mapped Drive

- Right-click **Drive Maps** → Choose **New** → **Mapped Drive**
- Enter the following:
 - **Location:** \\ServerName\SharedFolder *(Replace with your actual server and share name)*
 - **Drive Letter:** E: *(Can be any available letter)*
 - **Label as:** Shared
 - **Reconnect:** ☒ Checked
 - **Action:** Create
- Click **Apply**, then **OK**

5. Link GPO to User OU

- Ensure the GPO is linked to the **Organizational Unit (OU)** that contains target users.
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Expected Outcome

When a domain user logs in to any domain-joined workstation, the mapped drive E: will automatically appear in **File Explorer** under “This PC,” giving them access to shared files and resources.

Real-World Significance

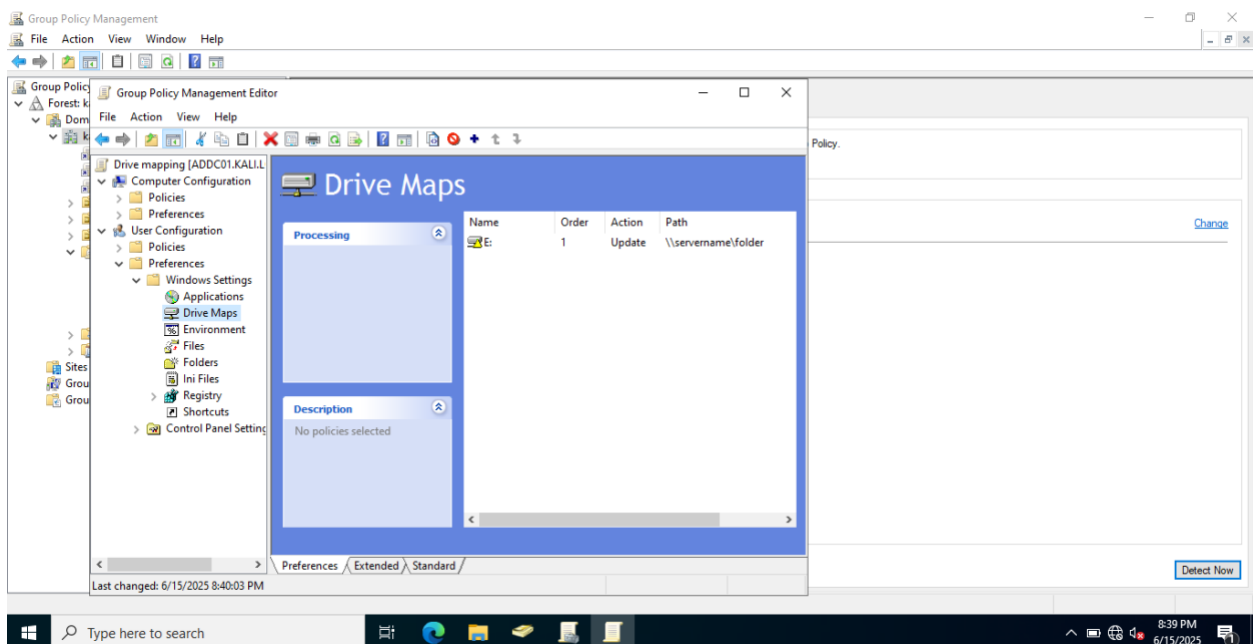
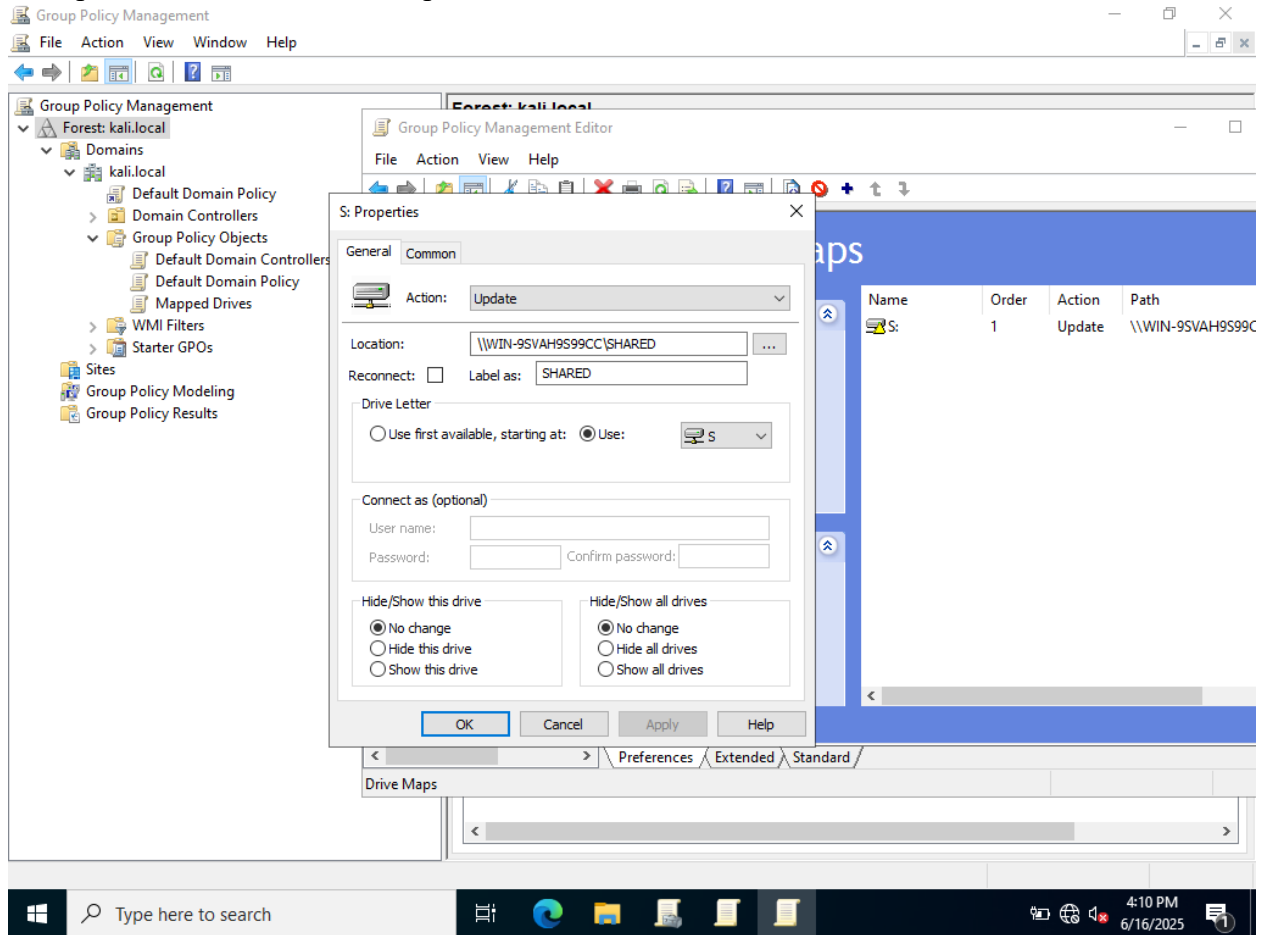
Drive mapping via GPO is a critical task in enterprise environments. It:

- Saves time by automating access to shared resources
 - Reduces support tickets caused by missing drives
 - Ensures consistent access for all users without manual setup
 - Demonstrates **Active Directory and GPO skills**, which are essential for IT support, helpdesk, and system administration roles
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Skills Demonstrated

- Active Directory Group Policy Management
- GPO Preferences: Drive Maps

- Network File Sharing
- User Configuration Automation
- Enterprise IT Infrastructure Setup



Group Policy Management Editor

FileActionViewHelp

Mapped Drives [WIN-9SVAH9S99]

Computer Configuration

Policies

Preferences

User Configuration

Policies

Preferences

Windows Settings

Applications

Drive Maps

Environment

Files

Folders

Ini Files

Registry

Shortcuts

Control Panel Settings

Drive Maps

Processing

Description

Name	Order	Action	Path	Reconnect
S:	1	Update	\\WIN-9SVAH9S99CC\SH...	No

PreferencesExtendedStandard

Drive Maps

Type here to search

4:10 PM

6/16/2025

