Lab - Applying and Troubleshooting Group Policy in Active Directory

The Objective is to use Group Policy to apply basic configuration settings to domain-joined user accounts or computers and learn how to troubleshoot policy application issues.

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Open Group Policy Management Console

Opened gpmc.msc on the Domain Controller

Navigated to:  
Forest > Domains > corp.local

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Create and Link a New GPO

Right clicked the IT OU

Created and linked a new GPO named: IT Policy

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| **Policy** | **Path** | **Setting** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Desktop Wallpaper** | User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Desktop > Desktop | Enabled → Set to C:\Windows\Web\Wallpaper\Windows\img0.jpg |
| **Screen Saver Timeout** | User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Control Panel > Personalization | Enabled → Set to 300 seconds (5 mins) |
| **Disable Control Panel** | User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Control Panel | Enabled → Prohibit access to Control Panel and PC Settings |

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Applied the Policy

* Logged into the Windows 10 client VM as:  
  corp\jsmith
* Ran the following to apply the policy gpupdate /force

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Verified GPO Application

Confirmed the following on the client:

Desktop wallpaper changed

Control Panel access was blocked

Screen locked after 5 minutes

Troubleshooting Scenario

“User in the IT OU reports that the wallpaper policy isn’t working.”

Performed the following checks:

* Verified the user jsmith is in the correct OU (IT)
* Confirmed GPO is linked to the correct OU
* Ensured policy is enabled
* Checked the image path existed on the client
* Used gpresult to see if GPO was applying

I learned

* How to create and link GPOs to an Organizational Unit
* How to configure user-specific domain policies (wallpaper, screen timeout, control panel)
* How to force and verify policy updates using gpupdate and gpresult
* Common troubleshooting methods for GPO issues