

# Module 6

Managing user settings with  
Group Policy

# Module Overview

- Implementing administrative templates
- Configuring Folder Redirection, software installation, and scripts
- Configuring Group Policy preferences

# Lesson 1: Implementing administrative templates

- What are administrative templates?
- What are .adm and .admx files?
- Overview of the central store
- Discussion: Practical uses of administrative templates
- Demonstration: Configuring settings with administrative templates
- Importing security templates
- Managing administrative templates

# What are administrative templates?

- Administrative templates give you the ability to control the environment of the operating system and the user experience:
- Administrative template section for computers:
  - Control Panel
  - Network
  - Printers
  - System
  - Windows-based components
- Administrative template section for users:
  - Control Panel
  - Desktop
  - Network
  - Start menu and taskbar
  - System
  - Windows-based components
- Each of these main sections contain many subfolders to further organize settings

# What are .adm and .admx files?

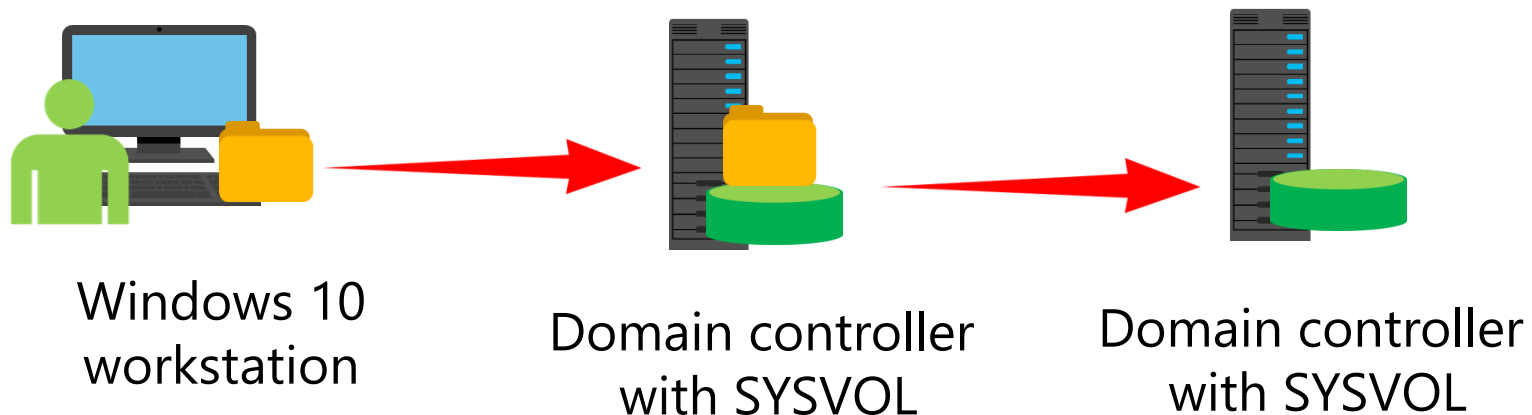
- .adm files:
  - Are copied into every GPO in SYSVOL
  - Are difficult to customize
  - Are not language-neutral
  - Could cause SYSVOL bloat if there are many GPOs
- .admx files:
  - Are language-neutral
  - .adml files provide the localized language
  - Are not stored in the GPO
  - Are extensible through XML

# Overview of the central store

## The central **store**:

- Is a central repository for .admx and .adml files
- Is stored in SYSVOL
- Must be created manually
- Is detected automatically by Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, and newer operating systems

.admx files



# Discussion: Practical uses of administrative templates

- How do you provide desktop security currently?
- How much administrative access do users have to their systems?
- Which Group Policy settings will you find useful in your organization?



15 minutes



# Demonstration: Configuring settings with administrative templates

In this demonstration, you will see how to:

- Configure an Administrative Templates setting
- Filter Administrative Templates policy settings
- Apply comments to policy settings
- Add comments to a GPO
- Create a new GPO by copying an existing GPO
- Create a new GPO by importing settings that were exported from another GPO



# Importing security templates

- Security Templates contain settings for:
  - Account policies
  - Local policies
  - Event log
  - Restricted groups
  - System services
  - Registry
  - File system
- More security settings are available in a GPO
- Security templates created in the Security Templates snap-in can be imported into a GPO
- The Security Compliance Manager can export security baselines in a GPO backup format

# Managing administrative templates

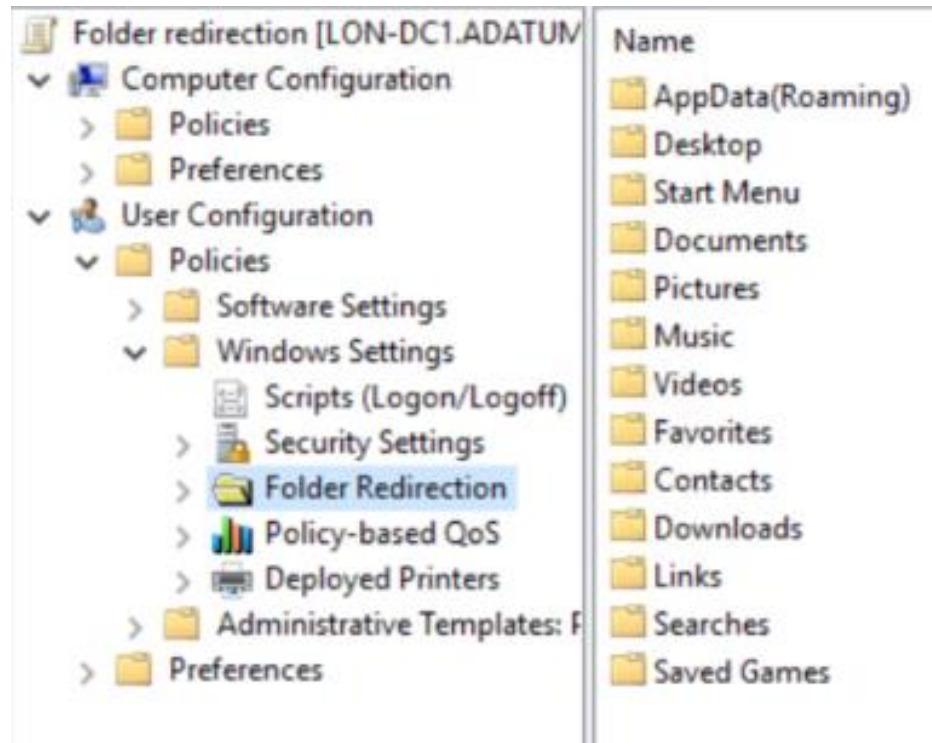
- Extend the set of administrative templates by:
  1. Creating new templates or downloading available templates
  2. Adding the templates to the central store so the settings become available in all GPOs
  3. Configuring the settings in a GPO
  4. Deploying the GPO
- .admx files are available for both Microsoft and third-party applications
- Import legacy .adm files to the Administrative Templates section of a GPO

## Lesson 2: Configuring Folder Redirection, software installation, and scripts

- What is Folder Redirection?
- Settings for configuring Folder Redirection
- Security settings for redirected folders
- Demonstration: Configuring Folder Redirection
- Managing software with Group Policy
- Group Policy settings for applying scripts
- Demonstration: Configuring scripts with GPOs

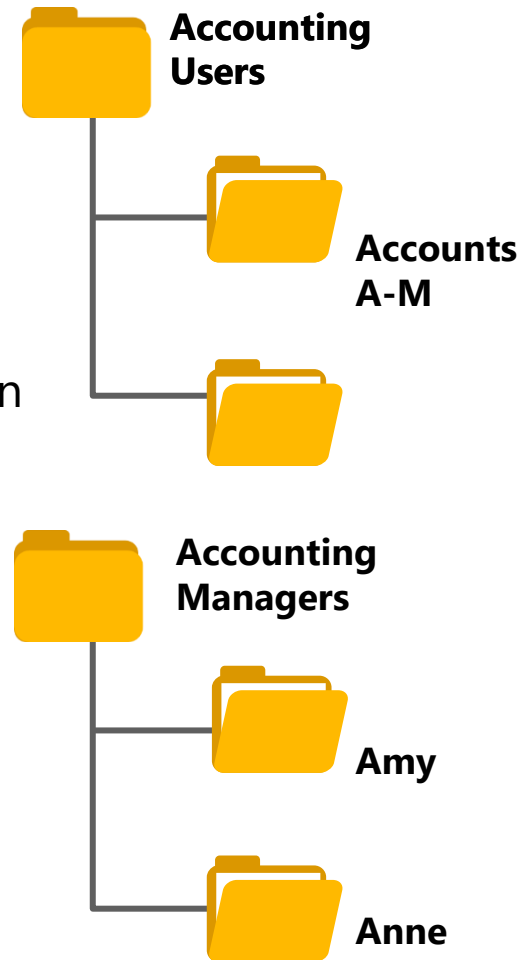
# What is Folder Redirection?

- Folder Redirection allows folders to be located on a network server, but appear as if they are located on a local drive
- Folders that can be redirected in Windows Vista and later are:



# Settings for configuring Folder Redirection

- Folder Redirection configuration options:
  - Use Basic Folder Redirection when all users save their files to the same location
  - Use Advanced Folder Redirection when the server hosting the folder location is based on group membership
  - Use the Follow the Documents folder to force certain folders to become subfolders of Documents
- Target folder location options:
  - Create a folder for each user under the root path
  - Redirect to the following location
  - Redirect to the local user profile location
  - Redirect to the user's home directory (Documents folder only)



# Security settings for redirected folders

## NTFS permissions for root folder

Creator/Owner	Full control – subfolders and files only
Administrator	None
Security group of users that save data on the share	List Folder/Read Data, Create Folders/Append Data-This Folder Only
Local System	Full control

## Share permissions for root folder

Creator/Owner	Full control – subfolders and files only
Security group of users that save data on the share	Full control

## NTFS permissions for each user's redirected folder

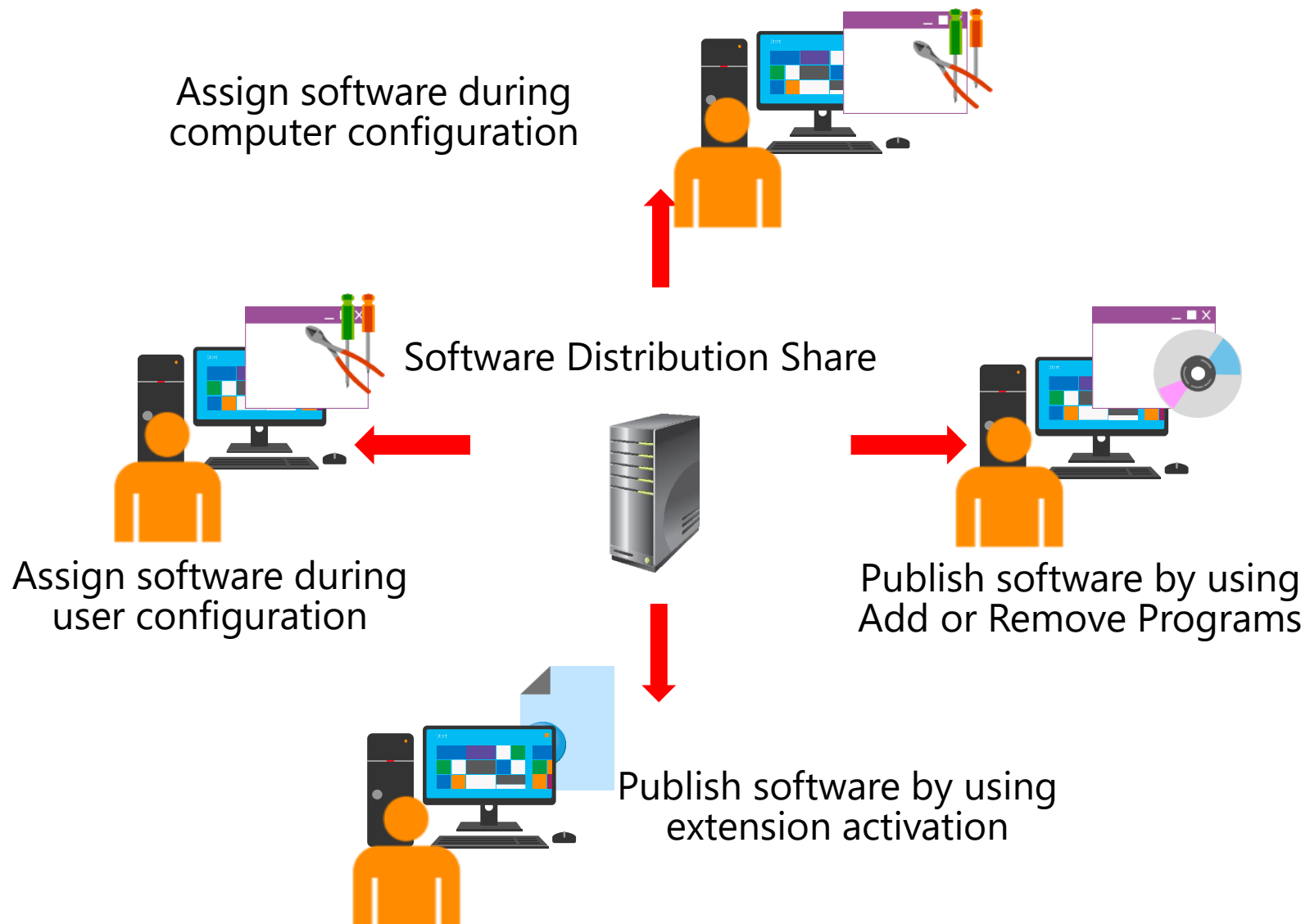
Creator/Owner	Full control – subfolders and files only
%Username%	Full control, owner of folder
Administrators	None
Local System	Full control

# Demonstration: Configuring Folder Redirection

In this demonstration, you will learn how to:

- Create a shared folder for Folder Redirection
- Create a GPO to redirect the Documents folder
- Test Folder Redirection

# Managing software with Group Policy





# Group Policy settings for applying scripts

- You can use scripts to perform many tasks, such as clearing page files, mapping drives, and clearing temp folders for users
- Scripts languages include VBScript, Jscript, Windows PowerShell, and command/batch files
- You can assign Group Policy script settings to assign:
  - For computers:
    - Startup scripts
    - Shutdown scripts
  - For users:
    - Logon scripts
    - Logoff scripts

# Demonstration: Configuring scripts with GPOs

In this demonstration, you will learn how to:

- Create a logon script to display a message
- Create and link a GPO to use the script
- Sign in to a client computer and test the results

# Lesson 3: Configuring Group Policy preferences

- What are Group Policy preferences?
- Comparing Group Policy preferences and Group Policy settings
- Features of Group Policy preferences
- Item-level targeting options
- Demonstration: Configuring Group Policy preferences

# What are Group Policy preferences?

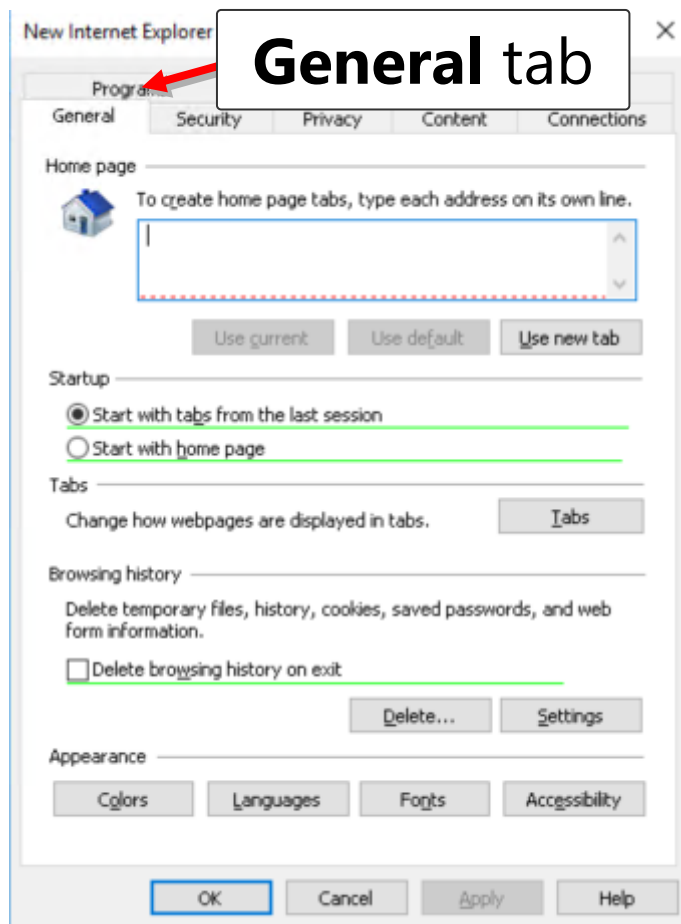
Group Policy preferences extensions expand the range of configurable settings within a GPO:

- Enables you to manage settings that were previously not manageable by using Group Policy
- Are supported natively on Windows Server 2008 and newer and Windows Vista SP2 and newer
- Can be created, deleted, replaced, or updated
- Categories include mapped drives, shortcuts, registry changes, power options, schedules tasks, and Internet Explorer settings

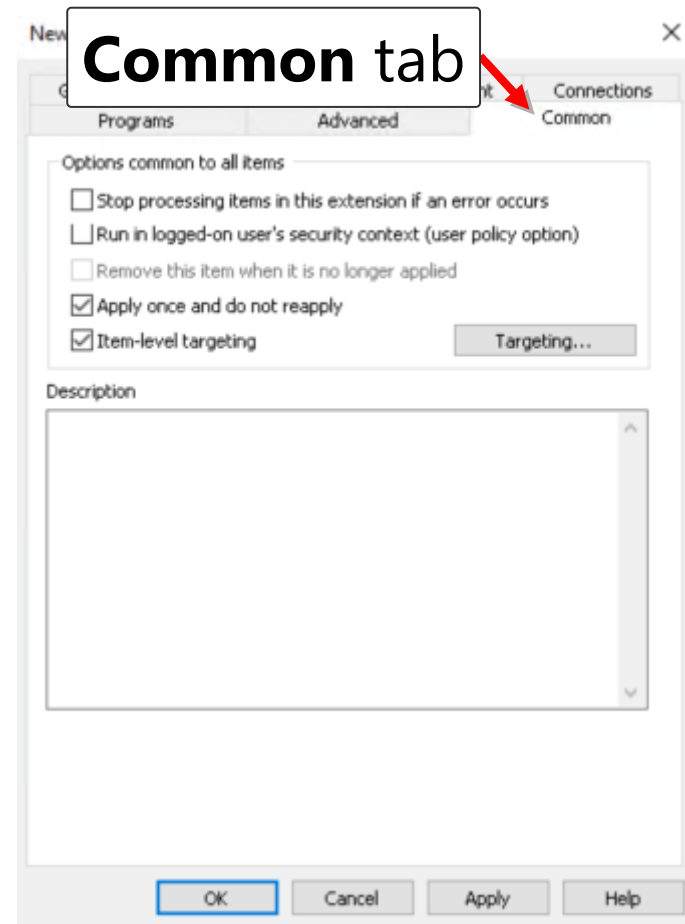
# Comparing Group Policy preferences and Group Policy settings

<b>Group Policy settings</b>	<b>Group Policy preferences</b>
Strictly enforce policy settings by writing the settings to areas of the registry that standard users cannot modify	Are written to the normal locations in the registry that the application or operating system feature uses to store the setting
Typically disable the user interface for settings that Group Policy is managing	Do not cause the application or operating system feature to disable the user interface for settings they configure
Refresh policy settings at a regular interval	Refresh preferences by using the same interval as Group Policy settings by default, but can be configured to apply only once

# Features of Group Policy preferences

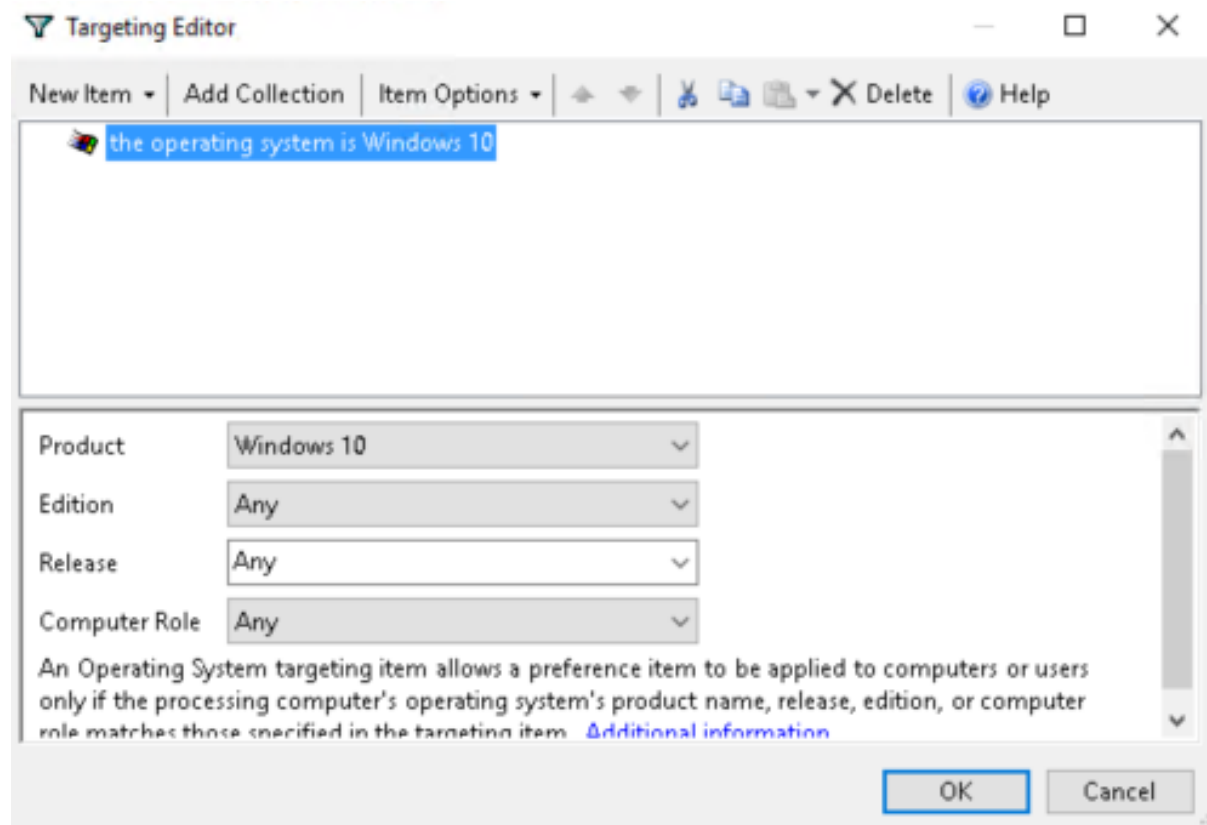
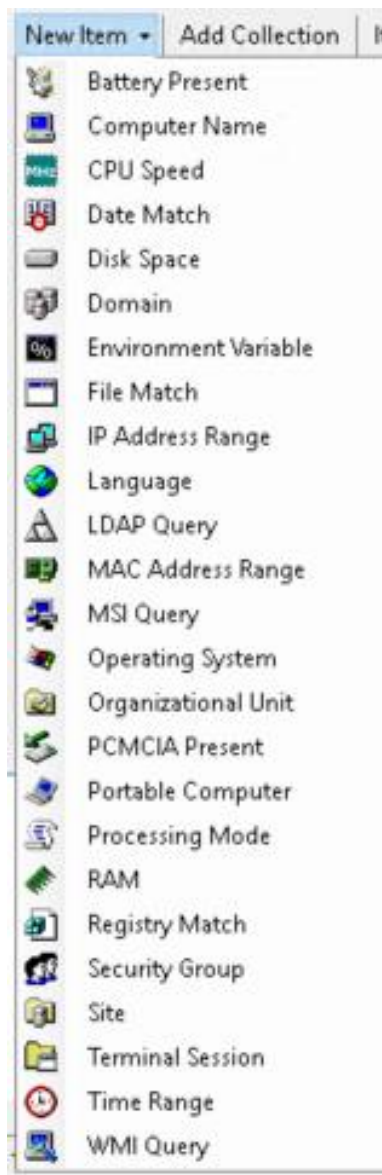


- Configure most settings
- Look out for red dotted-lines
- The setting is not enabled; use F6 to enable it



Configure additional options that control the behavior of a Group Policy preference item

# Item-level targeting options



# Item-level targeting options

- Restrict drive mappings to an Active Directory security group
- Configure different power plans to portable and desktop computers
- Deploy printers only to computers that meet specific criteria, and to users that are members of a specific group
- Copy Microsoft Office templates based on the language of the operating system installed on the computer



# Demonstration: Configuring Group Policy preferences

In this demonstration, you will see how to:

- Create a printer with Group Policy preferences
- Target the preference
- Create a power plan with Group Policy preferences
- Target the preference
- Test the preferences

# Lab: Managing user settings with Group Policy

- Exercise 1: Using administrative templates to manage user settings
- Exercise 2: Implementing settings by using Group Policy preferences
- Exercise 3: Configuring Folder Redirection
- Exercise 4: Planning Group Policy (optional)

Logon Information

Virtual machines:

**20742B-LON-DC1**

**20742B-LON-CL1**

User name:

**Adatum\Administrator**

Password:

**Pa55w.rd**

Estimated Time: 45 minutes

# Lab Scenario

A. Datum Corporation has implemented Microsoft Office 2016, and you want to use Group Policy to configure settings for some Office 2016 apps. The IT department uses logon scripts to provide users with drive mapping to shared folders. However, maintaining these scripts is an ongoing problem, because they are large and complex. Your manager has asked that you implement drive mapping by using Group Policy preferences to remove logon scripts.

Your manager also has asked that you place a desktop shortcut to the Notepad app for all users who belong to the IT Security group. Additionally, you must add a new computer administrator's security group as a local administrator on all servers.

To help minimize profile sizes, you also need to configure Folder Redirection to redirect several profile folders to each user's home drive. Finally, you have to complete the GPO design to manage user desktops and server security.

# Lab Review

- Which options can you use to separate users' redirected folders to different servers?
- Can you name two methods that you could use to assign a GPO to selected objects within an OU?
- You have created Group Policy preferences to configure new power options. How can you make sure that the preferences apply only to laptop computers?

# Module Review and Takeaways

- Best Practice
- Common Issues and Troubleshooting Tips
- Review Questions