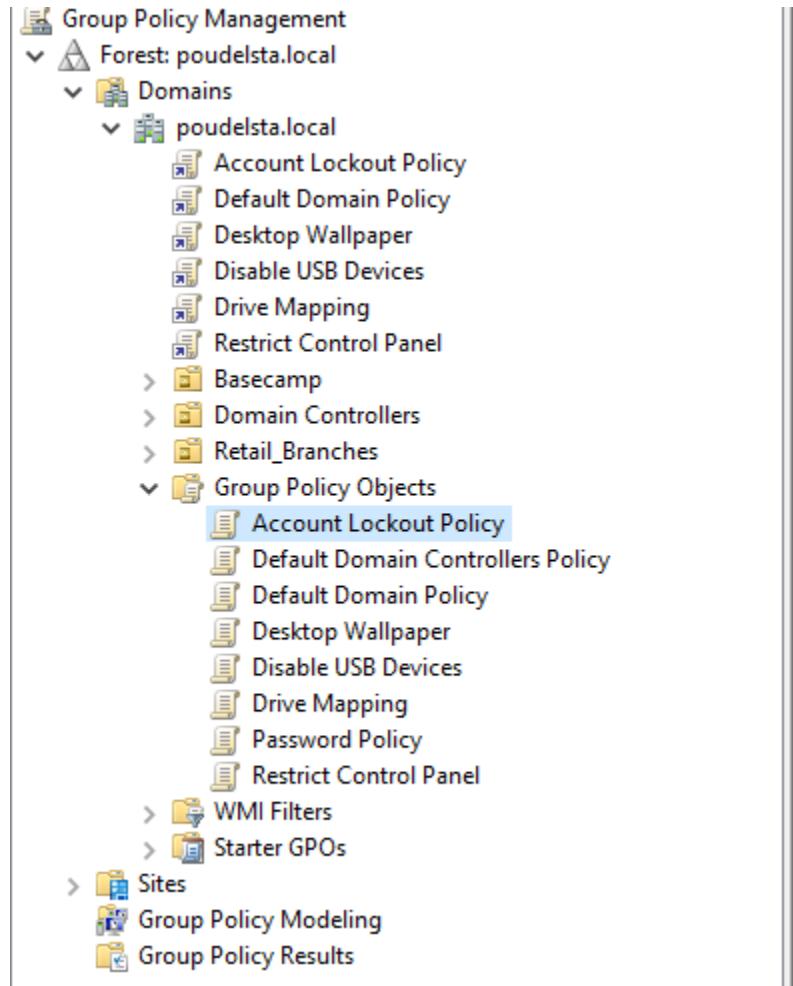


Implementing and Testing Group Policies (GPOs)

1. Open Group Policy Management Console (GPMC):

- We will return to our Windows Server 2022 VM and open the **Group Policy Management** console. As of now, we have only **created** GPOs; we now need to **link** them to the appropriate Organizational Units (OUs) to apply them.



2. Linking GPOs to Target OUs:

- We will link the GPOs by dragging and dropping them from the **Group Policy Objects** folder directly onto the target OU. When we perform the drag-and-drop, a confirmation box will appear; we must click **OK** to confirm linking the GPO to the selected OU.
- User Configuration GPOs:** These must be applied to OUs containing **Users**.

- **Restrict Control Panel (RCP):** This GPO affects user settings, so we will drag and drop it onto the **Retail_Branches > Users** OU.
- **Drive Mapping:** This GPO affects user preferences, so we will drag and drop it onto the **Retail_Branches > Users** OU.
- **Desktop Wallpaper:** This GPO affects user settings, so we will drag and drop it onto the **Retail_Branches > Users** OU.
- **Computer Configuration GPOs:** These must be applied to OUs containing **Computers**.
 - **Password Policy:** Although this policy technically enforces domain-wide security, we will link it to the **Retail_Branches > Computers** OU to practice linking Computer-level policies.
 - **Disable USB Devices:** This policy restricts hardware access, so we will drag and drop it onto the **Retail_Branches > Computers** OU.
- We can now verify that the GPOs are listed under their respective OUs in the GPMC tree.

3. Move Domain-Joined Computers to the Correct OU:

- When a computer joins a domain, it is automatically placed in the generic **Computers** container within Active Directory Users and Computers (ADUC).
- To ensure our newly linked GPOs (which target specific OUs like **Retail_Branches > Computers**) are applied, we must move the computer object.
- We will open **ADUC**, find the computer object (e.g., **Desktop-101**), and move it to the correct OU, for example, **Retail_Branches > Computers**. We can do this by dragging and dropping, or by right-clicking the object and selecting **Move**.
- By double-clicking the computer object, we can add useful information like a **Description** or **Location**.

4. Testing the GPOs on the Client VM:

- Before testing, we should update the policies on the client machine. On the Windows 11 VM, open Command Prompt and type **gpupdate /force** and press Enter.

- **Restrict Control Panel (User Policy):**

- We will jump back to our client Windows 11 VM (logged in as a domain user).
- We will attempt to open the Control Panel by typing "Control Panel" in the search box.
- **Verification:** The restriction should be in effect, displaying a message stating that access is prohibited. This confirms that the **Restrict Control Panel GPO** is successfully linked and applied to the user.

