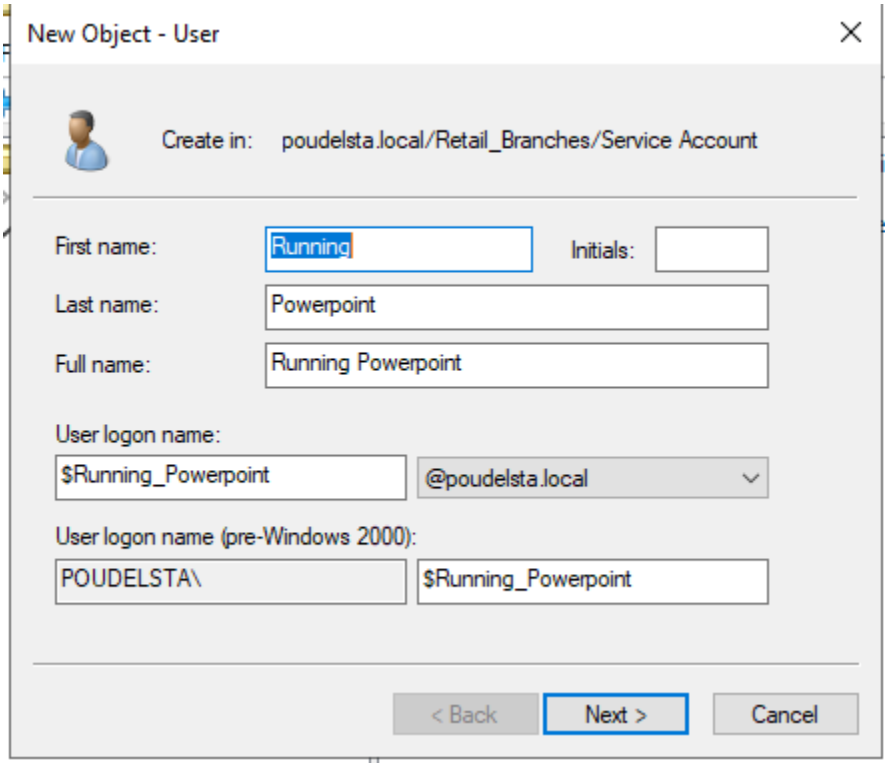
Service Accounts and Sysinternals

Part 1: Creating the Service Account

1. **Create the Service Account OU:**
    - We will open **Active Directory Users and Computers (ADUC)**.
    - We will create a separate Organizational Unit (OU) called **Service Accounts** for organizational clarity.

2. **Create the Service Account User:**
    - Within the **Service Accounts** OU, **right-click** and select **New > User**.
    - We will name the account based on its function, e.g., **Running PowerPoint**.
    - **User Logon Name:** As a best practice for easy identification, we will use a distinct naming convention, such as starting the name with a dollar sign ($) and using underscores (_) instead of periods, e.g., **$Running_Powerpoint**.



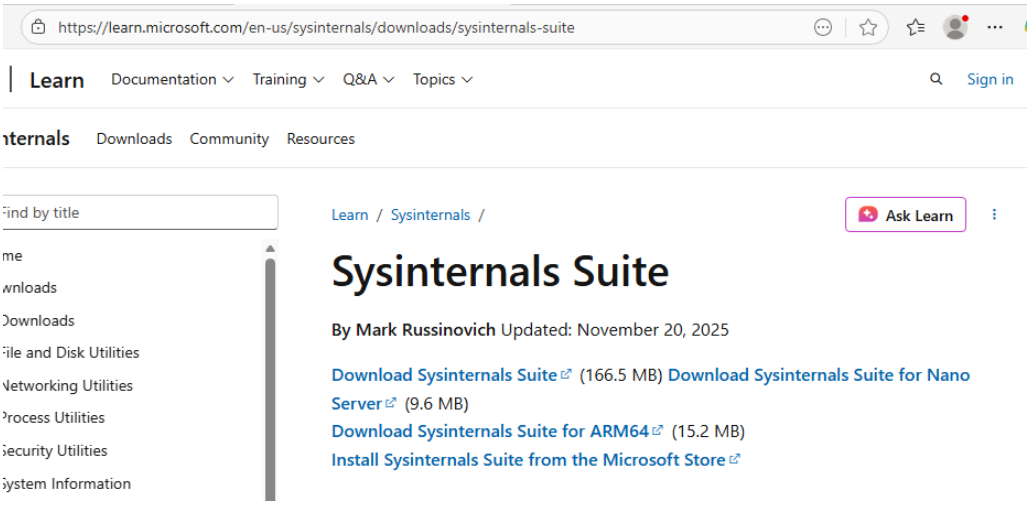
    - Click **Next**, and create a strong password.

- **Critical Security Settings:** We must **uncheck** "User must change password at next logon," and instead check **"User cannot change password"** and **"Password never expires."** Click **Next** and **Finish**.

3. **Add Description (Best Practice):**
   - **Right-click** on the new service account, click **Properties**, and add a detailed **Description** explaining the account's purpose (e.g., "Used for auto-login on display kiosk at Retail Branch").

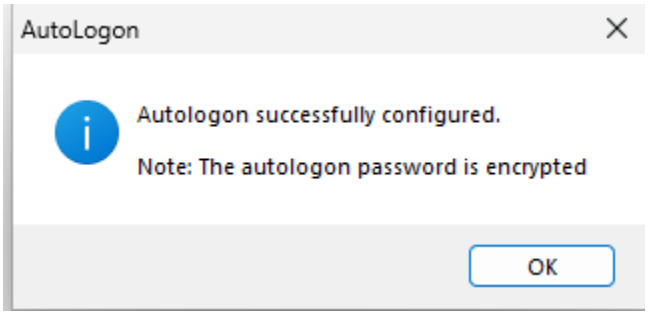
Part 2: Configuring Auto-Logon on the Client VM

1. **Log In and Download Sysinternals:**
   - We will now log into our client Windows 11 VM using the newly created **$Running_Powerpoint** service account.
   - Open the web browser and search for **Sysinternals Suite**. (Sysinternals is a free set of advanced tools from Microsoft.)
   - We will navigate to the Microsoft documentation link and click the option to **Download Sysinternals Suite**.



2. **Run Autologon Utility:**
   - After the download is complete, we will extract the contents of the ZIP file.
   - We will open the extracted folder and find **Autologon64.exe**.
   - **Double-click Autologon64.exe**.

- If prompted for administrator credentials, input the **Administrator** username and password for the domain (or a user with elevated rights).
- Click **Agree** to the license agreement.
- **Enable Autologon:** We will be asked to enter the username and password for the service account we just created:
  - **Username:** $Running_Powerpoint
  - **Domain:** poudelsta.local
  - **Password:** The password we created for the service account.
- Click **Enable**. A confirmation will appear that Autologon is successfully configured.



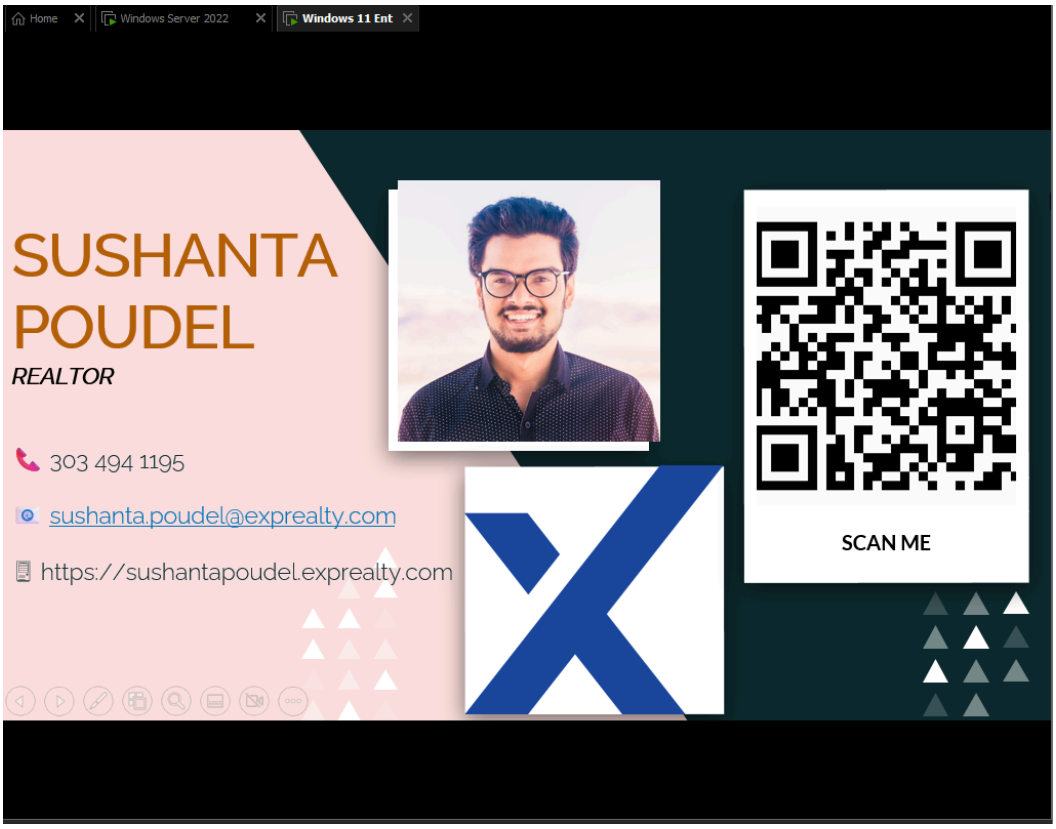
- **Test:** We can reboot the computer to verify that it logs in automatically without user interaction.

Part 3: Kiosk Application and Power Configuration

1. **Configure Application for Startup:**
   - We will prepare the application (e.g., a PowerPoint presentation) to run automatically.
   - **PowerPoint Tip:** Save the presentation as a **PowerPoint Show (.ppsx)** file. When opened, this file automatically starts in full-screen presentation mode.
   - **Add to Startup Folder:** Press **Win + R** to open the Run command, and type shell:startup. This opens the user's Startup folder.
   - We will **drag and drop** the .ppsx file (or a shortcut to any program we want to auto-start) into this folder.
   -
2. **Disable Sleep/Screen Timeout:**

- We need to ensure the machine never sleeps or turns off the screen.
- **Troubleshooting GPO Conflict:** When we try to access Power settings, we will encounter a restriction because we previously restricted access to the Control Panel/Settings via GPO.
- **Solution:** We will temporarily return to the server, modify the **Restrict Control Panel** GPO to not apply to the Service Accounts OU, and run gpupdate /force on the client.
- **Configuration:** Now that we have access, we will search for **Sleep** or **Power & Sleep** settings on the client. We will change the **Turn off screen after** setting to **NEVER**.

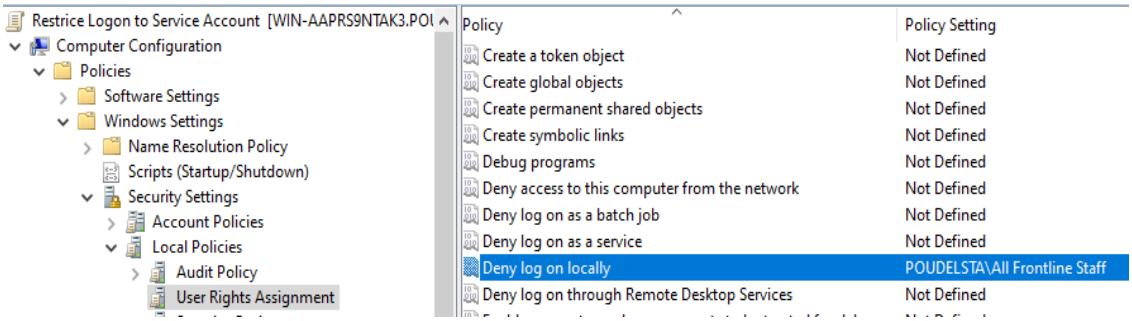
3. **Final Test:**
   - We will reboot the client VM. It should auto-logon, and the PowerPoint presentation should immediately launch in full-screen mode.



Part 4: Restricting Log On Locally (Security Hardening)

Since this is a service account, it should not be used by branch staff to log on interactively.

1. **Create Restrictive GPO:**
    - We will return to the server and open **Group Policy Management** (gpmc.msc).
    - Under **Group Policy Objects**, we will **right-click** and create a new GPO named **Restrict Logon to Service Account**.
    - **Right-click** the GPO and click **Edit**.
    - **Configuration:** We navigate to **Computer Configuration > Policies > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Local Policies > User Rights Assignment**.
    - **Deny Log On Locally:** We will double-click this policy, check **Define these policy settings**, and click **Add User or Group**.
    - We will select a group that includes regular branch employees, such as **All Frontline Staff**. Click **OK** and **Apply**.



2. **Link the GPO:**
    - We will drag and drop the **Restrict Logon to Service Account** GPO from the Group Policy Objects folder to the **Retail_Branches > Computers** OU.
    - **Update:** Run gpupdate /force on the server and client to apply the policy immediately.