

Lab 8.9.10 Configuring Data Execution Prevention

From TestOut CompTIA Security+ Course

In this lab I will be configuring Data Execution Prevention , a feature of Windows Defender , in order to rectify a conflict it is causing with an in-house software application. Since the application is not signed , DEP thinks it is a malicious process.

The scenario for this lab is as follows:

“You work as the IT security administrator for a small corporate network. You are configuring the computer in Office 1 to use Data Execution Prevention (DEP) for all programs and services. You have noticed that the accounting program used on some computers does not function well when DEP is enabled.

In this lab, your task is to configure DEP as follows:

- Enable DEP for all files.
- Disable DEP for C:\Program Files (x86)\AccountWizard\AccountWizard.exe.
- Restart the computer to activate DEP.”

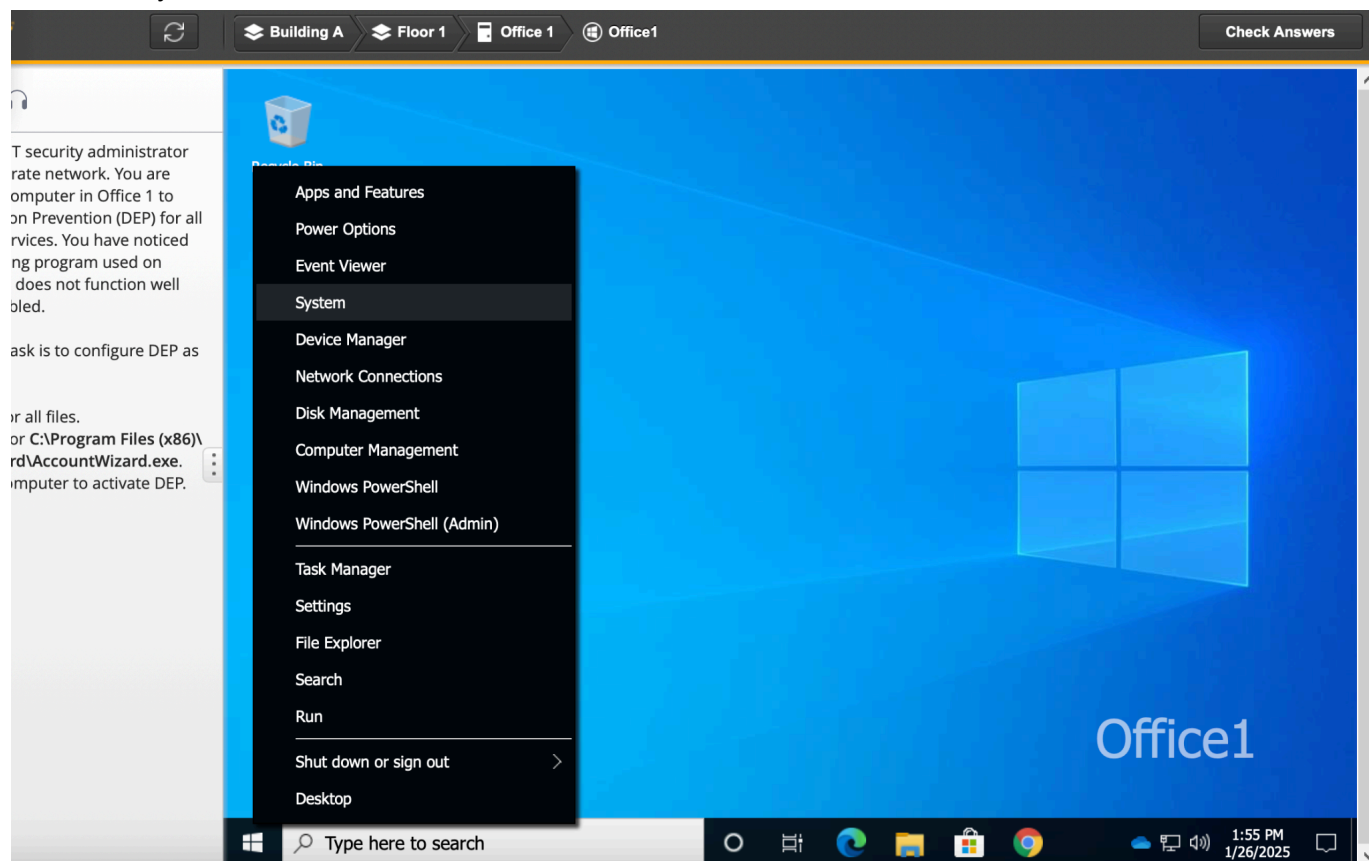
Let's start! Ideally I would want to do this over the Domain Controller to push out the changes to all machines, however the lab asks me to just configure it for the computer **Office1**.

To get to the DEP configuration I'll need to right-click the Windows Logo and select **System**.

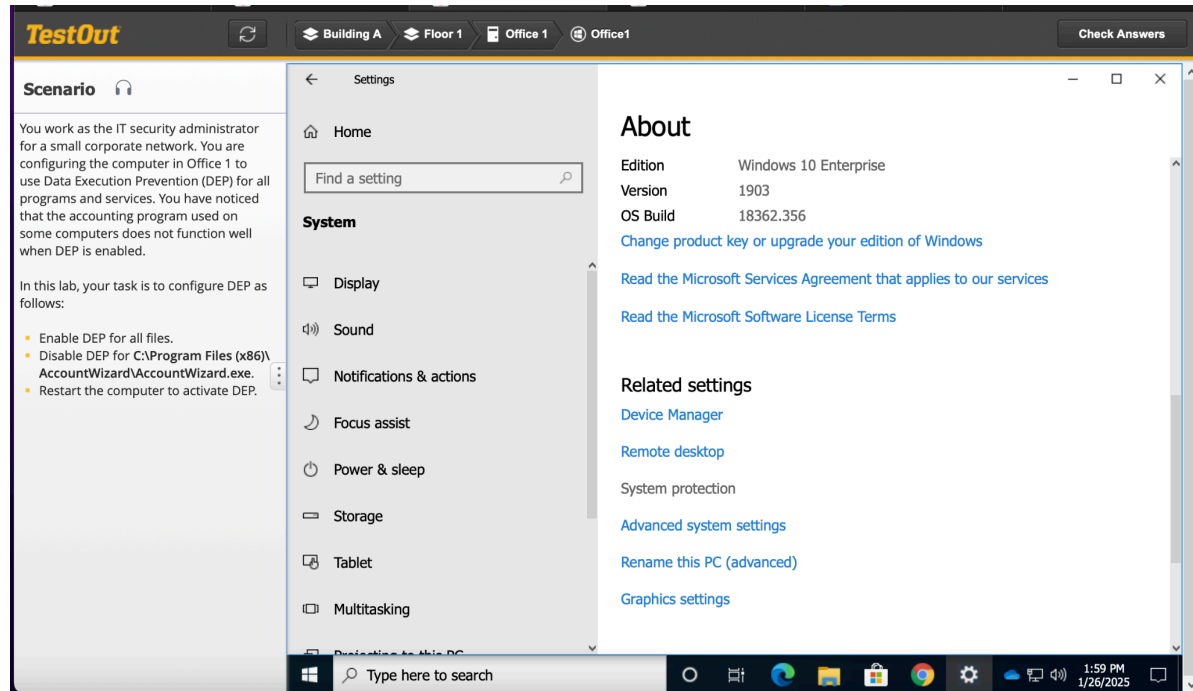
Robert Carpenter

github.com/robertmcarpenter

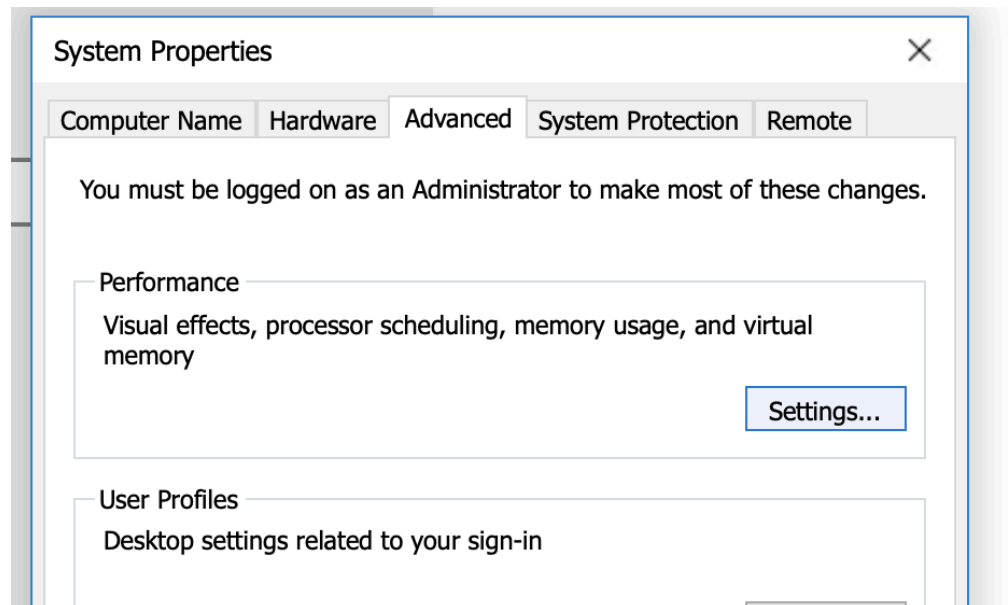
Sun January 26th 2025



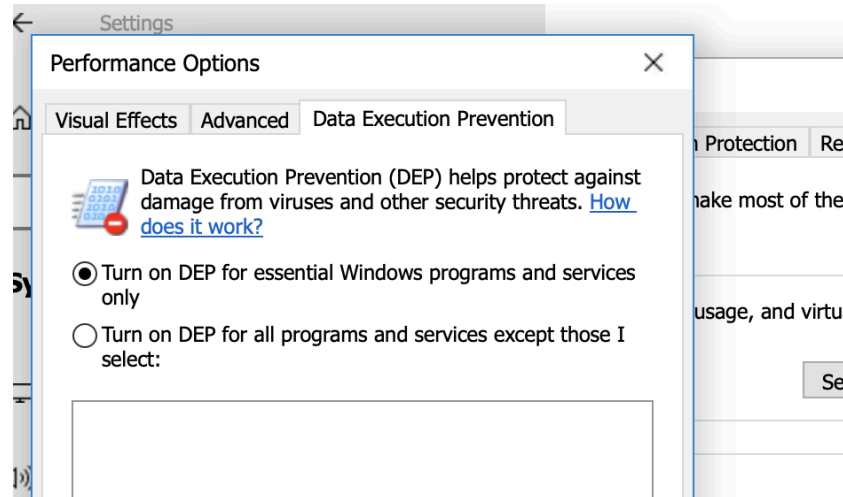
Once I'm under the **System** window, I'll scroll down and under **Related Settings** I will select **System Protection**.



The **System Properties** window opens up to the **System Protection** Tab. From the top menu I will select **Advanced** , then under **Performance** I will hit **Settings** (this setting is buried away in an odd place!).



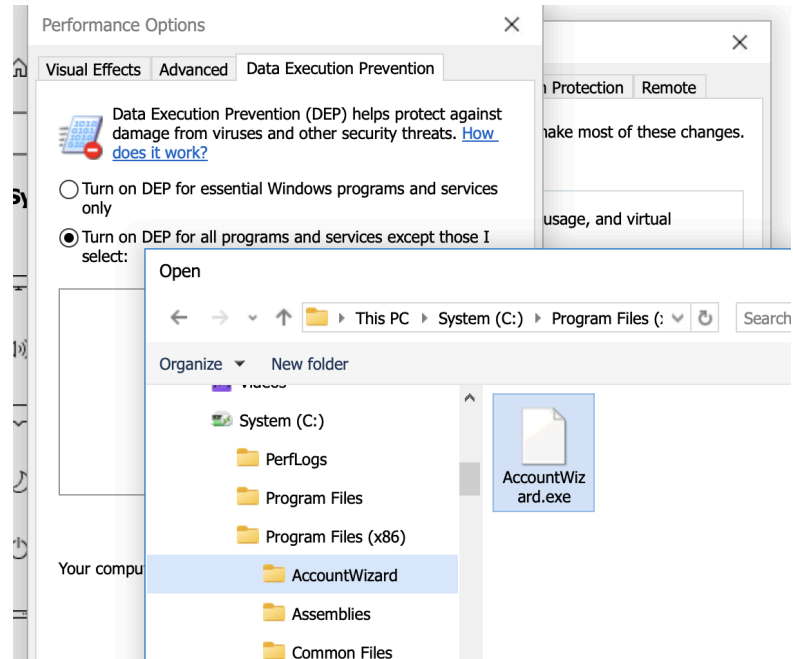
Hitting the **Settings** button then brings up the **Performance Options** window. At the top menu bar I will select **Data Execution Prevention**.



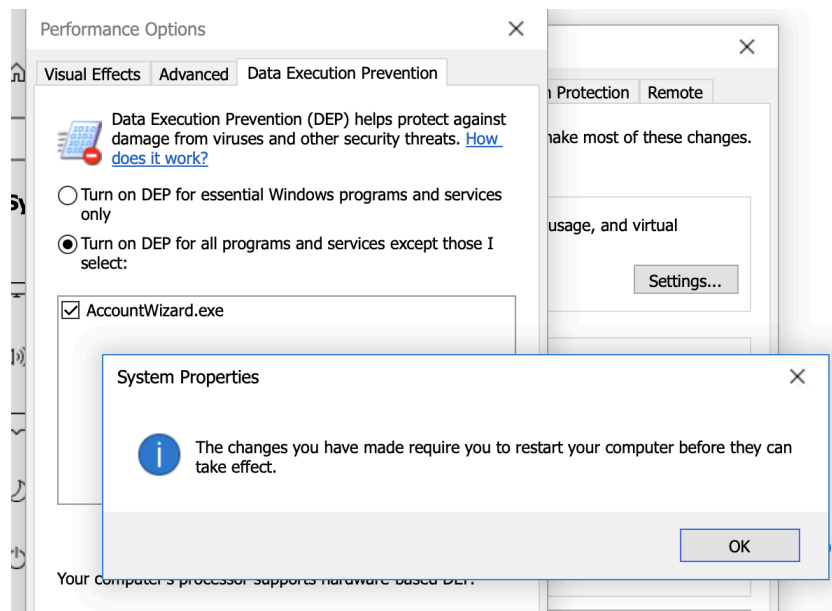
I'll then change the checkbox to **Turn on DEP for all programs and services except those I select:**

After I hit that, I will then add the program in question to the list. I need to add **C:\Program Files (x86)\AccountWizard\AccountWizard.exe** here.

Robert Carpenter
github.com/robertmcarpenter
Sun January 26th 2025



Once it is added to the list, a dialog box pops up prompting me to restart the computer in order for this DEP config to take effect. I will go ahead and do that now and end the lab!



Robert Carpenter
github.com/robertmcarpenter
Sun January 26th 2025

This now concludes this lab! In this lab I did the following:

- **Enable DEP for all files.**
- **Disable DEP for C:\Program Files (x86)\AccountWizard\AccountWizard.exe.**
- **Restart the computer to activate DEP.**

