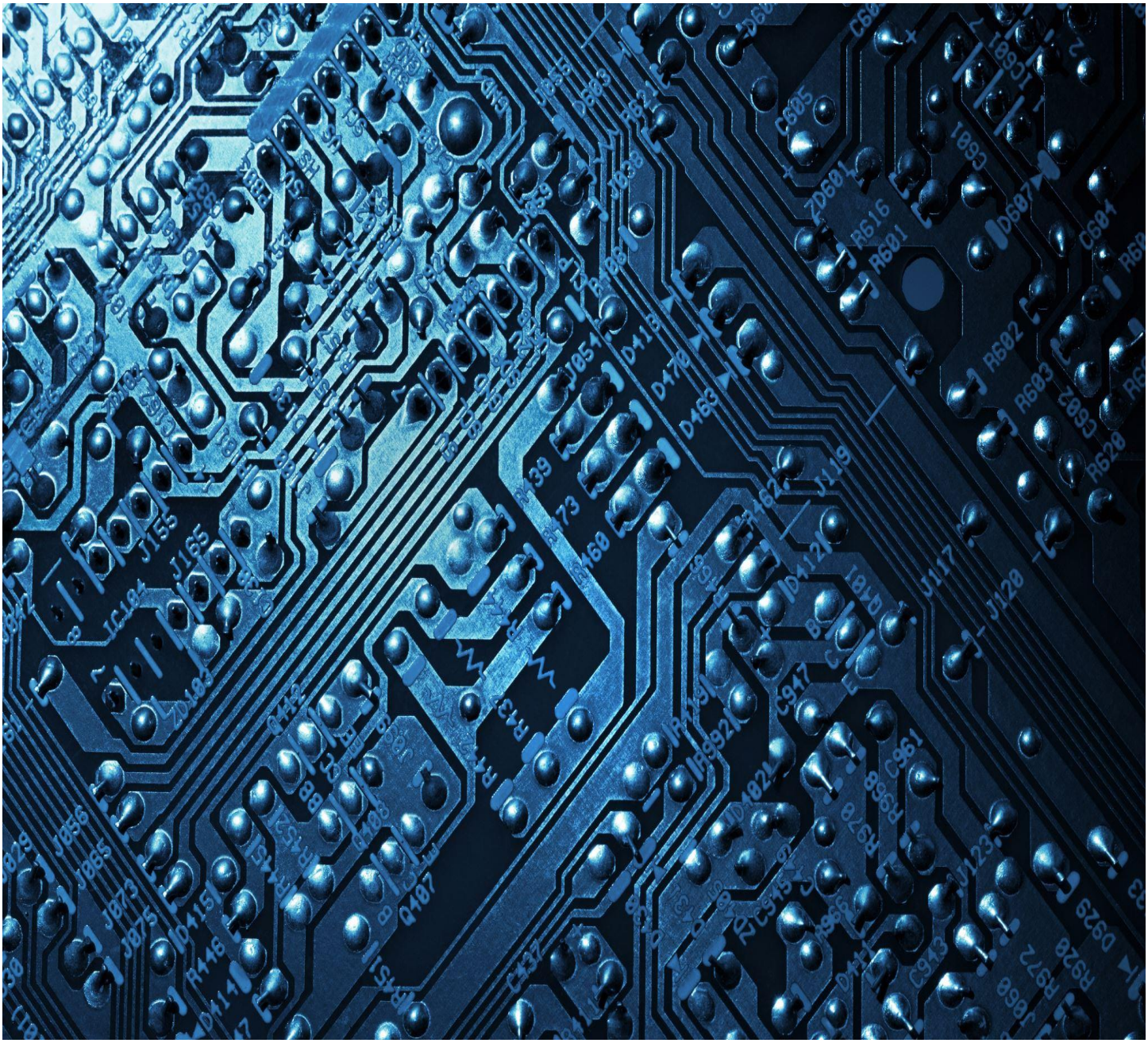
ASSIGNMENT 4

Policies, Backup & Recovery



OSYS 1200 – Intro to Windows Administration

Samantha Best - W0279169

Due November 1st, 2023

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Introduction

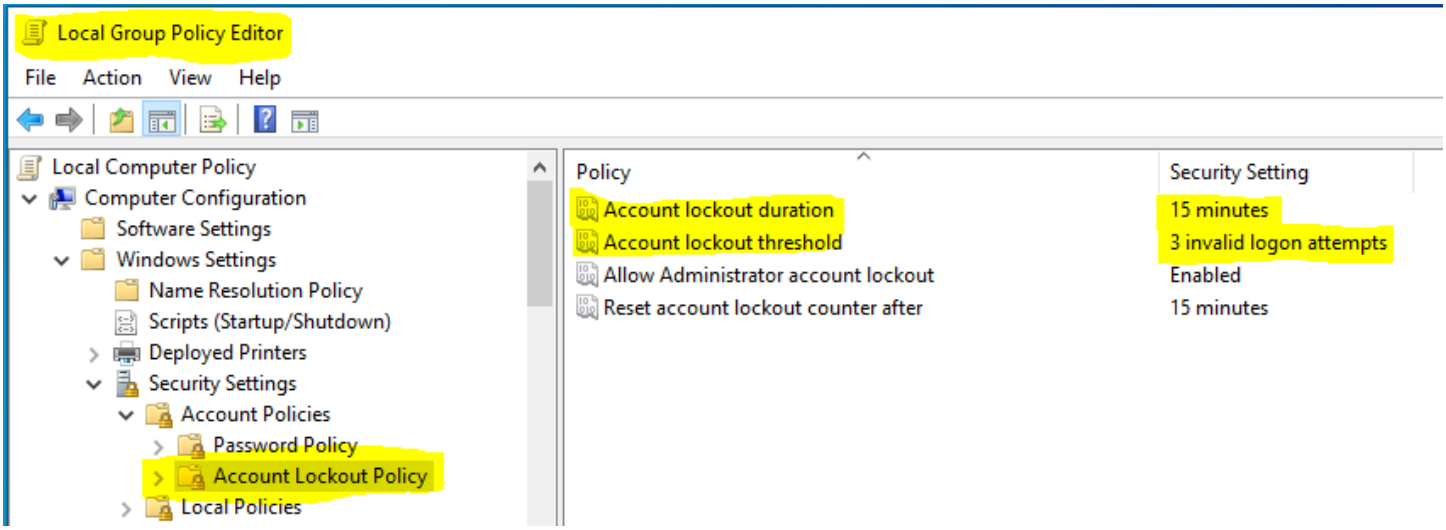
In this assignment, Group Policy Password configurations and Auditing events are initialized and explored using the GUI and Windows PowerShell, as well as scheduling Automatic Windows Updates, setting a Maintenance schedule, and modifying the User Access Controls in Windows Settings. Backups and restoring previous versions demonstrated using File History.

Task 1 – Security Policies

Part 1 – Security with Group Policies

Account Lockout

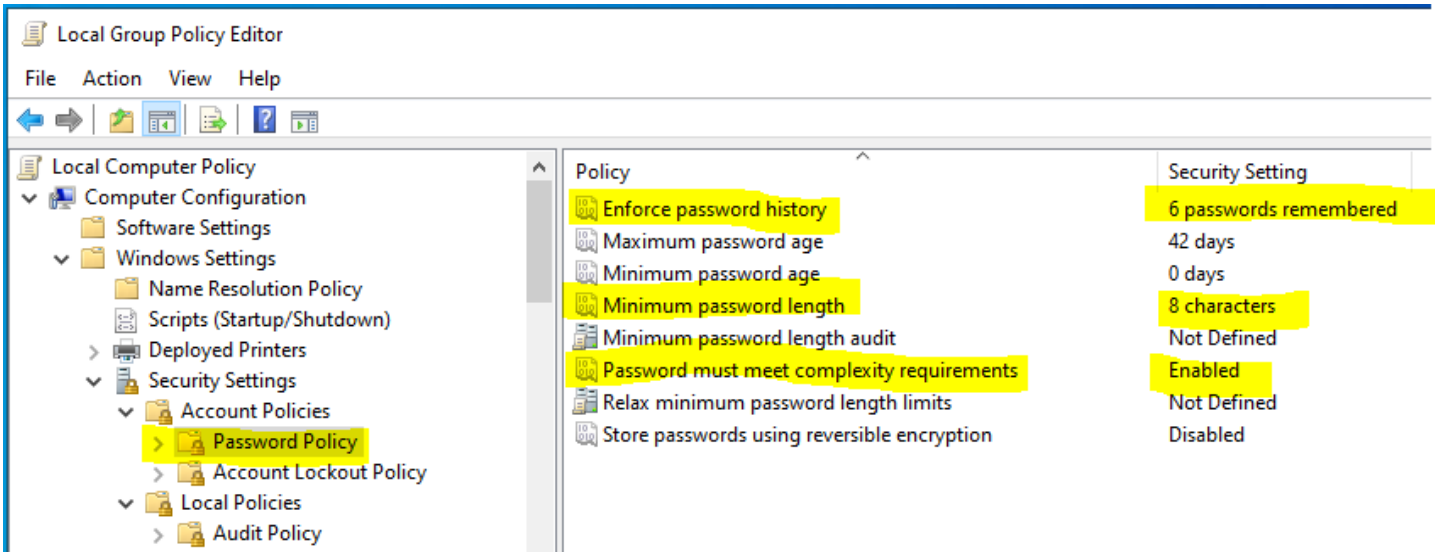
In the Local Group Policy Editor under "Local Computer Policy > Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Account Policies > Account Lockout Policy", the Account Lockout Duration and Account Lockout Threshold have been changed. These can also be edited in the **"Local Security Policy**" but are **only effective on local devices** and not a domain.



Shown above is the **Account Lockout Duration** set to **"15 minutes"** and the **"Account Lockout Threshold"** set to "**3 invalid logon attempts**".

Password Policy

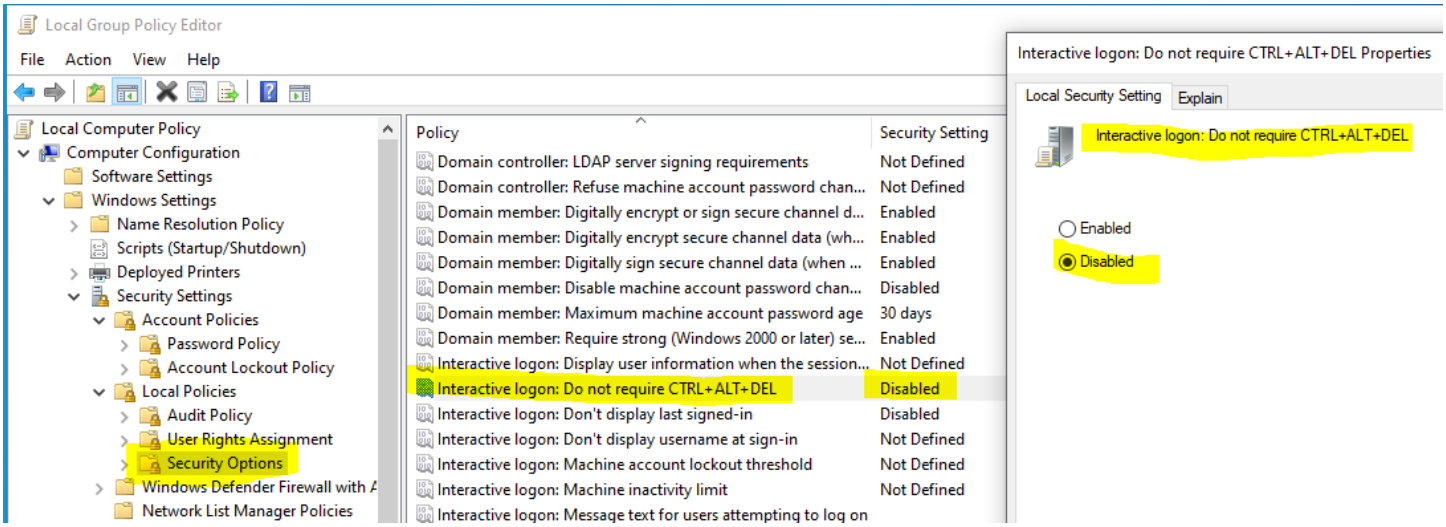
In the Local Group Policy Editor underneath “Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Account Policies > Password Policy”, the Password Policies have been modified.



“Enforce Password History” is now set to 6 passwords remembered, the **“Minimum password length”** is 8 characters, and the “**Password must meet complexity requirements”** is enabled.

Secure Boot

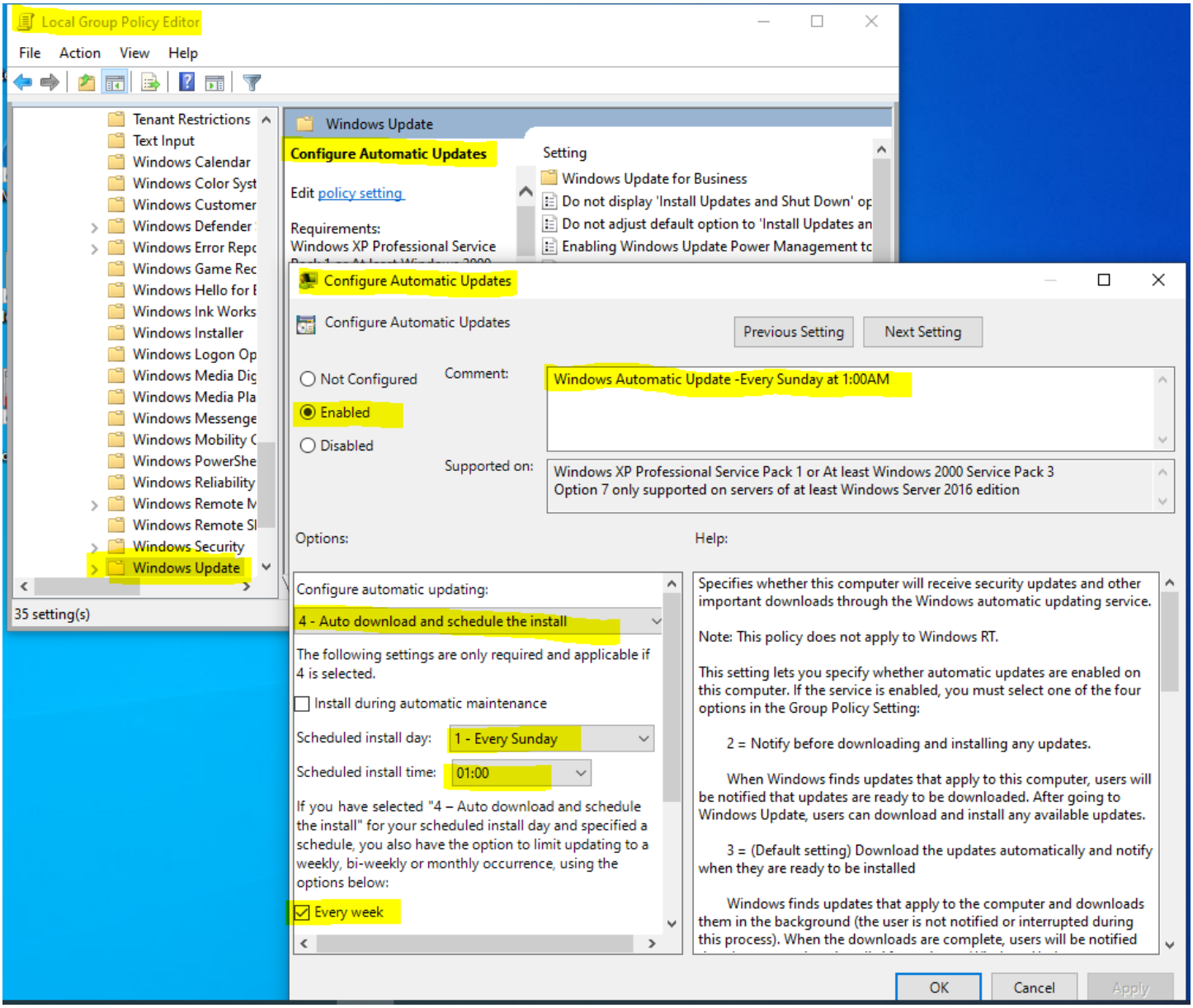
In the Local Group Policy Editor underneath “Security Settings > Local Policies > Security Options”, the “**Interactive logon: Do not require CTRL+ALT+DEL” has been set to “disabled”.** This enables secure boot.



“Interactive logon: Do not require CTRL+ALT+DEL” set to **DISABLED** in the Local Group Policy Editor. In the VMware application, “**CTRL + ALT + DEL**” for logon can be accessed without making the Host PC open the “Task Manager” by using “**CTRL + ALT + INSERT**” instead and will work the same as CTRL+ALT+DEL. *(VMware pushed a notification regarding CTRL+ALT+DEL and CTRL+ALT+INSERT when using the virtual machine)*

Windows Automatic Update

In the Local Group Policy Editor, inside “Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Windows Update” the setting **“Configure Automatic Updates”** is located.



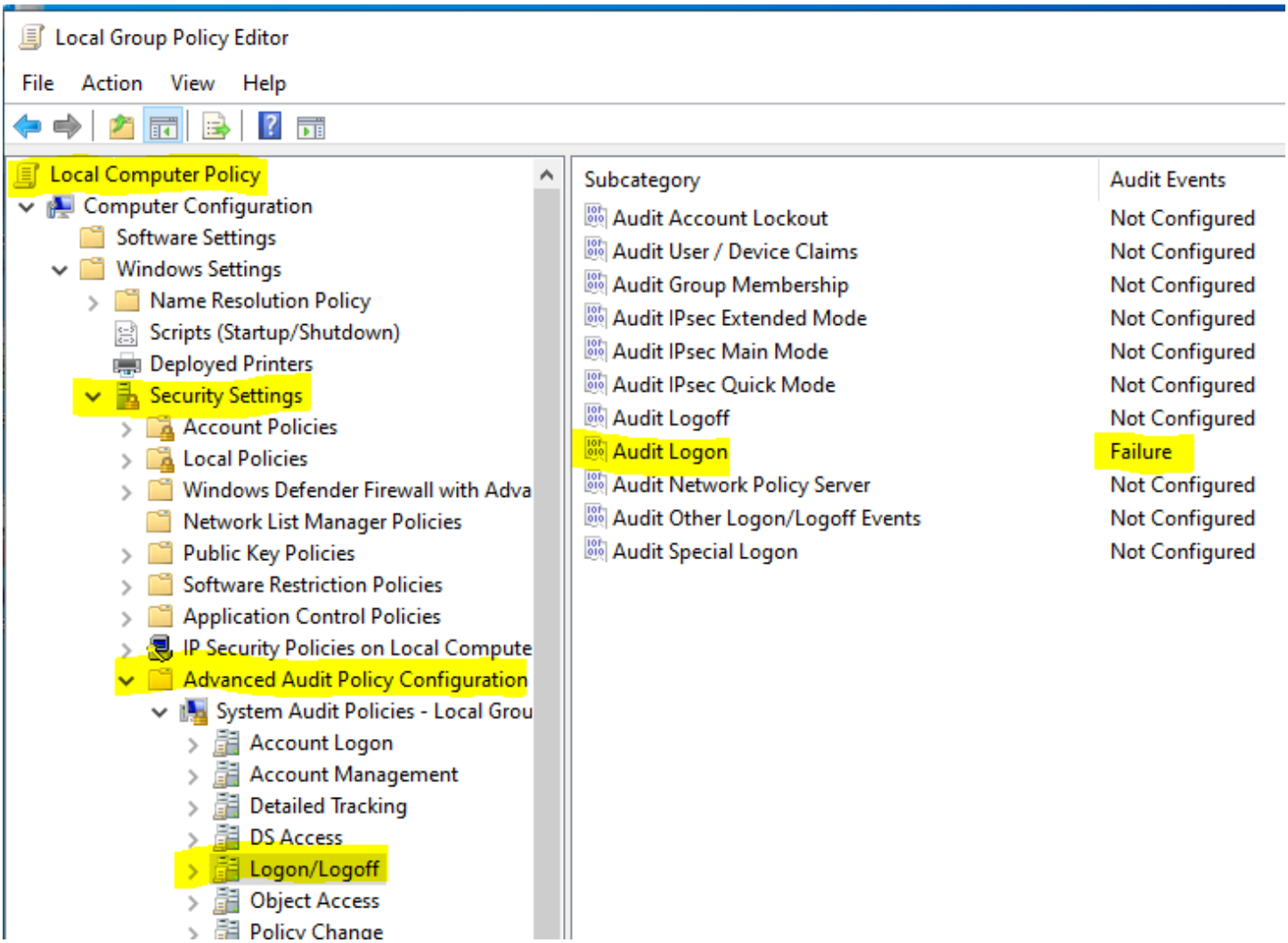
Windows Update was configured to **automatically download and install every Sunday at 1:00:00AM.**

Part 2 – Audit Policies

Advanced Audit Policies

Audit Failed Logon Attempts

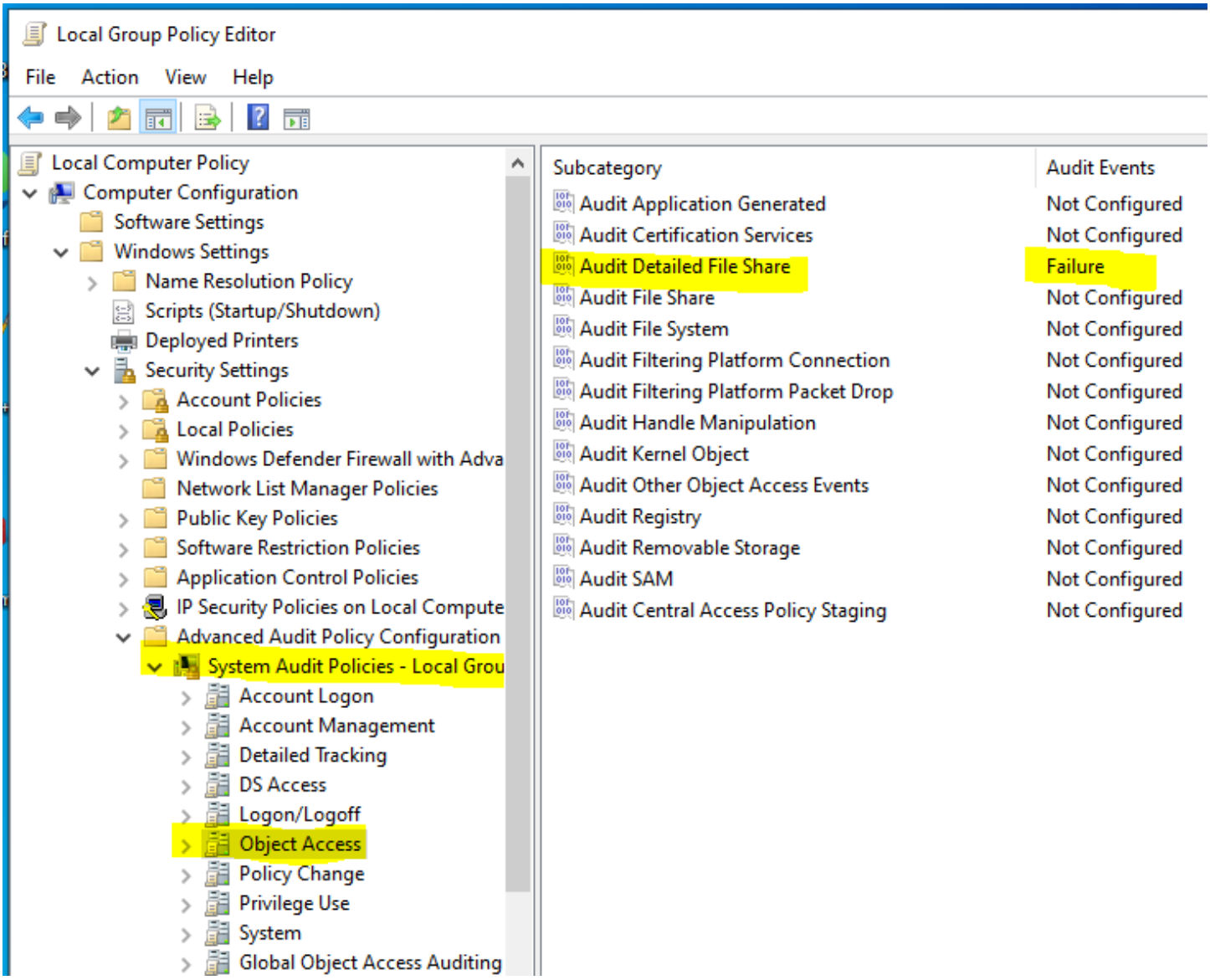
In the Local Group Policy Editor under "Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings > **Advanced Audit Policy Configuration** > System Audit Policies – Local Group Policy > **Logon/Logoff"**, the **"Audit Logon"** subcategory will be audited during a **"Failure"** or **failed logon attempt**.



Shown above, the **"Audit Logon"** has been set to failure. This will produce an audit event for all failed logon attempts. For a **network** logon, such as accessing a shared folder, the security audit event is generated on the computer that hosts the resource, for **an interactive logon**, the audit event **is generated on the computer that was accessed.** *(Audit Logon Properties, Windows 10).*

In relation to this, I happened upon the "Account Logon" subsection above and found the "Audit Credential Validation" subcategory. The explanation of this says *"Events in this subcategory occur only on the computer that is authoritative for those credentials. For domain accounts, the domain controller is authoritative. For local accounts, the computer is authoritative."* *(Audit Credential Validation Properties, Windows 10).* I feel that in a domain or network environment, this setting may be more appropriate instead of using the "Audit Logon" in the "Logon/Logoff" subcategory, since the **Domain Controller** will receive the audit events, as compared to the "Audit Logon" being stored on the local PC, or only being sent to the host PC on a network for a failed logon attempt to access a shared folder. This could probably be configured to send the audit reports wherever required, though it may be more complicated.

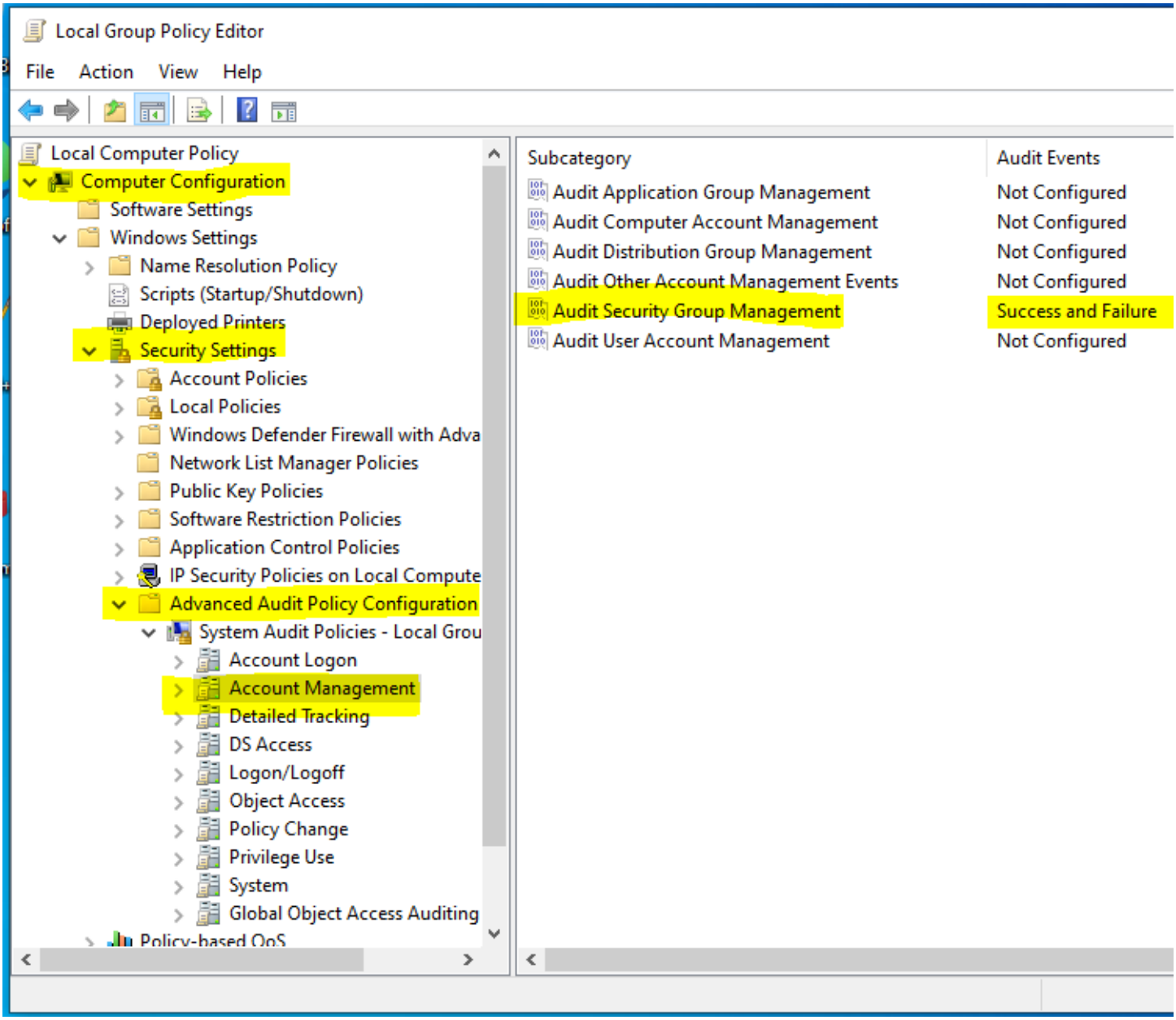
Audit Failed Attempts to Access Shared Files



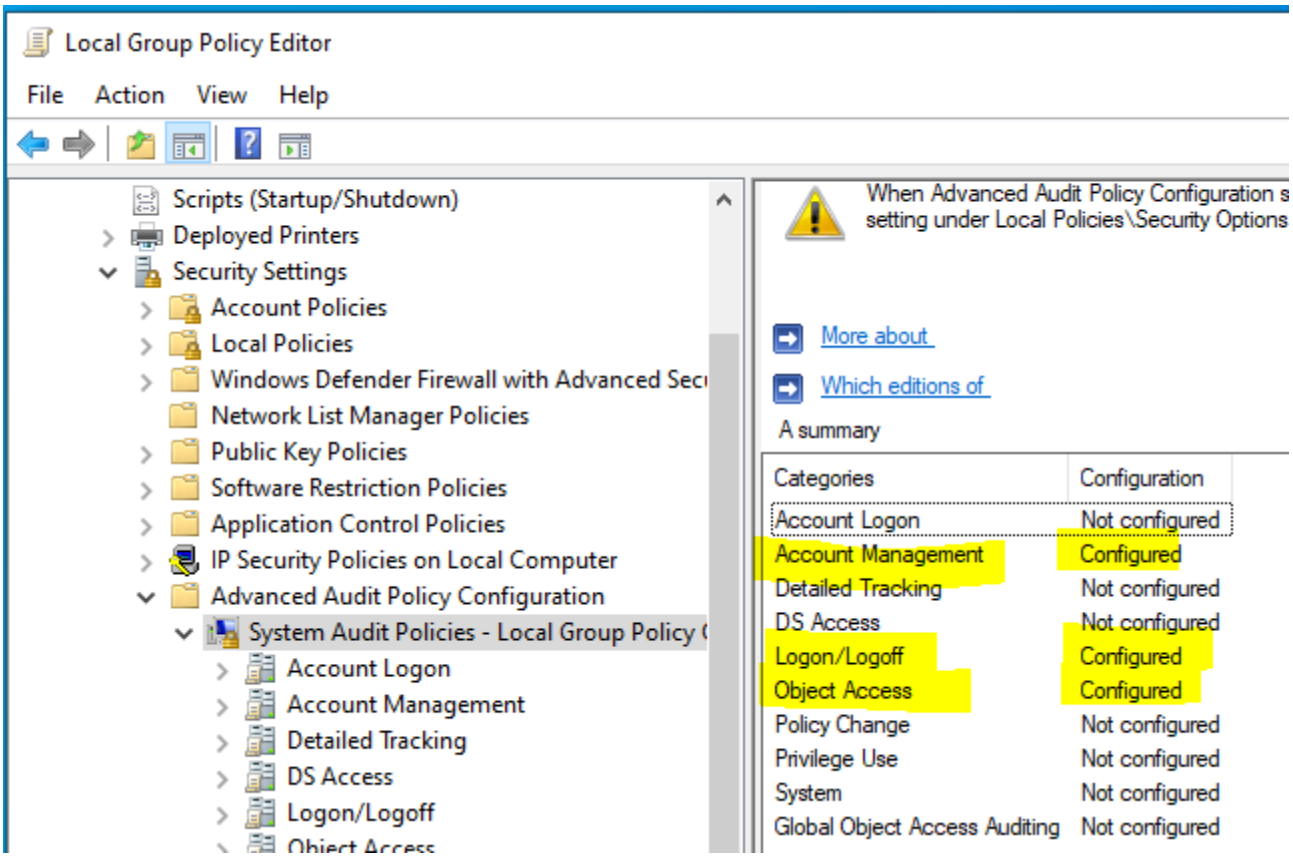
In the Local Group Policy Editor under "Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings > **Advanced Audit Policy Configuration** > System Audit Policies – Local Group Policy > **Object Access"**, the **"Audit Detailed File Share"** subcategory will be audited during a **"Failure"** or **failed attempts to access shared files.** The **other options** are "Audit File Share", and "Audit File Share System". The "Audit File Share System" will only audit if there is System Access Control Lists (SACLs) on the shared folders that have attempted access. *(Audit Detailed File Share Properties, Windows 10)*

Successful and Failed Changes Made to Security Groups

In the Local Group Policy Editor under "Computer Configuration > Windows Settings > Security Settings > **Advanced Audit Policy Configuration** > System Audit Policies – Local Group Policy > **Account Management"**, the **"Audit Security Group Management"** has been set to audit **successful and failed** events.



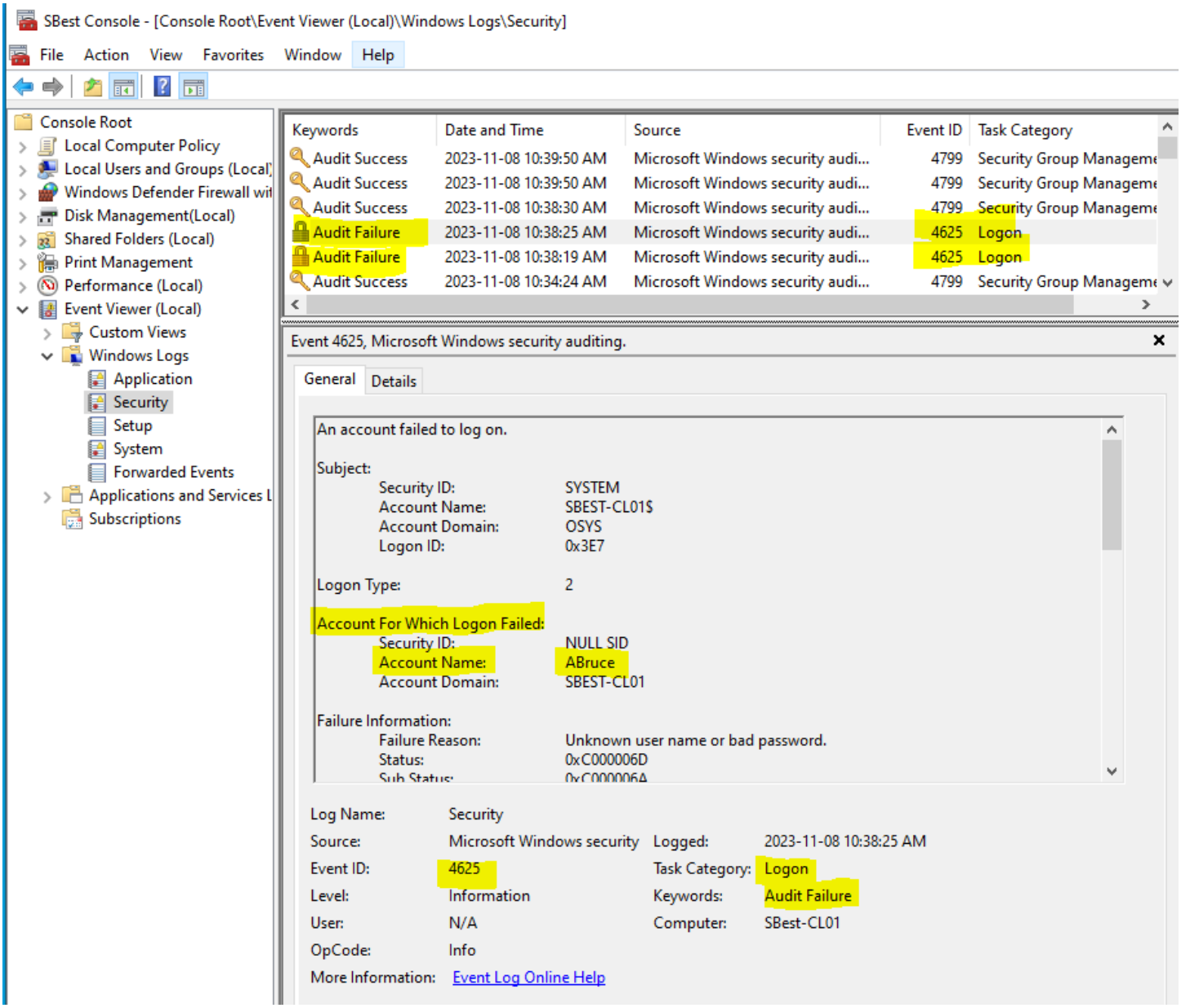
Shown above, the "success and failure" will audit changes to security groups including when a **security group is created, changed, or deleted.** If a member is **added or removed** from a security group, and if a **Group type is changed**. *(Audit Security Group Management Properties, Windows 10)*



Shown above is the **"Local Group Policy Editor"** displaying the 3 Auditing requirements (**Failed logon attempts, failed attempts to access shared files, and successful and failed changes made to security groups**) have been configured.

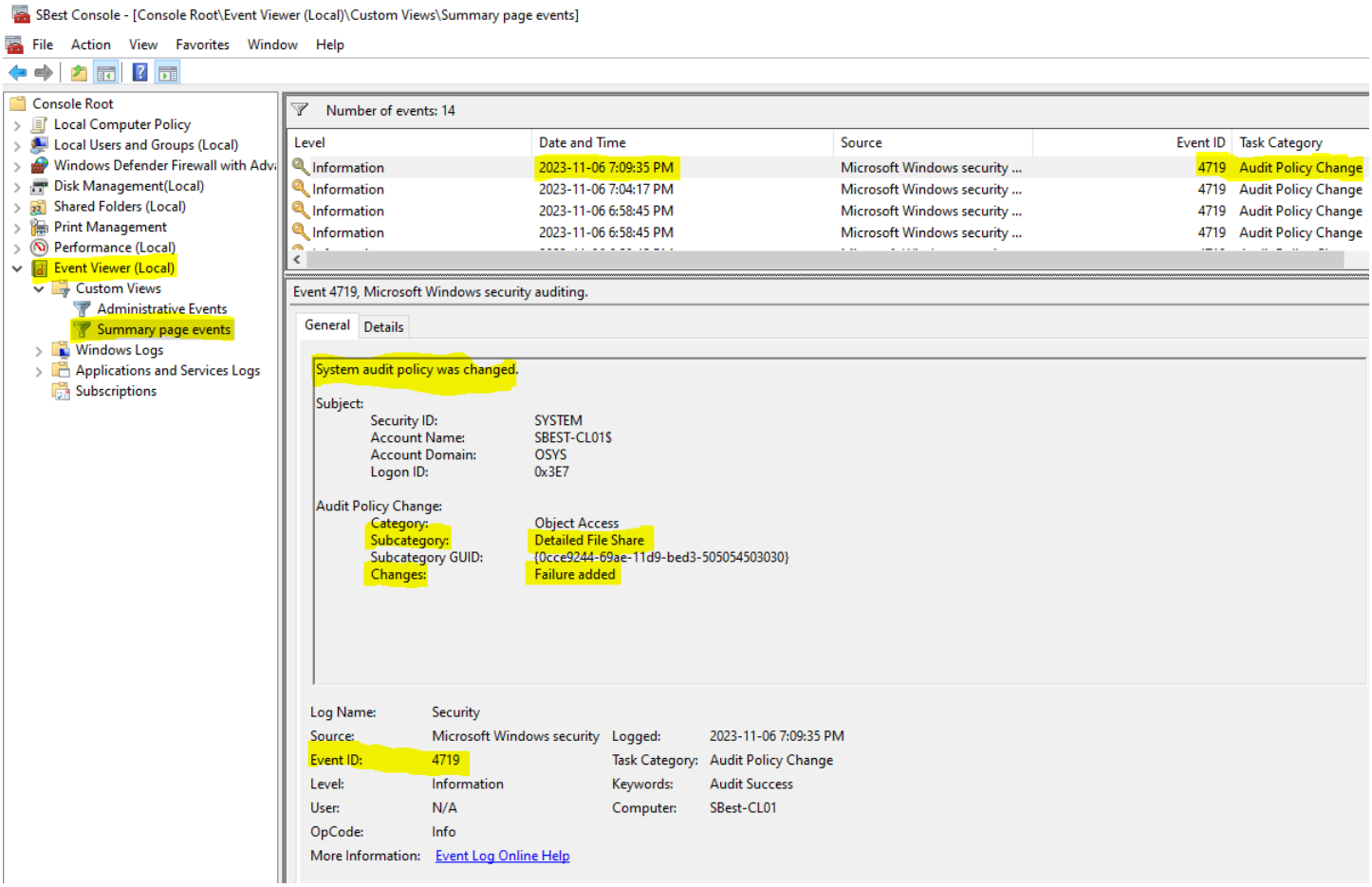
Event Viewer added to custom MMC – Failed to logon as “ABruce”

In Event Viewer in the MMC, when exploring the “**Windows Logs > Security**” section after two logon failures on the “**ABruce**” user account, the **EVENT ID** for “**Logon” failure** is **4625**. Upon investigating further, the **Event ID 4719** appears when the ***System Audit Policy is changed.*** After failing to logon as **“ABruce”** the **Event ID** is **4625.** See three screenshots below.



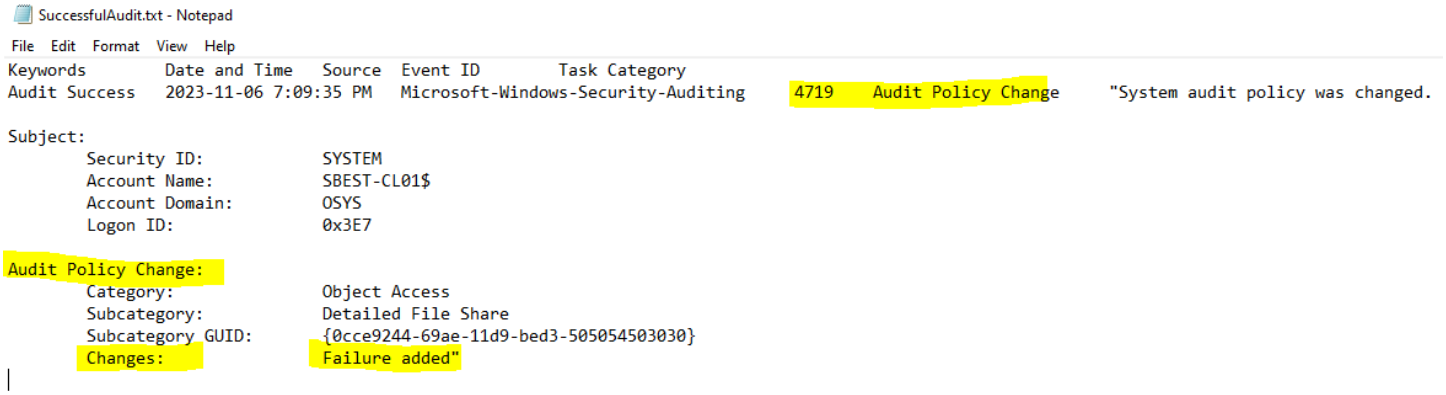
Event Viewer > Windows Logs > Security > Filter By “**Event 4625**” > Sort By “Date and Time”.

Event ID 4719 – Audit Policy Changed



Shown above is the **Event Viewer** in the custom MMC. Events were filtered by **date** and **Event ID 4719.** This is showing the **"System audit policy" was changed**. The change made was "**Failure added".**

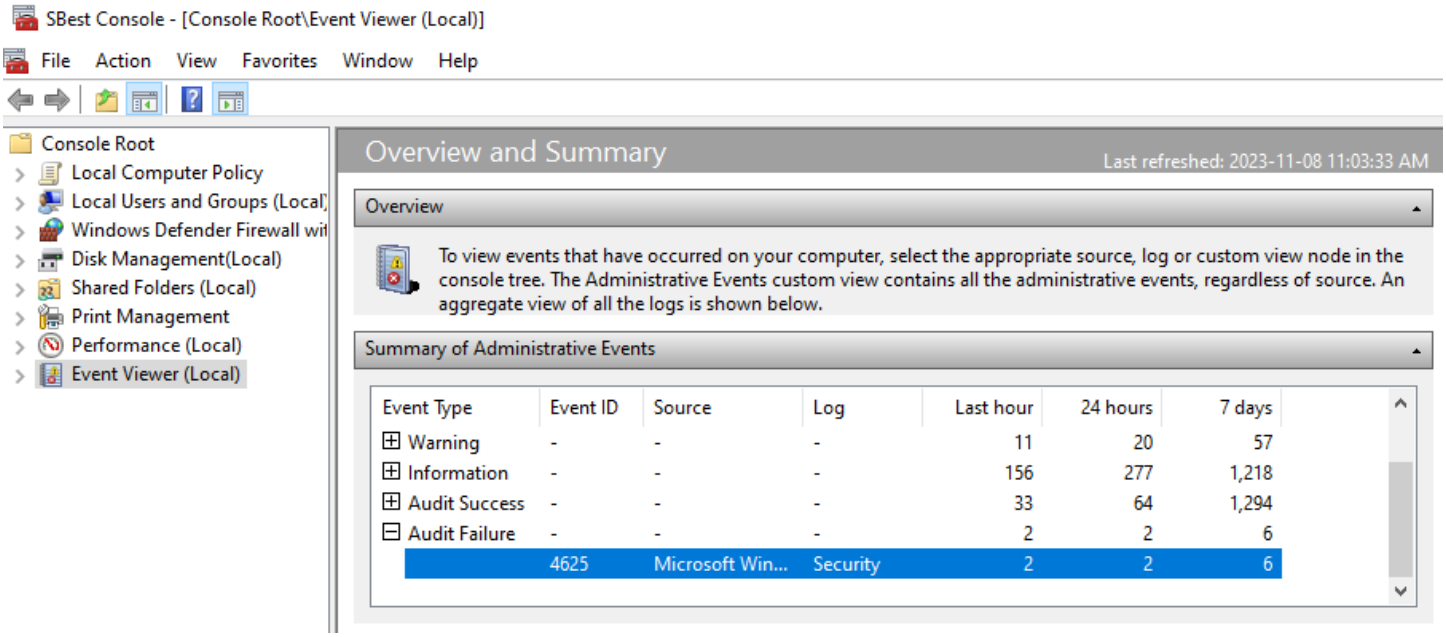
SuccessfulAudit.txt (Event 4719)



Shown above is the .txt file for the **"SuccessfulAudit"** saved from "**Event Viewer > Windows Logs > Security**" in the custom MMC. This was saved to **"C:\Reports\".**

Event ID 4625- “ABruce” logon: 2 Failed Attempts

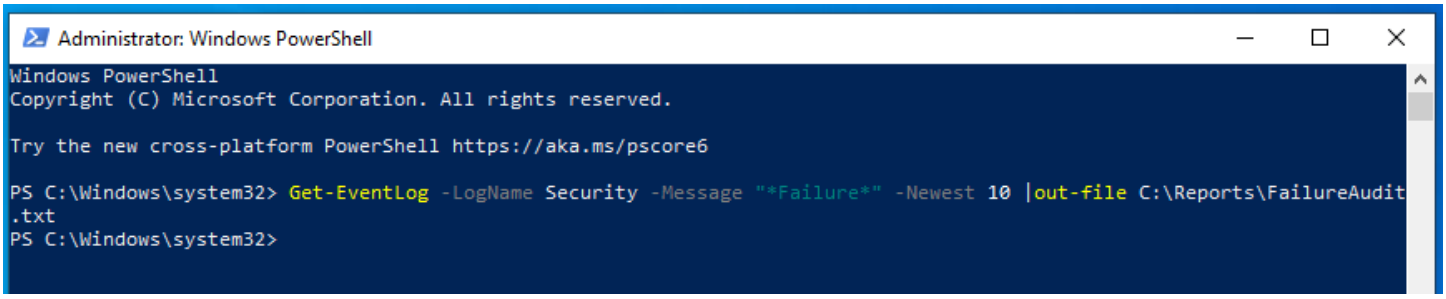
The ABruce account was used to test 2 failed logon attempts.



After failing 2 attempts to logon as **“ABruce”,** in the Event Viewer there are 2 **“Audit Failures**” with Event ID **4625**.

Windows PowerShell (elevated) – Get-EventLog

In elevated PowerShell, the cmdlet “**Get-Event Log -LogName Security – Message “*Failure*” -Newest 10 | out-file C:\Reports\FailureAudit.txt**” was used to create a .txt file containing the 10 newest Security Logs in Event Viewer that contain the message “Failure”.



FailureAudit.txt

Index	Time	EntryType	Source	InstanceID	Message
38933	Nov 08 10:38	FailureA...	Microsoft-Windows...	4625	An account failed to log on....
38932	Nov 08 10:38	FailureA...	Microsoft-Windows...	4625	An account failed to log on....
38607	Nov 07 08:59	FailureA...	Microsoft-Windows...	4625	An account failed to log on....
38606	Nov 07 08:59	FailureA...	Microsoft-Windows...	4625	An account failed to log on....
37805	Nov 01 16:36	FailureA...	Microsoft-Windows...	4625	An account failed to log on....

37792 Nov 01 16:34 FailureA... Microsoft-Windows... 4625 An account failed to log on....

36501 Oct 30 11:38 FailureA... Microsoft-Windows... 4625 An account failed to log on....

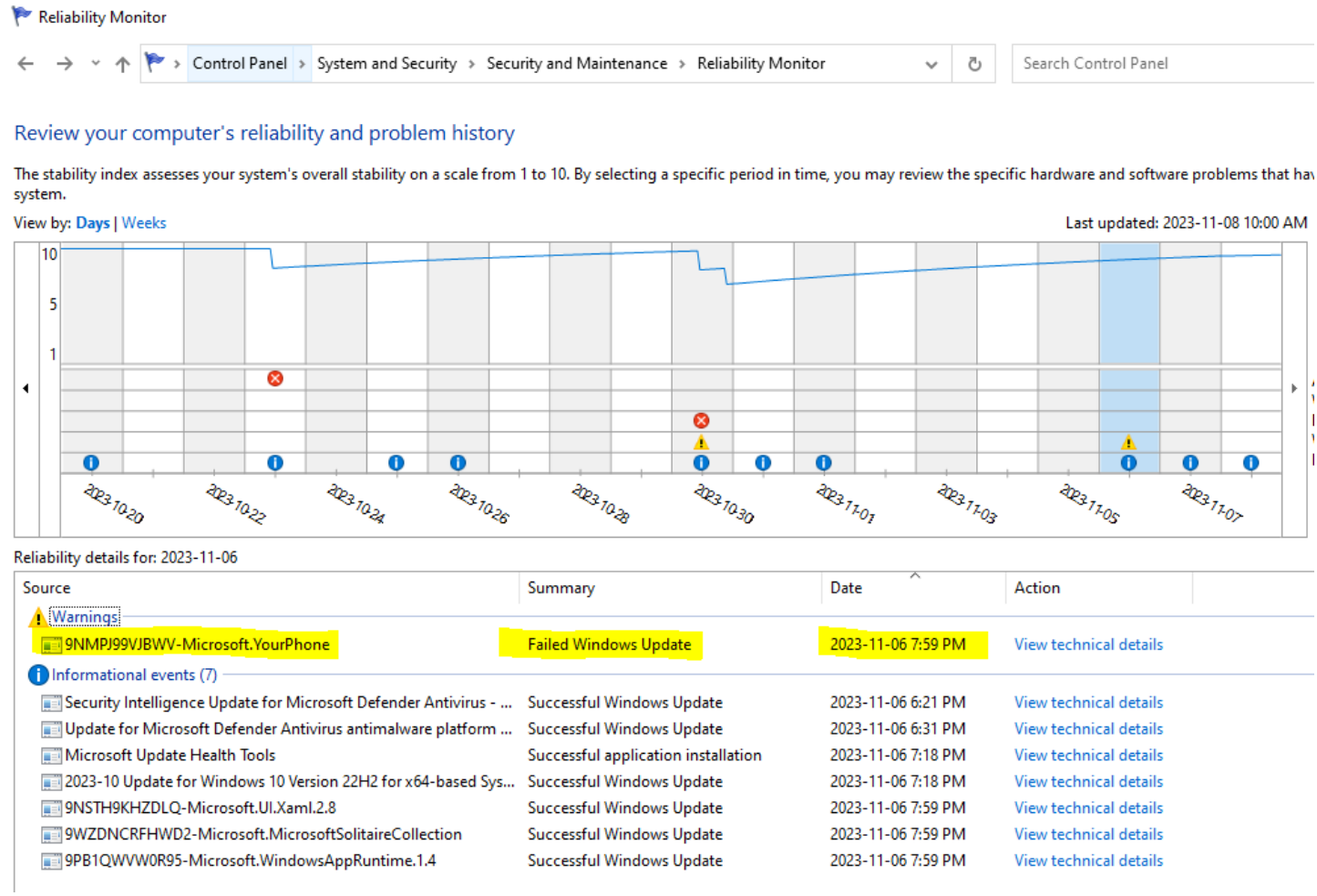
36488 Oct 30 11:38 FailureA... Microsoft-Windows... 4625 An account failed to log on....

33575 Oct 30 11:31 SuccessA... Microsoft-Windows... 4907 Auditing settings on object were changed....

25863 Oct 30 11:29 SuccessA... Microsoft-Windows... 4907 Auditing settings on object were changed....

Task 2 – Security and Maintenance Center

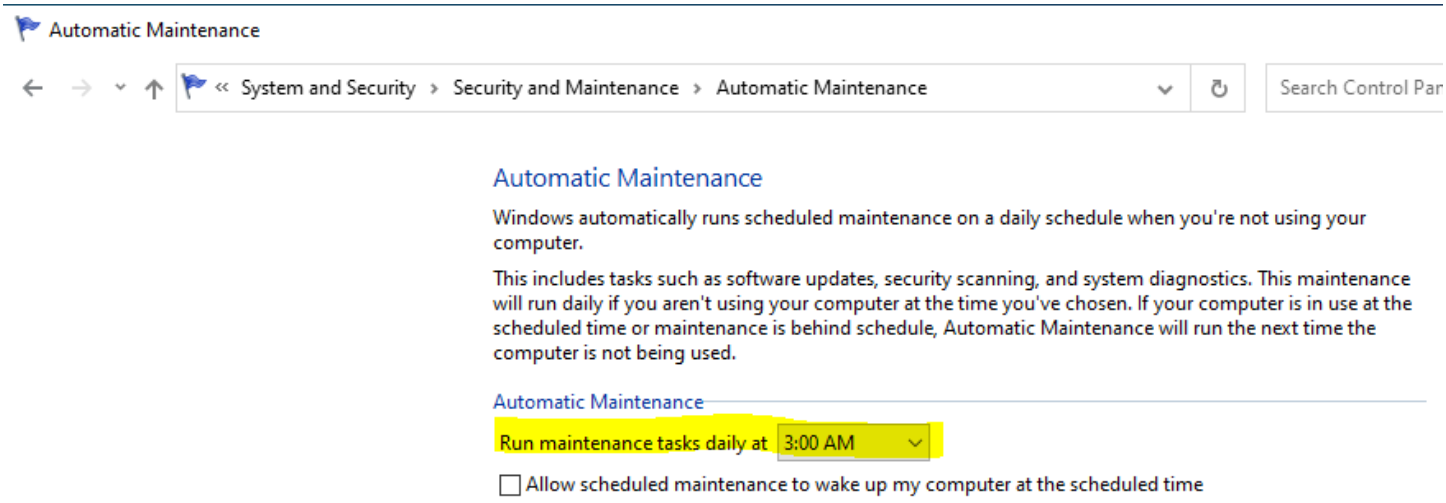
Security and Maintenance Center



Shown above is a warning on **November 6th** when Windows failed to update. **October 30th error** was when I pulled my SSD out while my VM was running 😊 *(I'll try to not do that again)*.

Change Maintenance Settings

In “Start Menu > Security and Maintenance > **Automatic Maintenance**”, the maintenance task was set to run **daily at 3:00am** and will **not** wake the computer to run the tasks.



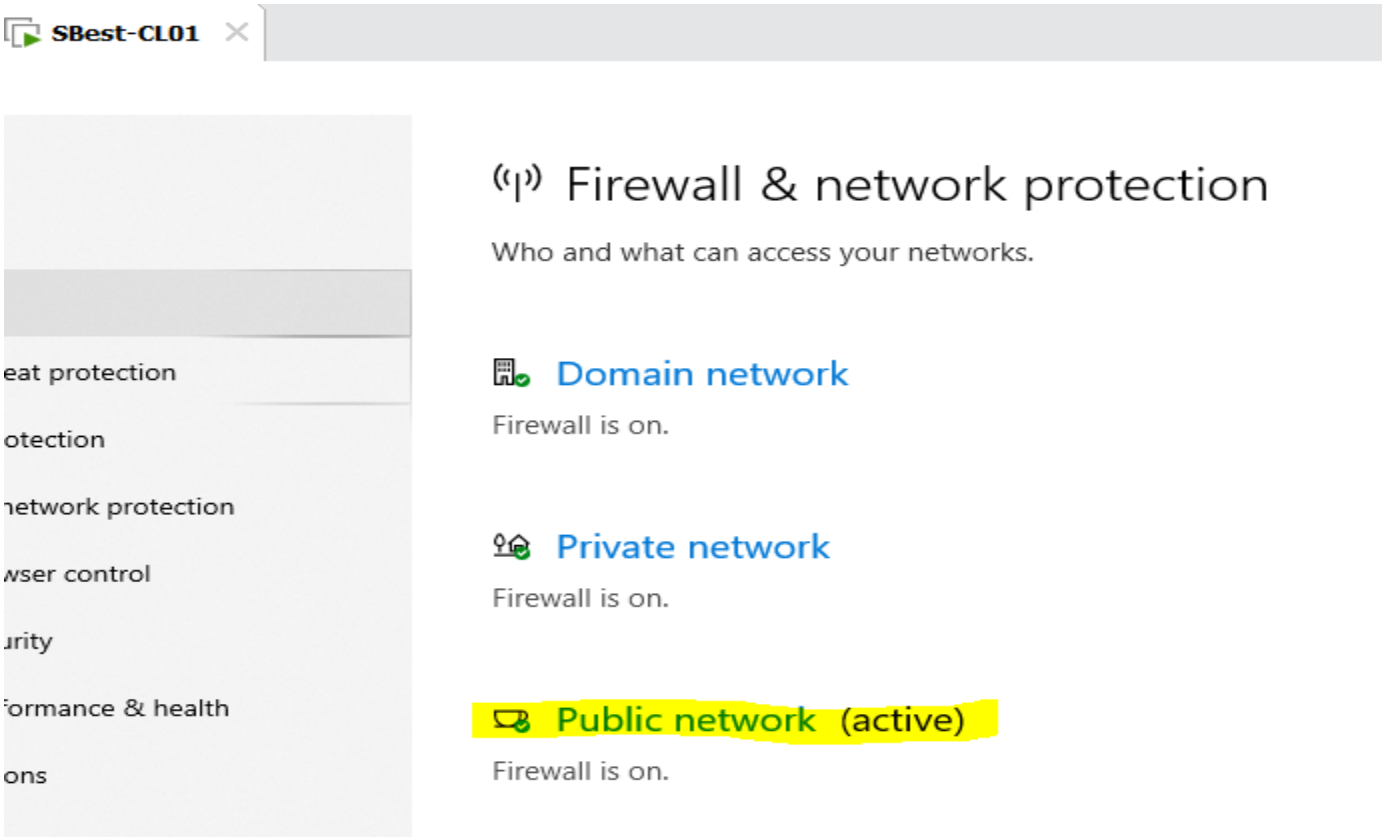
Question 1: Network Firewall and Virus Protection

Under “Firewall” you see 3 networks your firewall may be applied to, please identify them, and give brief descriptions of each. Which one is active? Why are the others **not** active?

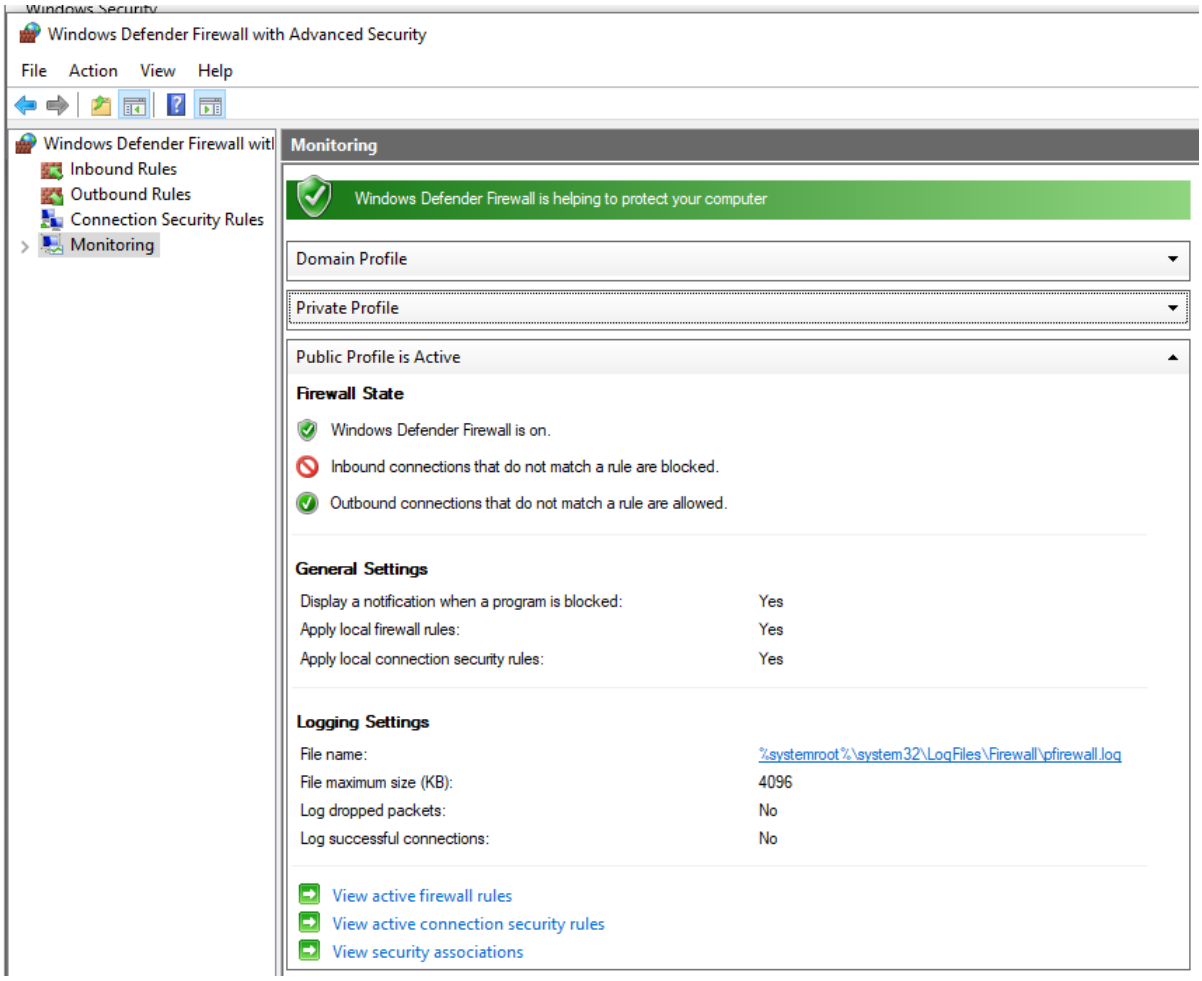
1. **Domain Network:** Allows the receival of packets from domain-based network communication. External packets not recognized in the domain network are denied and do not access the PC. This is **not** active because the VM is not on a domain network.
2. **Private Network:** Allows the receival of packets from a trusted private network. This is **not** active because the VM is does not recognize the Host PC network as a private network.
3. **Public Network:** The public network is active. This is set as active because the VM is connected to the internet via the Host PC and has assigned the connection as “public”.

(Microsoft 365 Modern Desktop Administrator Guide to Exam MD-100: Windows 10).

Firewall and Network Protection- Domain, Private & Public



Screenshot above is showing the **"Public network"** is set to **"Active".**



Screenshot above shows more specifics about the Public Profiles Firewall Settings.

Question 2: User Account Controls

What are the 4 UAC change settings available?

Always notify me when:

- Apps try to install software or make changes to my computer.
- I make changes to Windows settings.

Notify me only when apps try to make changes to my computer (default):

- Don’t notify me when I make changes to windows settings.

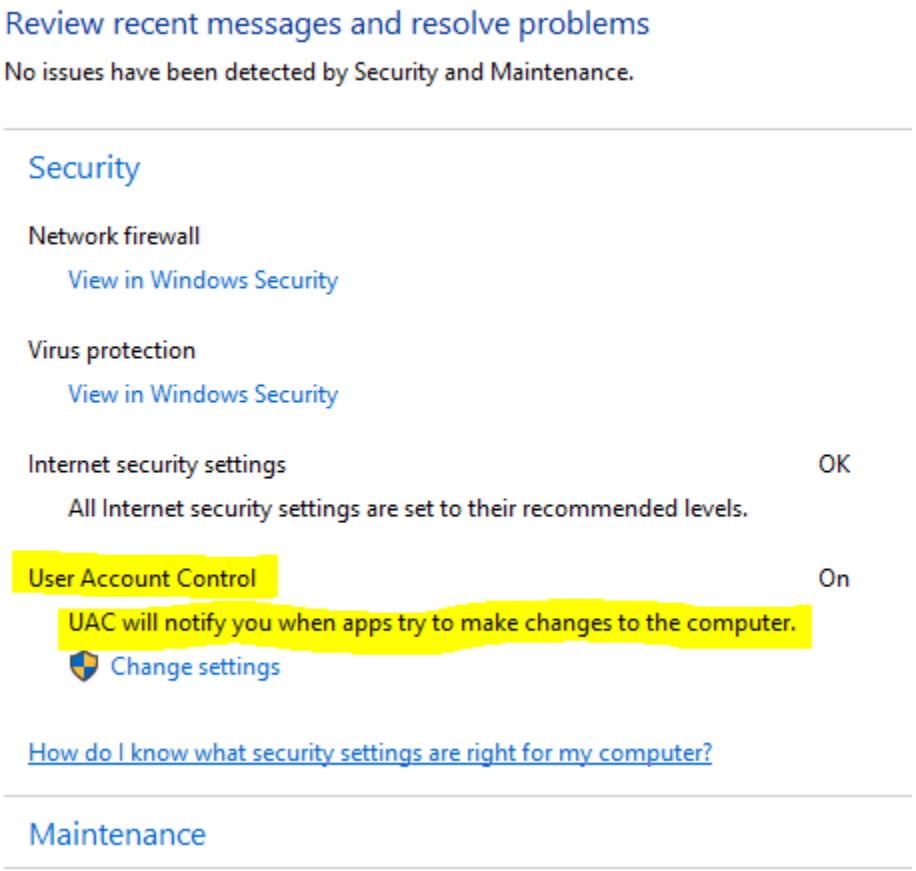
Notify me only when apps try to make changes to my computer (do not dim my desktop)

- Don’t notify me when I make changes to windows settings.

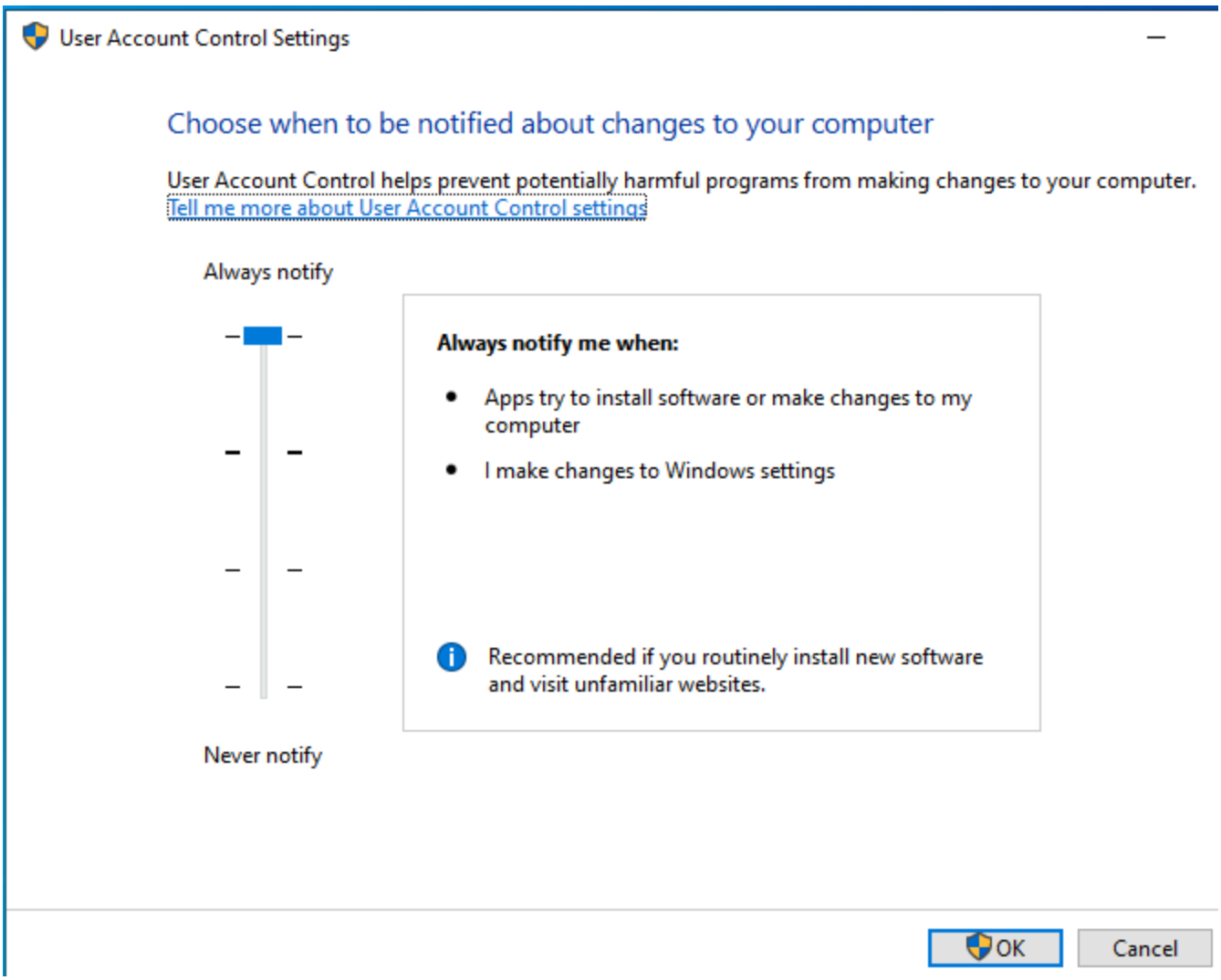
Never notify me when:

- Apps try to install software or make changes to my computer.
- I make changes to Windows settings.

User Account Controls- Modified



The **UAC's** have been modified to **Always Prompt** when making changes to the Windows Settings.

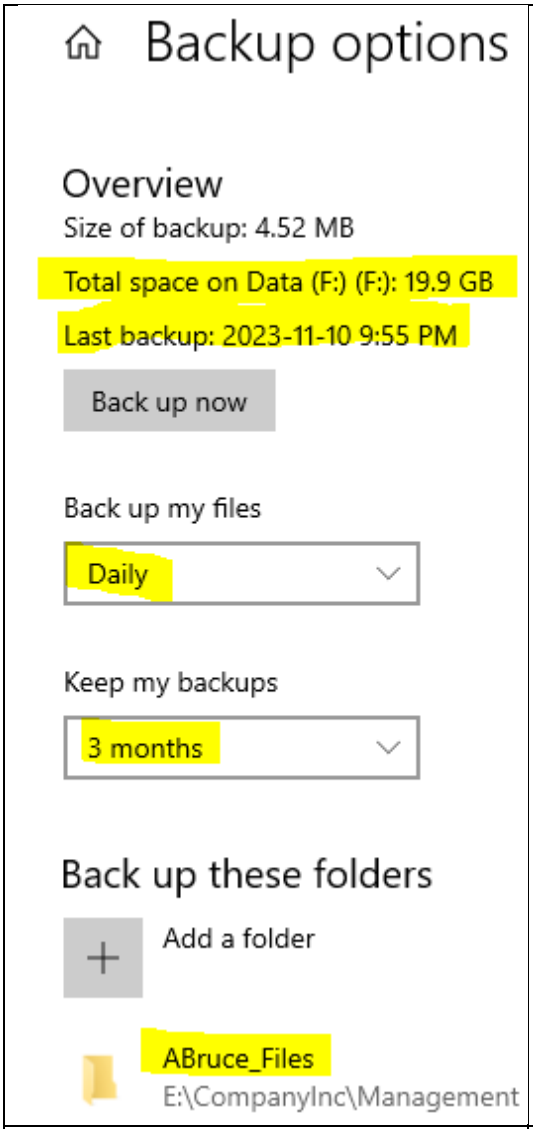


Screenshot above showing the User Account Control Settings. Selected currently is to "**Always notify me**" when changes are made to the computer.

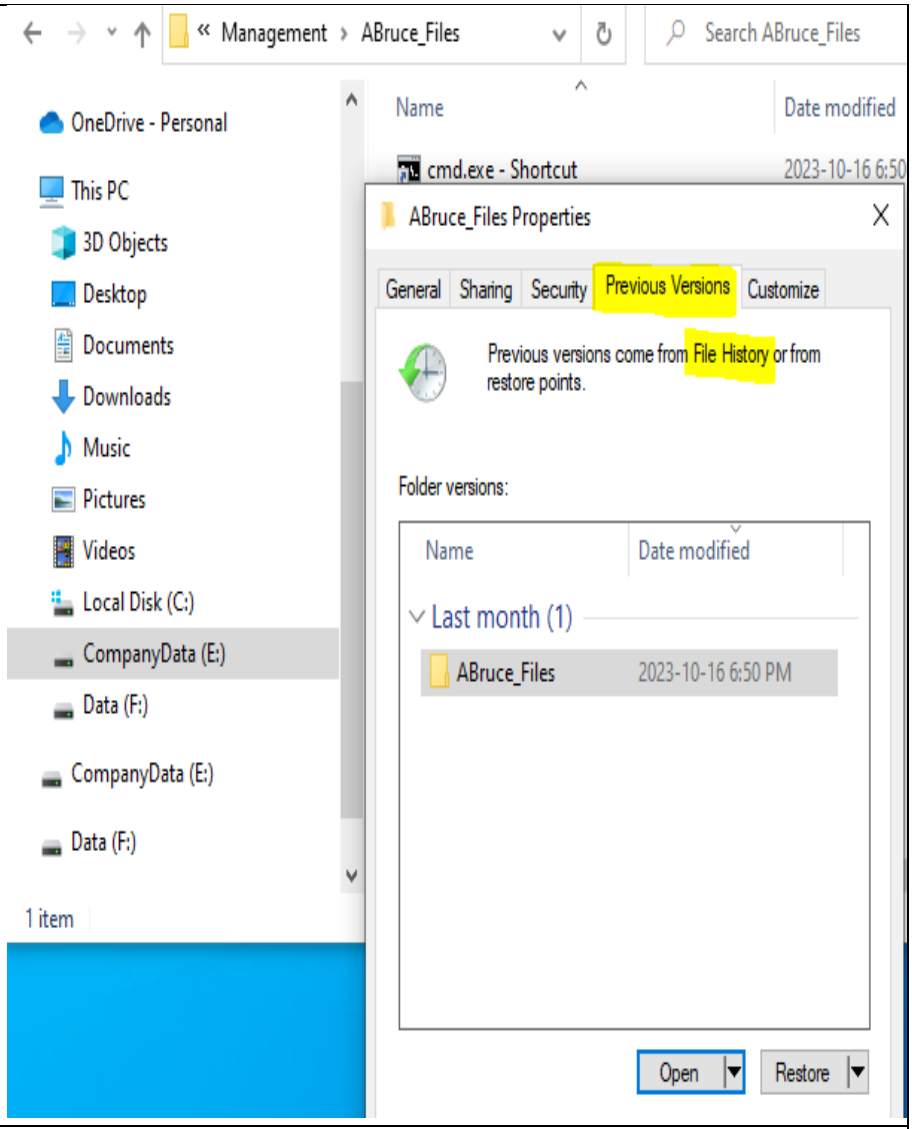
Task 3 – File backup and Recovery

Backup ABruce_Files to Data (F:)

In the "Backup" tab in "Update & Security page, the "**Data (F:)** drive was added, and 'Backup using File History' was selected. Backups were set to "**Daily**" and saved versions are kept for "**3 months**". File History was backed up after "ABruce_Files" was added.

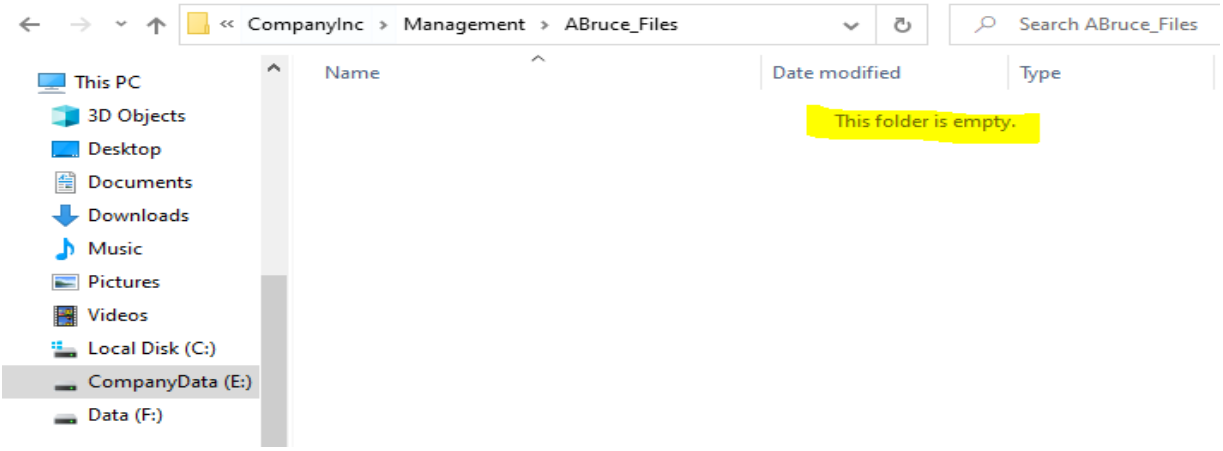


Backup settings changed. Backup "ABruce_Files" to **"Data (F:) Daily, keep backups for "3 Months".**



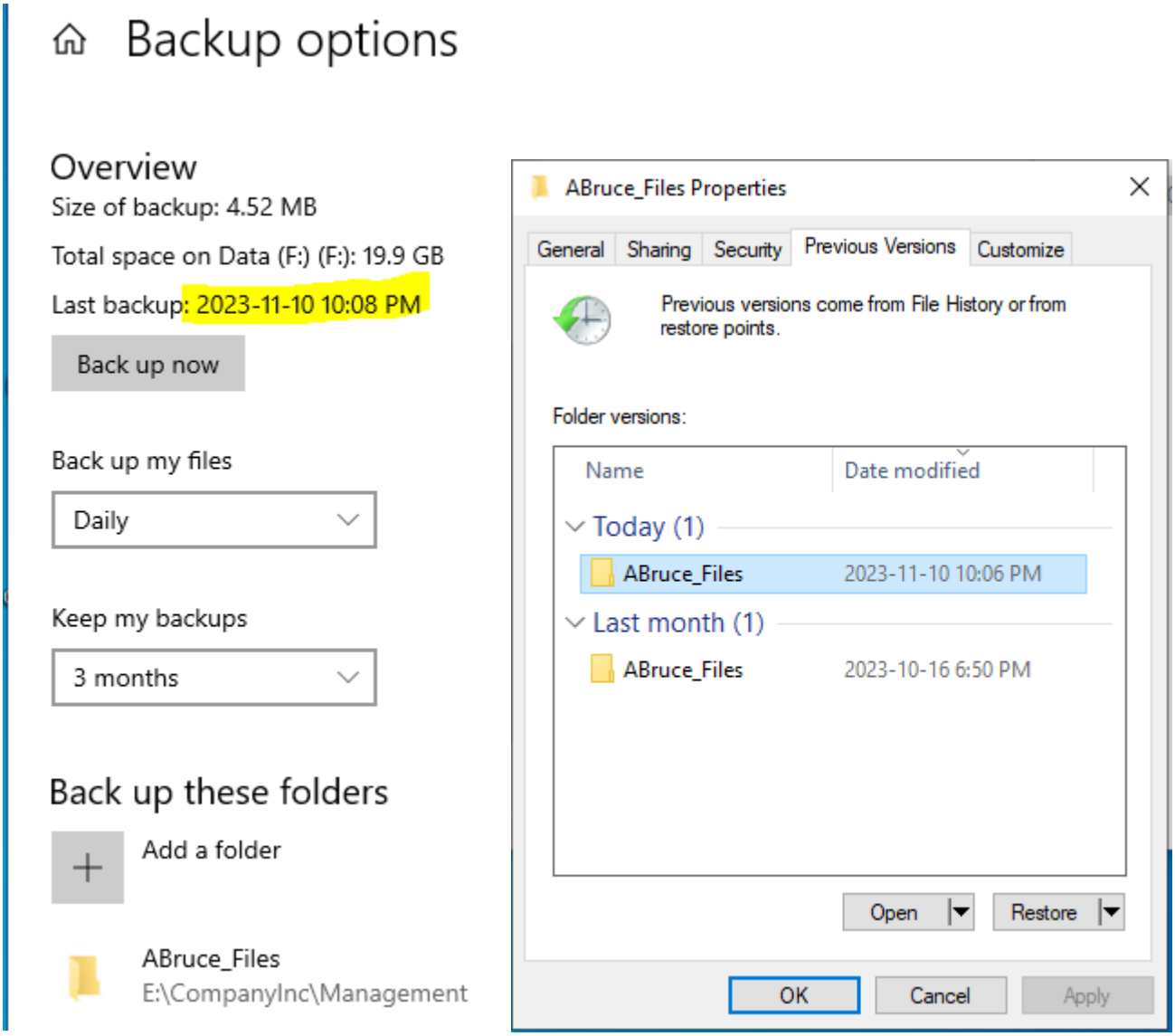
Previous Version of the "ABruce_Files" folder after backing up to "Data (F:)"

Delete ABruce_Files from "E:\CompanyInc\Management\".



ABruce_Files after "cmd.exe" was deleted shown above.

New Backup



Two screenshots above show the newest backup of "ABruce_Files" after "cmd.exe" was deleted, and on the right is the ABruce_Files "Previous Versions".

Restore Previous Version using File History

Question 3: Restoring deleted file and NOT entire folder:

What are the steps required to recover just the cmd.exe file you deleted in a previous step but **do NOT recover the entire folder, just the deleted file.**

The steps required to restore a previously deleted file but not recover the entire folder can be done multiple ways, the first explanation is how this file was restored for this assignment:

One way is to access the folder that contained the deleted file, right click on the folder that contained the deleted file and select "**Restore Previous Version"**. This will open the **properties** and you can view the **Previous Versions**. Upon finding the Previous Version you wish to restore, select the **"Open" arrow**, and view in **"File History".** Select the items you wish to restore and click the **green counterclockwise arrow**. This restores only the selected items to the folder, and **not** the entire folder. *(Wright, B. Pelarski, L. 2021)*

Another option to restore the file outside of “File History” is to refer to “OneDrive” **IF** the folder was previously synced to OneDrive.

For a recently deleted item, if available, you may be able to open “Recycle Bin”, right-click on the deleted item, and click “Restore”.

Windows “Backup and Restore” is also available to use if the deleted folder or file was **previously** backed up. This is for use for Windows 7 and up.

All three of these options also may not work, depending on how the file was deleted and if the versions of these files were backed up.

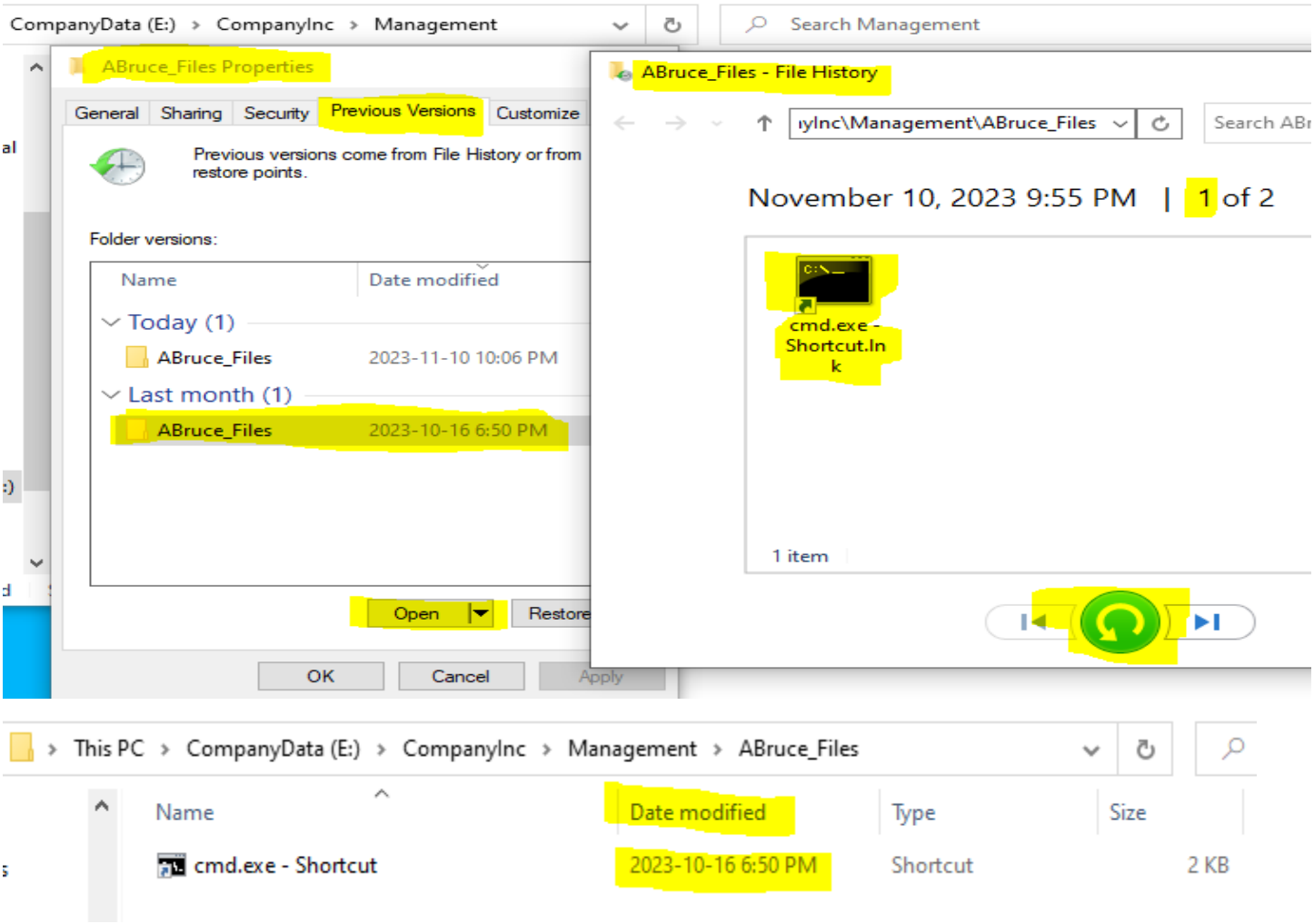
This made me look further into how to recover files if they were **not** previously backed up. I learned that “**Windows File Recovery”** is available to use in Command Prompt.

`winfr source-drive: destination-drive: [/mode] [/switches]` *(Recover Lost Files on Windows 10, Microsoft Support 2020)*

The “winfr” stands for the “Windows File Recovery” application. Source-Drive is replaced with the drive that is being searched (example: **C:**), and destination drive is replaced with the drive the recovered files will be recovered to (example: **D:**). These need to be two separate drives when recovering a file or folder. [/mode] for the winfr command is either /regular or /extensive (in this application). [/switches] allow you to add parameters after the “/”, which are instructions for the program. *(I did too much reading on this the past couple of days, so to sum up what I’ve read it would probably come out inaccurate since there is SO much to learn. I’m excited to get more into this since I spent my weekend wondering why things do what they do and how this exactly works)*

Previous Version Restored

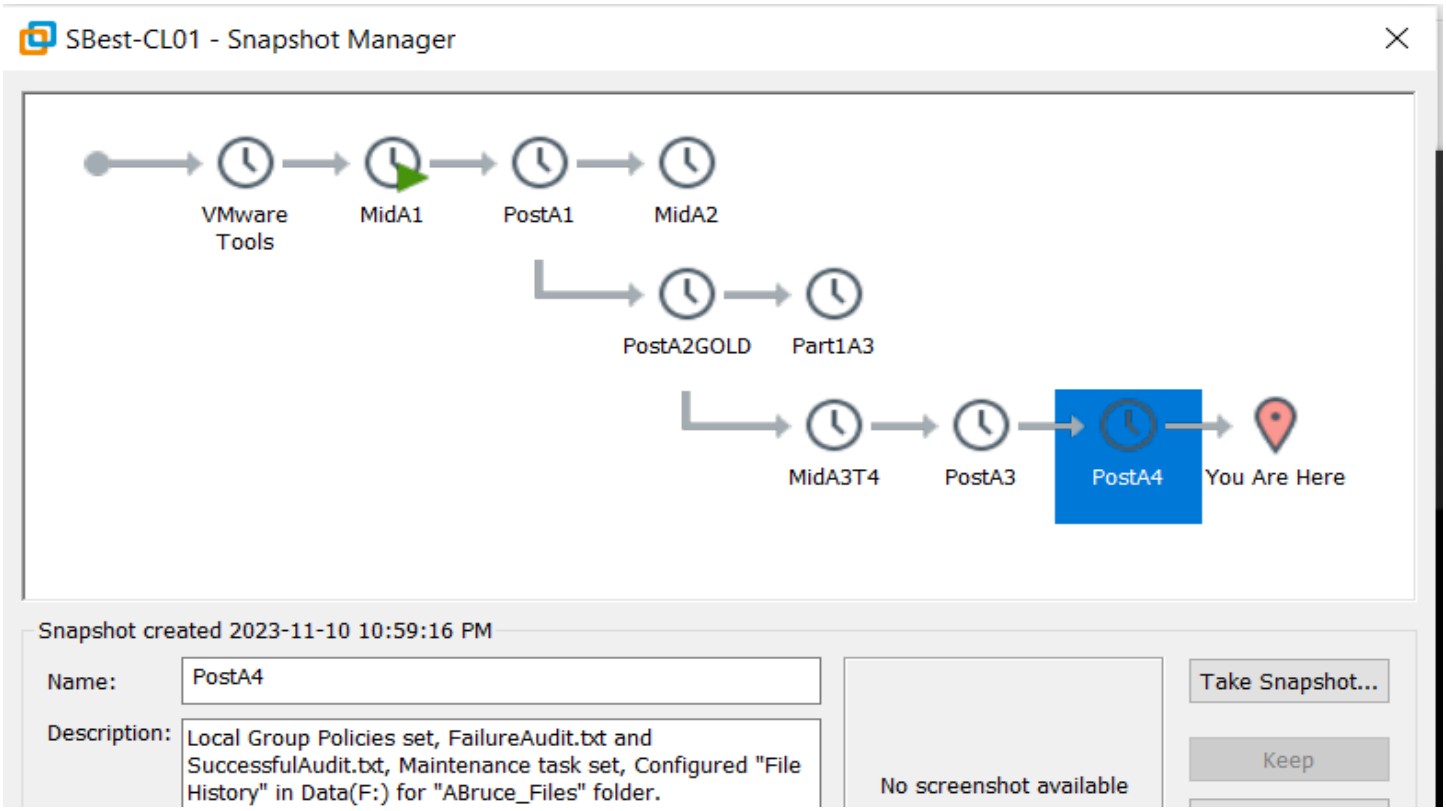
See highlighted text above for steps taken to restore the previous version.

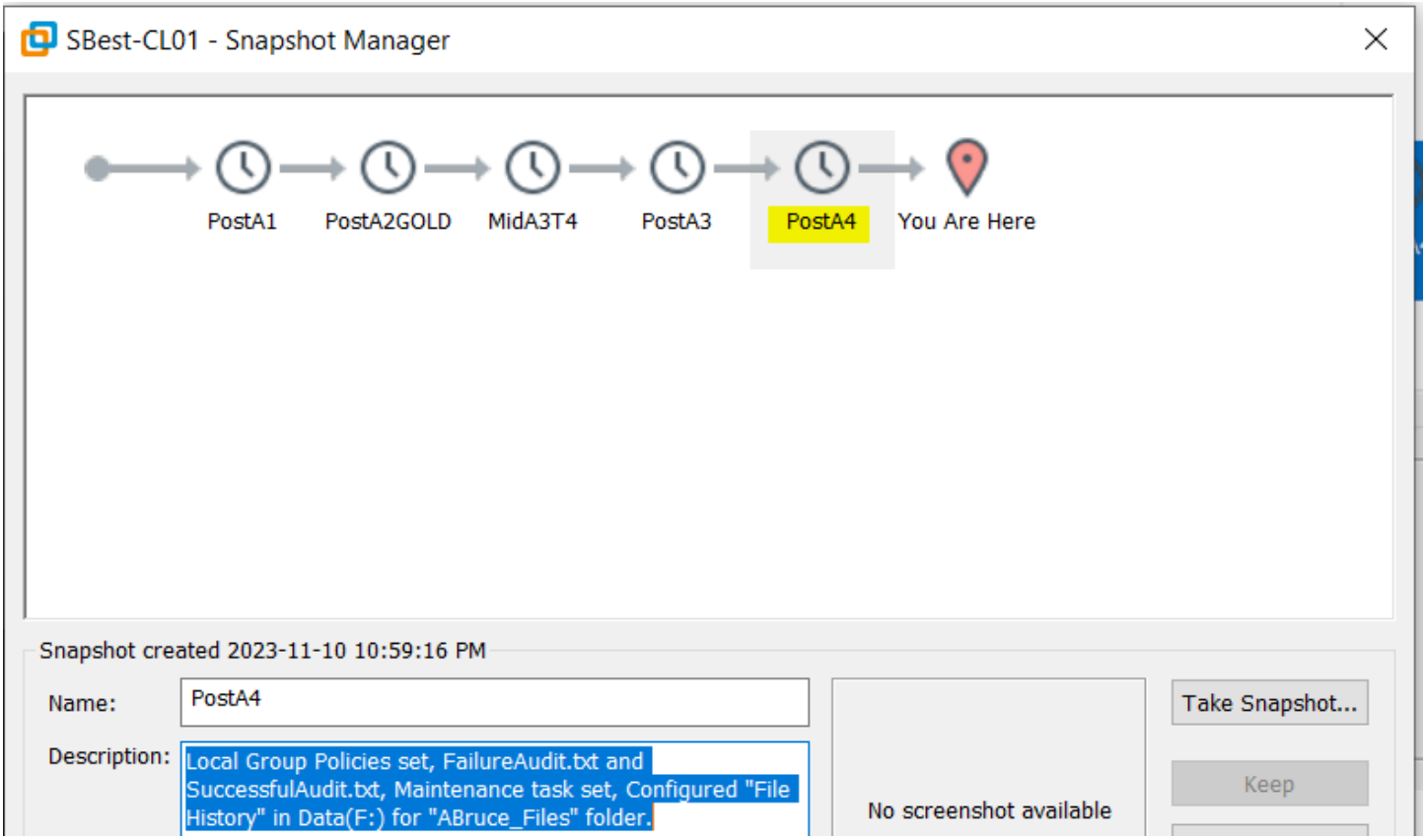


These photos show the process of restoring the previous version of ABruce_Files using File History.

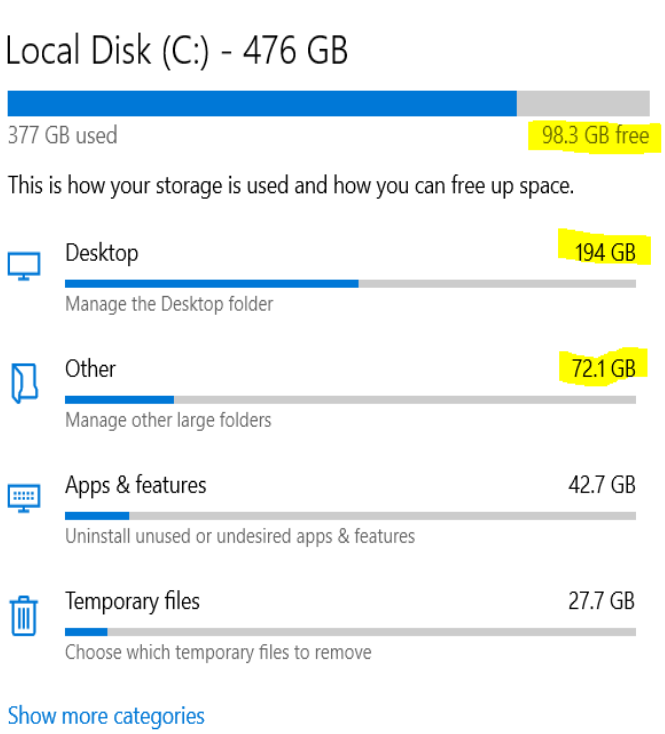
Snapshot PostA4

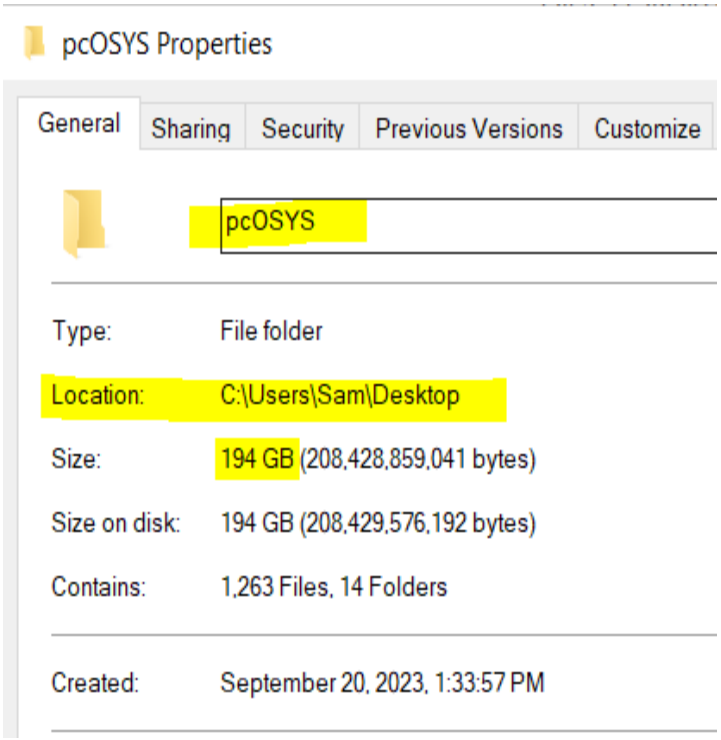
Snapshot of PostA4 taken after completion of all Assignment 4 steps.





Snapshot Manager view of “PostA4” after removing unnecessary Snapshots from VM. My hard drive had 30GB storage space remaining before Gold Copy was created. Copied Gold Copies to OneDrive, keeping PostA4 Gold Copy on Local PC.

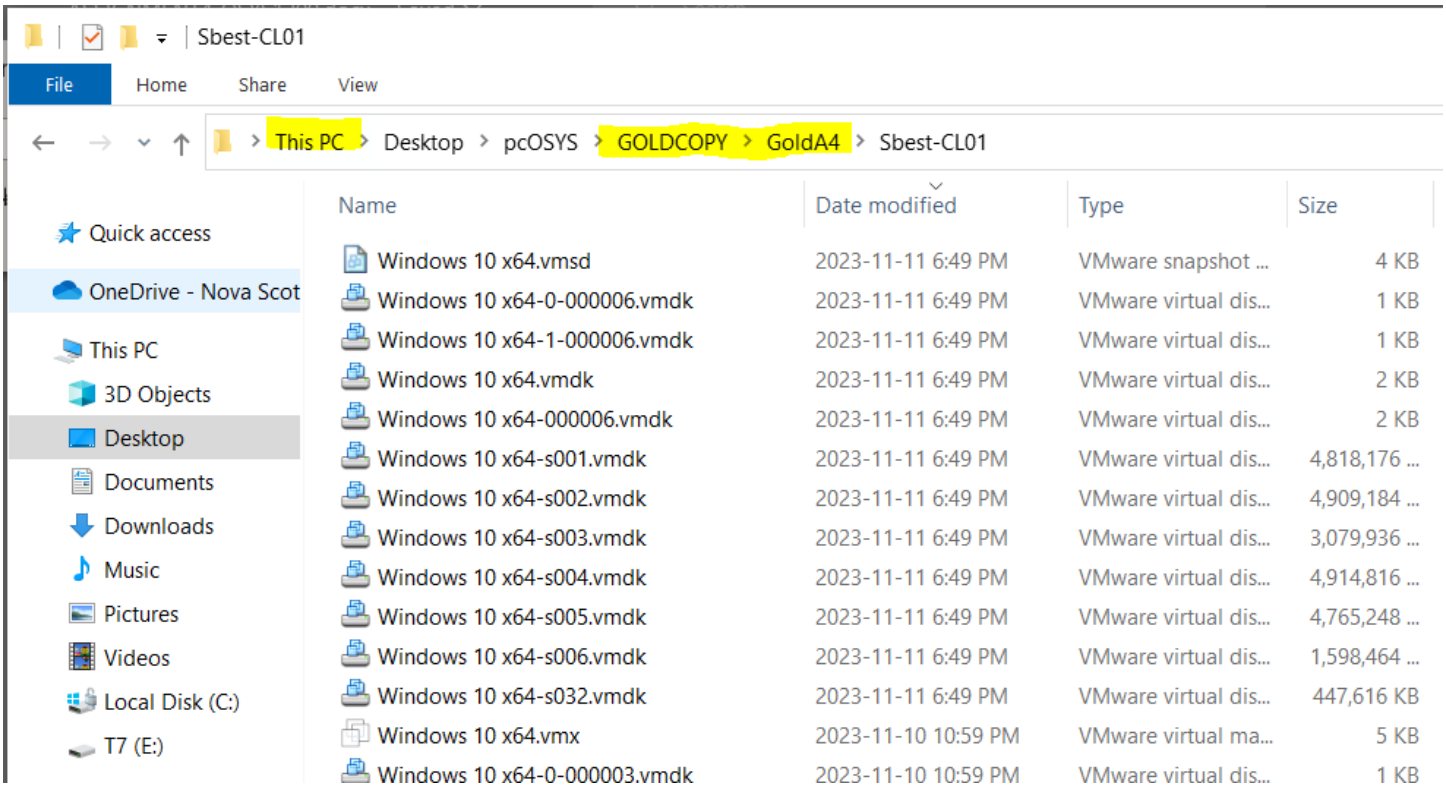




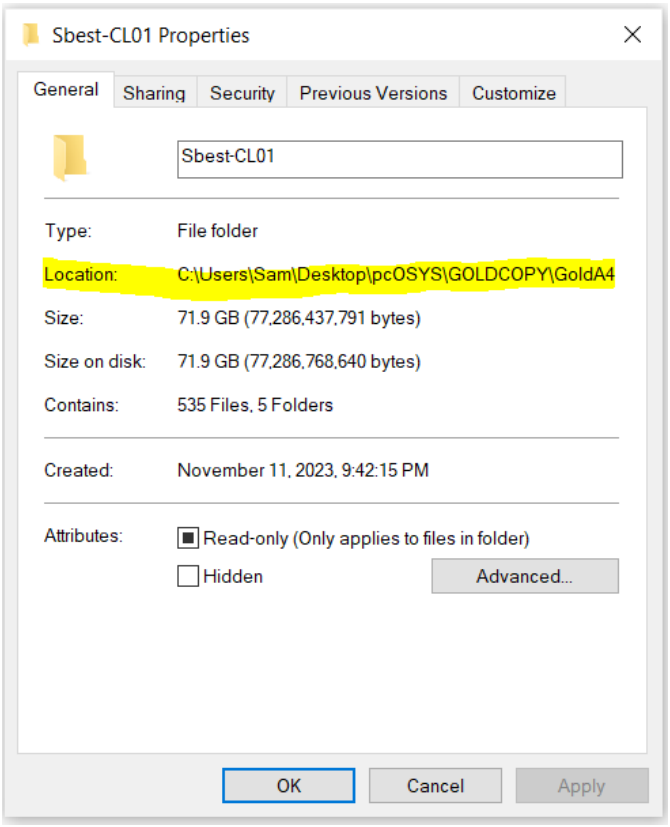
Included this because my laptop is *screaming* for storage. I had 30GB of space left on my hard drive, so I removed a bit for now, and I am going to remove all gold copies except the current one. (All other copies **have** been moved to OneDrive). I will invest in a larger SSD to use next semester.

Gold Copy (2 copies)

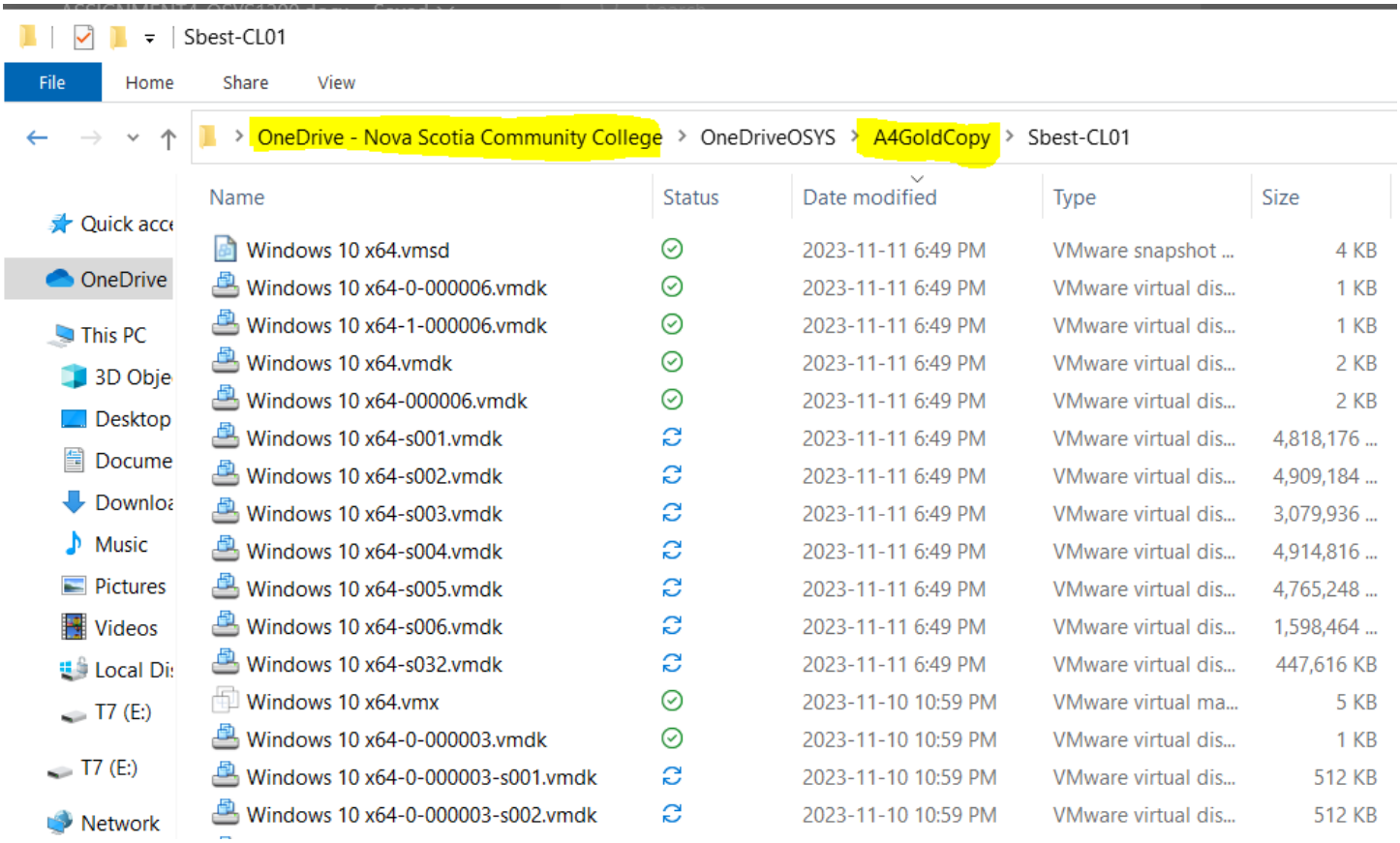
Two copies of VM created. One copy was moved to my PC, a second copy was backed up to OneDrive.



Gold Copy copied from SSD to host PC.



Properties of **PostA4 gold copy** shown above in my PC.



Second copy of Gold Copy copied from SSD to “OneDrive”. Sync in progress during screenshot. May take up to 30 minutes to complete.

Scripts

Creation of “FailedAudit.txt” in elevated Windows PowerShell:

*Get-EventLog -LogName Security -Message “*Failure*” -Newest 10 | out-file C:\Reports\FailureAudit.txt*

Resources

Bollson, William. (2023, Nov 9). *Top 3 Ways to Recover Deleted Files not in Recycle Bin.* Way 2: Recover Deleted Files Not in Recycle Bin from Previous Versions. Retrieved from: https://4ddig.tenorshare.com/windows-recovery-solutions/how-to-recover-deleted-files-not-in-recycle-bin.html#part4

Microsoft Support. (2020). *Recover Lost Files on Windows 10.* Retrieved from: https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/recover-lost-files-on-windows-10-61f5b28a-f5b8-3cc2-0f8e-a63cb4e1d4c4

NSCC. (2023). *OSYS1200 Assignment 4 v10.27.23.* Retrieved from: https://nscconline.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/278834/viewContent/4321092/View

Wright, B., Plesniarski, L. (2021). *Microsoft 365 Modern Desktop Administrator Guide to Exam MD-100: Windows 10.* Cengage Learning.